



## DICKINSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

109 East First Street, Suite 208, Abilene, KS 67410  
Phone (785) 263-3120 Fax (785) 263-2081  
dkcoks.org

By Kathy Hageman/  
Dickinson County Public Information Coordinator

Renovations on the Dickinson County Courthouse are progressing, albeit slowly.

Unfortunately, the courthouse probably will not be ready for occupancy in December.

The new timeline provided by Loyd Builders extends the move-in date to January, Dickinson County Administrator Brad Homman told commissioners during the Nov. 4 meeting.

One of the biggest impediments to completing the remodel has been refurbishing the original elevator. But if that could be done by the first of December and as the various locations are finished its possible offices could begin moving into their new areas incrementally, he said.

### **Remodel work**

The commission accepted a \$19,666.32 bid from the Davis Furniture Company of Wisconsin for nine pews to be placed in the main courtroom used by Eighth Judicial District Head Judge Benjamin Sexton. Davis Furniture Co. is the same company which provided the pews in the magistrate judge's courtroom.

The plan was to use the original pews from the 1950s-era courtroom by sanding and refinishing them to match the darker wood in the remodeled courtroom. However, when attempts were made to refinish the old pews it was found the varnish or other material was placed on them had made the woodgrain so tight it couldn't be sanded down enough to apply the new stain without looking terrible.

The original courtroom pews will be spruced up and placed in the hallways of the courthouse to provide seating for people waiting outside offices. The light-colored old pews perfectly match the original brick on the walls. That way, chairs will not have to be purchased to provide hallway seating.

### **Other**

\* Roofers were expected to show up to fix problems on the roof of the courthouse, but had not arrived as of meeting time.

\* Concrete workers were in to finish work on the north side of the building and to pour the pad for a monument planned on the northeast corner of the courthouse to mark the location of the former Belle Springs Creamery, a historic site due to its connection with the Eisenhower family.

\* Carpet will be installed in the new county attorney's office on the third floor sometime this month or early next month. On the basement level, the appraisers and 911 dispatch areas will be carpeted and then blocked off to keep people out so nothing is damaged.

“We can’t move anybody until the elevator is done and all the plumbing and every system is finished,” Homman said.

\* The county is working with the Dickinson County Economic Development Corp. and the City of Abilene to obtain a Kansas Department of Transportation grant to install an electric vehicle charging station in Abilene out near the planned location of the new Holiday Inn on North Buckeye, as part of a bigger KDOT project. KDOT is looking to distribute \$2 million to locations across Interstates 70, 35 and 135 in Kansas where there are no electric charging stations. Homman said the county may need to contribute some match money, but noted that 20 percent divided between the various entities is minimal.