AMERUS GROUP CO/IA
Form 4
January 05, 2006

# FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

| | |
|---|---|
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
STROME STEPHEN

(Last) (First) (Middle)

699 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 2000

(Street)

DES MOINES, IA 50309

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol
AMERUS GROUP CO/IA [AMH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/03/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

__X__ Director _____ 10% Owner
_____ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 01/03/2006 | 01/03/2006 | A | | 118 | A | $ 0 | 3,318 | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**
**(*e.g.*, puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amou or Numb of Shares |
| Non-Qualified Option (Right to Buy) | $ 56.61 | 01/03/2006 | 01/03/2006 | A | | 3,500 | | (1) | 01/03/2016 | Common Stock | 3,50 |

# Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| STROME STEPHEN<br>699 WALNUT STREET<br>SUITE 2000<br>DES MOINES, IA 50309 | X | | | |

# Signatures

| /s/ Jeananne M. Celander, attorney-in-fact for Mr. Strome | 01/05/2006 |
|---|---|
| **Signature of Reporting Person | Date |

# Explanation of Responses:

***** If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

****** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

**(1)** Grant of option exempt under Rule 16b-3. The option becomes exercisable in increments as follows: 1,167 on 01/03/2007; 1,166 on 01/03/2008; and 1,167 on 01/03/2009.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
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