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## Hospital loses money in April

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The Quincy Valley Medical Center isn't panicking quite yet, even though it lost money for the second consecutive month in April.

At the Grant County Public Hospital District No. 2 board of commissioners meeting on May 24, financial controller Dean Taplett said the center lost \$140,952 in April. The center had budgeted for a profit of almost \$14,000 for the month.

For the year, the center has lost \$151,311.

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"The operating revenues were down \$203,000 from what we budgeted," Taplett said. "That was due to less use of the facility and less patient days. The clinic visits were down and surgeries were down, all of which takes revenue out of the

picture. Of course, I want to stress that these numbers are preliminary."

Board chairman Anthony Gonzales said the hospital will continue to keep a close watch on the numbers to look for financial trends.

"These numbers are disturbing, to say the least," Gonzales said. "We talk about the budget, and we look at things department by department, so we know what departments are holding their own and which ones aren't. We'll go over the numbers and see what adjustments we need to be making. This isn't really a surprise. Are we overly excited about it? No. Are we going to continue to watch the numbers? Absolutely. Our goal is to achieve a third straight year of profitability, and we can do that with a lot of hard work. With the realities of today's economy, we have to continue to watch our expenses."

Administrator Mehdi Merred said there are several factors which may have contributed to the financial losses.

"Medicare reimbursement is down," he said. "We also don't know what our ancillary numbers are yet. We did see lower numbers of visits in April, but overall we still have higher numbers than we did at this time last year. We have to look at the non-revenue producing departments. We don't want to alarm anyone, but we might have to adjust some things."

• Marketing director Michele Wurl said the hospital was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Paul Lauzier Foundation to go toward the purchase of a new anesthesia machine. The grant money will be paired with an anonymous donation of \$16,000 the hospital received last year for the purchase.

Wurl also said the hospital's foundation raised \$6,800 at the Spring Swing golf tournament earlier last month. Seventy-nine golfers participated, Wurl said.

"I want to commend (tournament organizers) Karisa Arizmendi, Breck Field and Kaylee Keller for their efforts," Wurl said. "They did a phenomenal job."

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