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# City of Mitchell

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## Airport Report February 2020

Snow removal operations were completed for the month . Airfield lighting repairs , runway inspection and winter weather advisories were maintained throughout the month. All equipment received regular scheduled maintenance and repairs. Repairs and updates were completed to the electric gate operator and the airport lift station. A meeting was held with the Department of Aeronautics regarding 2020 grant assistance for the 2020 Air Venture event at the airport. The Department of aeronautics will offer up to \$1,500. grant assistance. It is uncertain what level of participation they will provide in the future. The rest of the preparations for the event are nearly complete. The event is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

The airport has experienced an unprecedented amount of wild life presence near/on/and around the perimeter of the airport. Herds of deer can be seen foraging all around the airport. Many people believe the airport fencing is an absolute guarantee that wildlife won't get on the airport. This has been proven to not be the case. One current issue is locating deer when they do occasionally get on the airport. They eventually go into the 40 acre shelter belt which is located inside the airport fencing. This area has experienced extreme flooding and much of the area is very difficult to access. There is a fair amount of large scale tree clearing that needs to be completed sometime in the future as well. The best solution to this issue would be to essentially fence off the SW shelter belt . This would allow airport personal to quickly locate deer when they do get on the field . It would also open up the possibility of leasing the roughly 40 acres for pasture , as it is far too rough for crop ground. Renting the ground for pasture would help with noxious weed control in the area. Rough estimates for fencing this area off would equal around 4100 ft of wildlife fencing. We may loose 4-5 acres of crop ground, but much of that area has been flooding out and not really farmed anyway. Early estimates would run \$15-\$16.00 per foot. This would equal \$65-70,000. All indications regarding AIP funding and the fencing would be that only the original installation qualifies for grant funding .