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ELBERT COUNTY
GOVERNMENT

Press Release

County Purchases Vacant Bank of West Building Improving Citizen Service & Convenience

Kiowa, CO, June 13, 2017: When opportunity arises, Elbert County takes action. Facing current and future space limitations, the Elbert County Board of County Commissioners has closed on the purchase of the nearby and long vacant Bank of the West Building at 420 Comanche St. The 10,000 square foot building will soon house the county's Clerk & Records Office and the Office of the Treasurer. The Assessor's Office will follow next year creating a "One Stop Shop" for the most common citizen needs.

The building was purchased with funds released during the refinance of the county's Justice Center, which can only be used for purchases of this type and represents a tremendous bargain. At less than \$50 per square foot, the county has acquired the building without taking on any debt and executed the deal at well under list price and below the building's professionally appraised value. It is a win for the taxpayer. Especially when compared to the price tag of the 14,000 square foot addition to the nearby Castle Rock Town Hall. That Douglas County project is projected to cost in excess of \$5 million (or over 5 times the cost per square foot of the Elbert County deal).

"No longer will citizens be forced to wait in the hallways of the old court house to register their vehicles. In fact, we will soon have the state's first "drive through" DMV", stated Dallas Schroeder, County Clerk. He added, "And during election season, the regular public meetings of the Commissioners will not have to relocate to the fairgrounds."

This purchase allows the county to meet all current and anticipated administrative and customer service space needs for decades to come.

Elbert County is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Denver and is home to over 26,000 residents. We are a unique mix of suburban bedroom communities and rural agricultural areas. The county provides essential statutory services and supportive infrastructure to our citizens in a professional, respectful, and cost-effective manner while creating a working environment that supports their endeavors, western lifestyle and rights as individuals. We strive to be viewed by our citizens and employees as the best place to live, work, and conduct business in Colorado; led in a responsive, effective, transparent, and professional manner.

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