

Craig Brown
Columbiana County Recorder
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Board Approves Recorder's Purchases

Columbiana County recorder Craig Brown has received approval from the Columbiana County Data Board to make two purchases. Acting as an agent of the board, Columbiana County Auditor Nancy Milliken granted Brown approval to purchase a new Microfilm reader-printer-scanner and a hard disk for a copy machine.

Considering the county's currently challenging economic position, Brown admitted that he is normally very reluctant about making new equipment purchases.

Brown explained that while in office he has made "significant strides to minimize short term costs."

He added, "Once short-term cost cuts are made it is important to look at how the office can save money long term and that is why these purchases are being made."

Brown justified purchasing a new microfilm machine by explaining how the County was spending almost four thousand dollars a year on microfilm machine service contracts for the recorder's office while a new machine under government purchasing costs less than eight thousand.

He stated that the math was pretty simple and said "we basically had two choices either pay for the over priced service contracts and risk parts not even being available or purchase a new machine."

"Plus after two years the county starts saving more than three thousand dollars a year," he added, "to some that isn't very much money but it adds up."

Brown was also provided authority to purchase a hard disk for a copier allowing the office to require advance payment for copies before they are printed.

He said that the hard disk installation both eliminates copy theft and provides staff with additional time to complete other duties.

The total of both purchases approved by the board was nine thousand one hundred and eighty six dollars. Brown explained the purchases were made from the equipment fund, a fund created by the State Legislature for purchasing equipment for recording functions.