Audubon County Council to bond for new fire station

City pool work won’t go to bond, but up to $400,000 of repairs planned

By Laura Bacon
Staff Writer

AUDUBON — The Audubon County Council voted to ask the public to approve a $2.8 million bond for the new fire station — and will approve a $400,000 bond for repairs to the city pool.

The fire station project, estimated at $2.8 million, included more bayes to allow Fire and Rescue to keep all vehicles inside, and other inside additions, like lockers for gear, a meet- ing room and transport that allows access to the special meeting suggested that the building committee go back to RES to see if the project could be put into multiple phases to bring down costs and tabled other discussion to Monday night’s meeting.

This is the city’s second attempt at passing a bond issue. The first was for a $2.9 million bond that failed in a vote last November. The public measure didn’t get the 60 percent needed to pass: it received 413 no votes or 69.18 percent to 184 yes votes or 30.82 percent.

The pool project includes renovation of 30-year-old mechanical systems and general repairs, at a cost of about $300,000.

Initially the city considered additional modifications including adding a zero entry to the pool, along with the repairs, which was estimated to cost $1.5 million.

After considering the costs, the

Audubon audit finds misspent funds

By Laura Bacon
Staff Writer

AUDUBON — The state Auditor says the city of Audubon misspent nearly $36,600 in Local Option Sales tax funds as well as failed to hold a public hear- ing for the sale of city prop- erty along with other ques- tionable disbursements according to an audit report released this week.

None of the actions are considered illegal and the city is taking steps to rectify them.

The report outlines questionable disbursements to the Audubon Fire and Rescue Association for “fire protection, fund donations,” to “various library employ- ees,” for bonuses and nearly $36,600 in Local Option Sales tax (LOST) funds which appeared to be in compliance with the sales tax’s specific purpose.

In Audubon, LOST 1 sales tax, effective since 2001, must be used for materials for street con- struction and repair. In FY2020, $15,926 was disbursed from the fund, which didn’t appear to be in compliance with the specific definition.

“The City should revise its current and past disburse- ment to ensure local option tax collections are spent in accordance with the LOST ballot (i.e., on items directly related to street construction and repair). Any disburse- ments not found to be in ac- conformance with the LOST bal- lot should be reimbursed by the appropriate fund,” the report states.

On Monday, the Audubon City Council dis- cussed transferring the money to a more appropri- ate fund and would look into making changes to change the LOST ballot wording to be less restrictive. According to Joe Foran, Audubon City Clerk, auditors said they found the language for the possible uses for the LOST funds to be “one of the most restrictive they’ve

A nice breeze and sunshine, available, Pim’s Thai Food took a sample the food prepared by.

Pim’s Thai Food won the Food Truck Battle if you missed them, they will be at the Walnut Antique Walk on June 17-18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A beautiful day for Art in the Park and

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Local News

ACM considers options for patient transfers

By Jennifer Nichols
As Staff Writer

AUDUBON COUNTY — Officials with Audubon County Memorial Hospital told the Audubon County Board of Supervisors Tues- day they will be contacting other counties and area hospitals to consider working together to provide patient transfers by ambulance out of the current

Hospital COO Paul Topfll said last week- end was a good example because they had two patients come in who had heart attacks. They were able to stabilize both patients, who then had to wait for somebody to transfer them to another hospital. They said medical helicop- ters were not available to transport due to the weather, and they called all over the state look- ing for someone to transport the patient. In the end, they found someone to transport the pa- tients, but staff agreed to come up with a plan because transfers are continuing to be a problem.

“We’re having issues regarding transport- ing patients out of the county,” Topfll said. “It’s getting worse and worse.”

Hospital officials estimated 100 people need to be transferred out of the county by ambulance each year, which isn’t a big number, but a driver and at least one medical person is needed for transport. They are considering working with another county, like Guthrie or Shelby, or area hospitals to share the cost of equipment, staffing and an ambulance to provide the service. Hos- pital CEO Suzanne Conner said one suggestion for staffing was working with people who are part of the volunteer ambulance, and paying them to do that. However, there was a question if volunteers would be available because they would have to spend at least half a day to make the transfer.

Back in January, Conner expressed the same concern due to a limited number of beds in hos- pitals they typically worked with, and a company they worked with to make transfers—Midwest

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Audubon County Memorial Hospital Senior Vice President Ed Gentry said there was an “increasing trend” for transfers between counties, and Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines is also working to make transfers.

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Mostly clear, with a low around 67. East wind 7 to 10 mph.

Monday
Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92. Breezy

Tuesday
Mostly clear, with a low around 77. Breezy.

Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 99. Breezy.

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