

Commissioners order burn ban

Written by Ty Albin, Lawton Constitution
Wednesday, 03 September 2014 02:27 -

Comanche County is under a burn ban for the next month.

The Comanche County commissioners approved a burn ban Tuesday morning during their regular weekly meeting, held on Tuesday because the Comanche County Courthouse was closed Monday in observance of Labor Day.

The burn ban was effective immediately and will end Oct. 2 if the commissioners do not vote to extend it. As of Tuesday afternoon, Comanche County's was the only burn ban in effect in Oklahoma, according to Oklahoma Forestry Services.

Gail Turner, chairman of the commissioners, said Comanche County Emergency Management Director Chloe Lewis polled the chiefs of the county's volunteer fire departments and determined they were in favor of a burn ban following recent wildfires in Comanche and Stephens counties.

Violation of the burn ban is punishable by up to a year in the county jail or a fine of up to \$500, or both.

The commissioners also voted to set a public hearing, as required by Oklahoma law, on the request by Valley View Volunteer Fire Department to convert from being a corporate fire department to a county fire department. A volunteer fire department must first be a corporate department before it can become a county fire department.

The hearing will be at 9 a.m. Sept. 29, during the regular weekly commissioners' meeting at the courthouse.

Valley View fire chief Lynn Newton said the purpose of the change is to allow Valley View firefighters to take part in the state pension system for volunteer firefighters. The change might

Commissioners order burn ban

Written by Ty Albin, Lawton Constitution
Wednesday, 03 September 2014 02:27 -

also lower the area covered by the department's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, which could lead to lower insurance premiums for property owners, Newton said.

The change will not affect how much county money the department receives, Turner said.

In other business, the commissioners opened a bid for replacing the alarm system in the courthouse from Wiring Solutions for \$286,847.18, which was tabled for further consideration. No other bids were received.