

Letters - City should take bids on new FBO contract

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When Fost Air took over the FBO (fixed base operations) at Bolivar Municipal Airport, the city unilaterally awarded a service contract to Jay Foster amounting to approximately \$36,000 annually.

Since that award, a waiting list for hanger space at the airport has disappeared, and eventually 22 hangers were vacant. At this writing there are about 18 hangars still vacant. This is costing the city of Bolivar, conservatively, \$36,720 annually. Added to the contract price of \$36,000 this comes to about \$72,720 annually.

None of the previous Fixed Base Operators were offered this kind of help.

The results of this generous award have been reduction in the hours of airport attendance, closure of the airport restaurant, 18 vacant hangers, a significant reduction of aircraft maintenance at the shop, only minimal care of the hangers, parking area, taxi areas and runway. I'm referring to the weeds growing in all those areas.

I am concerned not only as a resident of the area, but also as a pilot with 47 years of doing business with airports all over the United States.

Bolivar Municipal Airport was once considered to be the poster child for Missouri airports of this size.

What has changed? Only the Fixed Base Operations. I have been taught not to criticize something unless I have a better suggestion to offer, so here it is.

The city of Bolivar should publically advertise for bid a new contract for a Fixed Base Operator giving qualified operators a chance to offer their services, not a unilaterally assigned contract to one person.

What do we have to lose?

Sam H. Swihart, Bolivar