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Local News

May 3, 2012

Fine-tuning airport infrastructure

Airport competing for thousands of dollars in annual grant

CHELSEA DAVIS
Courier Staff Writer

OTTUMWA — The Ottumwa Regional Airport is in need of a few updates.

The airport is applying for four different grants on one application to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Aviation Grants Program for fiscal year 2013, a competitive grant that the state's 101 airports vie for.

"There is \$750,000 they have to give out in grants each year, and usually they receive several millions of dollars worth of requests," said Tom Francis, airport maintenance supervisor.

The Ottumwa airport alone is estimating its five projects could cost more than \$190,000, of which approximately 80 percent could be funded through the grant.

The first project, a security grant, would help pay for new lighting on the ramp in front of the Terminal Building.

Francis said the terminal ramp is poorly lit and he has received a few complaints from emergency services personnel and air ambulance operators that it's hard to safely transfer patients.

"We've known for years it wasn't very good," Francis said. "But it's just so they can see when they're getting in and out of the plane, it has nothing to do with the runway."

Musco Lighting in Oskaloosa has offered to design the lighting, provide the light poles and luminaries and oversee installation.

The lighting is expected to cost more than \$57,000, 85 percent of which Francis hopes will be funded through the grant.

The second grant would fund two projects. The first is to construct a three-sided enclosure for the Ottumwa Flying Services fuel trucks for protection.

"There are certain regulations for the fuel trucks, such as they have to be parked outside, and have to be so far away from the buildings, which puts them out in all kinds of weather," Francis said. "This will protect them and reduce the possibility of getting water or contaminant in the fuel."

Francis estimates this will cost \$15,000, again 85 percent of which could be funded through the grant.

The second project for the second grant would replace the asphalt shingles on the Terminal Building with a standing seam metal roof.

Within a few years of the Terminal Building's construction in 2002, shingles began blowing off, and they are now delaminating.

"Typically they should have lasted longer than that," Francis said. "Evidently it was a lower

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quality shingle put on. Then again, it's always windy out here."

Francis said instances of shingles blowing off are becoming more and more frequent and occurring in larger areas.

The estimated cost is \$65,000, 85 percent of which could be funded through the grant.

The local match for these first three projects is \$20,585, \$15,000 of which has been budgeted for in fiscal year 2013. The remaining \$5,585 will come from the airport fund balance.

"Usually we have gotten everything we've applied for, but not always," Francis said. "There have been several times we didn't receive all the funding. Then we have to decide how to either come up with additional funding from other sources or we have to figure out how to streamline or curtail a project back to fit within the amount we received."

The third grant is for patching and crack sealing on one runway and patching potholes on the ramp/apron area.

"We're beginning to see on the primary runway; it's getting to the age where cracks start opening up and letting water into the pavement surface, affecting the mat," Francis said.

He added the airport annually budgets \$15,000 for patching and crack sealing, of which \$10,500 has been funded through the grant for the last five to six years and \$5,000 of which is locally matched.

"We accomplish as much patching and/or crack sealing as can be done within the budgeted amount," Francis said at the City Council meeting this week.

The final grant is for developing and implementing compatible land use and airport zoning ordinances in Wapello County and the city of Ottumwa.

Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the DOT will require airports to have zoning ordinances in place to remain eligible for any IDOT grants.

The estimated cost of this project is nearly \$40,000, 85 percent of which could be funded through the grant, though the maximum grant amount available is \$25,000. This would leave a local match of nearly \$15,000, which would come from the airport fund.

In the past, Francis said monies received through this grant program have helped repair and upgrade the hangars, among other projects.

The airport has applied for this grant for about 10 years and has been very successful every year, he said.

"We're growing, trying to keep busy and keep improving and maintaining a safe, operating airport."

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Local News

Ottumwa not chosen in first round of Blue Zones

Ottumwa was not chosen in the first round of Blue Zones demonstration sites, announced this morning.

May 4, 2012

Canteen recognized by New York magazine



New York magazine's online food page, Grub Street New York, searched 50 states for memorable dining experiences. They chose only one for each state and one in Washington, D.C. The single must-see site in all of Iowa is in Ottumwa - The Canteen.

May 4, 2012 1 Photo

A celebration of sobriety: Event to honor

John Randall Sr., 78, Ottumwa



Continued ...

1 Photo

William "Bill" Carter, 75, Exline

Continued ...

James Datin, 85, Albia



Continued ...

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Obituaries

graduates, local drug court program

In honor of National Drug Court Month, a celebration will be held May 21 in Central Park to honor those who have graduated from the local program and the work of those in the courts.

May 4, 2012

Promise Center event to provide legal, volunteer information

As part of National Mental Health Awareness Month, the Promise Center, AmeriCorps, Iowa Legal Aid and the Ottumwa Community Outreach Ministry (OCOM) have partnered for "Keeping our promise: To service, to justice and to our community," on May 16.

May 4, 2012

Canine curiosity Katy Ponsar captured this moment with her dog, Benson, taking a good look at the dog statue in the Ottumwa Cemetery.



May 4, 2012

Ottumwan arrested on drug delivery charges

Judson Coil Letts III, 27, was arrested after officers executed a search warrant at his residence, 1446 W. Second St., at approximately 8:50 a.m. Thursday.

May 4, 2012

Eleven arrested in drug sweep

Authorities on Thursday announced arrests in a major methamphetamine investigation centered on Keokuk County.

May 3, 2012

PHOTO: Cleanup is a team effort!

Fifth- and sixth-graders from Ottumwa Christian School clean the area along North Court Street. A few pieces of trash weren't pretty, but the kids took to the task with good humor.



May 3, 2012

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May 3, 2012

They'll miss the kids: Retiring educators honored

Fifteen retirees from the Ottumwa school district were being honored at a reception with coffee, cookies and cards from colleagues. These are people, said Superintendent Davis Eidahl, who have made a difference not just to the school district, but to the community. According to the Ottumwa school district, this year's retirees have served



[Click here for more Obituaries stories](#)



Poll

There has been considerable discussion recently over whether to equip city buses with bike racks. Do you think the racks are a good idea?

- Yes, I think it might work well
- No, I just don't see the point

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the students of Ottumwa a total of 364 years.

May 3, 2012 1 Photo

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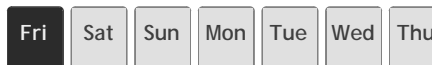
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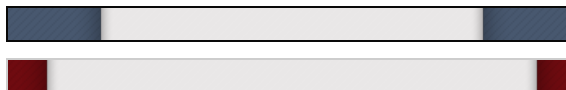
Community Calendar



- May 5 **Chef Linda's Tulip Time Selections**
- May 12 **Tassel Ridge Winery's 6th Annive...**
- May 4 **Long Time Courting (Shannon)**



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Contact Us

Martin Cody, Publisher
 mcody@cnhi.com 641-683-5372

Doug Techel, Circulation Director
 circmgr@ottumwacourier.com 641-683-5371

Jeff Hutton, Managing Editor
 641-683-5365

jeff@ottumwacourier.com

Monica Tews,
Advertising
Manager
mtews@ottumwacourier.com

641-683-5349

213 E. Second
St. Ottumwa,
IA 52501

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