

Hiawatha Hospital taking steps to improve finances

**(KNZA)--Hiawatha Community Hospital has implemented a number of cost cutting measures in an attempt to bring the hospital back into financial security.**

**For the past several years the hospital has been operating in the red due in part to mandates related to the Affordable Care Act and Medicare reimbursement cuts.**

**Hospital CEO Jeff Shelton says monthly operating expenses have been averaging \$2.2 million, with current monthly revenues between \$1.8 and \$1.9 million. The hospital experienced operational losses of more than \$7 million from 2014-2017.**

**As of January 6, the hospital implemented a little more than one million dollars in cost cutting measures—including a mandatory two percent base wage reduction for all employees and reduction in employee fringe benefits.**

**The hospital is also looking at other ways to cut costs and increase revenue.**

**Shelton other hospital officials will be meeting with the Brown County Commission and Hiawatha City Commission in the coming weeks to discuss possible financial assistance.**

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