April 8, 2013

Rumors keep being spread by some county employees that the reason that Precinct 1 does not have a motor grader is that when I took office in January of this year, I sold the motor grader and now wanted to buy a new one.

For the record here are the facts:

Precinct 1 bought a new Volvo motor grader in June , 2001 and paid at least $127,300, which was the amount financed with American National Bank, In September 2009 this motor grader had only 2027 hours and according to the foreman this machine was in very good condition. Mr. Boggs decided to sell this motor grader and lease a new motor grader. He sold this machine through Action Auction for $50,900 and after paying the commission to Action Auction, the County received $47,100.50. During the 99 months that we owned the Volvo motor grader, the use of this machine averaged less than 226 hours per year or 6 weeks per year. In September, 2009 Mr. Boggs leased a motor grader from Holt Caterpillar for 36 months to end 9/30/2012 and extended the lease by 3 months to expire at the end of his term on December 31, 2012. The cost to the County for this 39 month lease was $75,501.

Holt Caterpillar would not extend the lease and would not let me sign a new lease. My options were, I could purchase the machine for $205,000, or I could lease a new machine for 36 months at $2000 plus per month I would not agree, and the lease by Mr. Boggs expired.

Considering the small amount of hours that a motor grader has been used by Precinct 1, I would like to suggest that we try to see if the County could save the cost of another motor grader.

The County now owns 5 motor graders Mr. Hinton and Mr. Hockaday have 2 motor graders each and I have asked them to sell or transfer one of their machines to me. They refused_ and at this time _ I would like to ask again if you gentlemen would reconsider?

I believe that a lot of money could be saved for the County If the Precincts could share equipment that is used only for a few weeks each year. "It would cost nothing to try"!

Al Riddle