



Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation, Inc.

House Tax Committee, Marvin Kleebe, Chairman
February 17, 2016 3:30 PM

Testimony in Support of HB 2604
Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation Inc.
QUINTER, KS 67752

According to KDOT Aviation, Gove County was 1 of 5 counties in the State that had a gap and was an underserved area for access to air transportation - 60 miles between WaKeeney and Oakley (east & west), and a gap of 65 miles between Hoxie to Dighton (north & south).

Gove County Medical Center – Quinter, KS is a modern facility with a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) status and the largest employer in Gove County with over 200 employees. Patient base for the Blue Stem Medical and Gove County Medical Center is in excess of 12,500 patients. Blue Stem Medical has 6 medical doctors who live locally in Quinter, KS and utilize Gove County Medical Center as well as they satellite the facilities in Sheridan County. Trauma patients from Gove County Medical Center have to be transported to other nearby airports for air ambulance causing delays which can be critical to the patient's life.

The airport facility will be located in Quinter, KS, off of a blacktop road approximately 1 mile south of Quinter, a community of approximately 900 people. Gove County itself has a population total of approximately 2900 covering 1072 square miles, which includes the 5 towns of Quinter, Park, Grainfield, Grinnell, and Gove KS. For the future, medical air-transportation would coincide and help Gove County Medical Center maintain its premier Critical Access Hospital status.

Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation is a 501c3 IRS determination status and is separate entity from the Gove County Medical Center. The Endowment Foundation was organized in 1989 to bring healthcare related projects into Gove County and surrounding Gove County communities to benefit the patients of Gove County Medical Center.

The Endowment Foundation is funded only by donations, fund raisers, memorials, and sometimes estates will leave funds to the Endowment. The Endowment has brought approximately \$1.9 million of healthcare related projects into Gove County since 1989.

The airport project was discussed and needed 20 years ago – however no organization, city, or county government took the initiative to elevate the importance of this need. At the request of the medical doctors, the Endowment Foundation started the project in 2011 with the help of KDOT Aviation Grants.

The Quinter Airport project is owned by Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation – Quinter, KS and will be a public airport for community infrastructure as well as provide air

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ambulance. The Endowment Foundation has supported the Airport Project financially through the Design Phase, underground wires buried, water well, zoning, and percentage match for KDOT Aviation grants

The large current grant from KDOT Aviation is for the grading the runway and paving the concrete runway and was awarded in October 2015. By having both the grading and paving into one project creates over \$410,000 in savings on the airport project. Mike King, Secretary of Transportation, was present at our town hall meetings to observe the need which were represented and included: medical employees, doctors, Hospital Board members, Endowment Board members, ambulance, City, County, County commissioners, the public, State Representative Hineman, Senator Ostmeyer, and others.

The total of grants awarded by KDOT Aviation since 2011 - total approximately \$2.7 million of actual funds being infused by KDOT Aviation in addition to the matching percentage the Endowment has made. When the total entire project is completed, KDOT will have contributed approximately 80% and the Endowment Foundation 20%. The total finished airport will be approximately \$3.5 million.

The Endowment Foundation has asked Don Hineman (State Representative) to draft legislation for this project to be exempt from Sales Tax.

Pending bids received for the project have the sales tax included whereas the Endowment Foundation does not have an exemption for sales tax. Since funding is limited for this project for Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation (501c3 IRS designation) it would be vitally important to get the sales tax exemption for this project.

The final stages for the airport project are estimated to begin grading in June 2016 and the concrete runway construction completed by Oct 2016.

The Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation has no financial gain in the Quinter Airport as it is a community project the Endowment originated in 2011 for improving healthcare services in the Gove County community.

Testimony given by: Carol Kinderknecht, Executive Director
Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation Inc.
Quinter, KS 67752

SUMMARY – Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation Airport Quinter, KS

- Gove County – underserved area for access to air transportation
- GCMC – Modern CAH facility – 200 employees
- Blue Stem Medical – 6 Doctors
- Trauma patients – Transportation
- Location of Airport facility
- Population 2900 – 1072 sq miles – 5 towns
- Medical Air Transportation coincide with CAH
- GCHEF – 501c3
- GCHEF – organized 1989 – Mission
- GCHEF – Present Funding
- GCHEF - \$1.9 million healthcare projects to Gove County
- Need for airport 20 yrs ago
- Airport project started 2011 with KDOT Aviation Grants
- GCMC patient base 12,500
- Ownership of Airport
- GCHEF – supported airport financially with KDOT help
- Current large KDOT Grant Grading & Paving - All total - \$2.7 million infusion for project
- GCHEF – finished airport will average 80% & 20%
- Doing both projects of Grading & Paving– saved \$410K
- Mike King – Town hall meetings – mention those present
- Finished project \$3.5
- Don Hineman – introduce legislation
- Pending bids – not signed – bids have the state sales tax included
- GCHEF – has limited funding and vitally important to get the sales tax exemption
- Timetable – June 2016 start – complete Oct 2016
- GCHEF – Airport Community & healthcare related project – Endowment has no financial gain in this project
- Project will bring air-ambulance to a needed community and be part of the community infrastructure