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Atchison County Commissioners Discuss Department Restructuring

Atchison County Commissioners are looking at early options to possibly restructure the role for the replacement of resigning department head Lori Chew.

She will be leaving the position as Emergency Preparedness and Noxious Weed Director, as well as First Responder Director February 24th.

County Commissioner Jeff Schuele describes the Wednesday Commissioner meeting discussion of some of those department positions.

(Play Audio) RT: :15

Commissioners gave the go-ahead to Tony Redden of the GIS Department to enter into a GeoSpacial Imagery contract with the Mid-American Regional Council for 38 thousand 774 dollars.

However, Schuele says other counties and municipalities in the area showed interest in partnering with the county, so that could decrease more.

He says that price is 31 percent less than the cost of the project in 2008 and the department should be shooting aerial imagery by early March.

Commissioners also approved the Road and Bridge department to advertise to hire a truck driver as one of their current drivers gave their two week notice earlier this week.

The department is currently down two people overall.

Monday's Commissioner meeting will be without Mike Bodenhausen as he and Road and Bridge supervisor Matt Dorssom will be attending the meeting of the Brown County Commissioners, where a lead K-DOT engineer may present ideas on how to fund fracture critical bridges for the county.

Atchison County has 20 bridges with that designation and estimates per inspection are 25 hundred to three thousand dollars a bridge.