



18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Point of Contact: Michael W. Morgan, City Manager, (308) 233-3214

Kearney City Council Passes Funding Resolution for Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

Kearney, Nebraska – June 11, 2013 – In a special meeting the Kearney City Council today passed a resolution approving \$8,504,000 in direct funding and utility cost reductions to support the relocation and construction of the new veterans' home in Kearney, Nebraska.

"Maintaining the second lowest municipal property tax rate in Nebraska and making a financial commitment at this level is not easy, but honoring the sacrifice of our Veterans and recognizing the overall economic impact of this project made sense to our community," said Kearney Mayor Stan Clouse.

The twenty-year funding plan includes the use of reserve funds, sales tax funds, economic development funds, and the sale of surplus property. The proposal by the City of Kearney combined with \$1,000,000 in funding from Buffalo County, \$500,000 from the Veterans' Memorial Committee and \$100,000 from the Buffalo County Economic Development Council demonstrates a total local commitment of \$10,104,000.

The proposal approves funding enhancements for the veterans' home such as paved and well-lit walking trails, water features, wood and ceramic shops, a chapel, a library, landscaping, garden areas, and a new Veterans' Memorial. Also included is long-term funding for employee recruitment, relocation, training, as well as scholarships to the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Central Community College. In addition, the proposal provides significant operational savings through utility rate reductions, rebates, and snow removal services. Finally, discretionary funds are included allowing for necessary improvements that may arise now and in the future due to design changes or higher costs.

The 75-acre site at the intersection of 56th Street and Cherry Avenue offers excellent access to Interstate 80 as well as the city of Kearney and surrounding communities. Its location near a new, fully-staffed fire station, Kearney's ISO II rating for fire protection services, and a low crime rate ensures veterans and their families that they will be safe whether living in or visiting the Kearney area.

"Rarely does a community have an opportunity to support a project that honors our veterans and provides an annual estimated economic impact of more than \$30,000,000. This project does both and we have put forward our best proposal for careful consideration by the review committee and the Governor. We hope they and all area veterans appreciate our efforts," stated Mayor Clouse.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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