

PROJECT BRIEF



Project Name: Smoky Hills PBS Infrastructure Modernization Project

Grant Program: KPB

Project Date: November 2023 - March 2026

Project Summary

Smoky Hills PBS used funds for an infrastructure modernization project to replace failing tower lighting, upgrade transmitters and antennas, and implement new broadcast, production, and control-room technologies essential for reliable service across western and central Kansas.

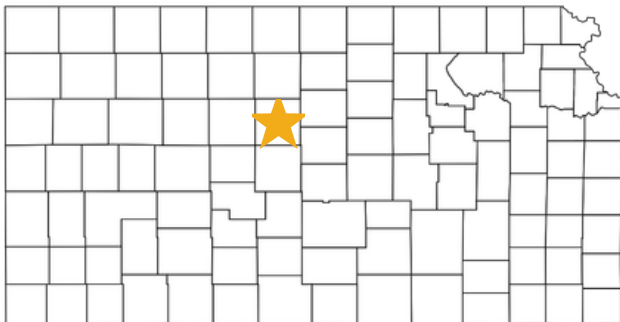
Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Modernize and replace aging, failing, or obsolete broadcast infrastructure across multiple Smoky Hills PBS transmission sites.

Objective: Replace failing tower lighting, upgrade transmitters and antennas, improve signal transport systems, enhance remote monitoring capabilities, and modernize production and master-control equipment to provide viewers with a higher-quality, more dependable broadcast experience.

Location

Bunker Hill, Kansas



Budget Overview

- **Grant Amount:** \$772,000.00
- **Total Budget:** \$772,000.00

Expense Categories:

- **Labor & Materials:** \$600,361.48
- **Equipment:** \$169,108.52
- **Fees:** \$2,530.00

Target Population

The target population for this project is the viewers and communities across 71 counties of Central and Western Kansas who rely on Smoky Hills PBS for free, educational, and locally relevant programming. This included households served by the KOOD, KSWK, and KDCK transmission sites.

Grantee Information

Smoky Hills PBS is a nonprofit public television station serving 71 counties across Central and Western Kansas with free, high-quality educational programming, local productions, and community-based services. Established in 1978 to bring public broadcasting to previously unserved rural regions, the station now reaches more than 1.2 million potential viewers.

Sustainability

By replacing obsolete equipment that can no longer be repaired and implementing technology that improves efficiency and reduces downtime, Smoky Hills PBS ensures long-term reliability, regulatory compliance, and cost-effective operations. These improvements also protect the station's ability to deliver uninterrupted service, maintain viewer trust, and preserve the community financial support that is essential to sustaining ongoing broadcast operations.

Activities and Timeline

Q3 2024: Completed our Microwave STL Modernization FCC items and permits/studies completed.

Q4 2024: Completed KOOD and KSWK tower lights, new production transmission equipment and new production cameras/equipment.

Q2 2025: Complete installation of KDCK transmitter.

Q4 2025: Completed video router and fiber installation at KSWK and KWKS.

Outcomes

- Improved broadcast reliability and safety by replacing failing tower lighting, transmitters, antennas, and outdated signal transport systems across multiple sites.
- Enhanced operational efficiency and reduced downtime through new remote monitoring tools, stabilized electrical/HVAC systems, and modernized master-control technology.
- Upgraded production quality with new cameras, transmission equipment, and playback systems that ensure clearer images, seamless live broadcasts, and higher-quality programming for viewers.

Contact Information

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