



City Manager's Report

September 12, 2023

Admin: Sales Tax, July: \$45,690.12. Use Tax, July: \$8,556.93. We are two months (16.7%) into Fiscal Year 2024. In General Government, we have received 25.3% of expected revenues and spent 15.1% of budgeted expenses. In Public Works, we have received 17.2% of expected revenues and spent 14.6% of budgeted expenses. The year is starting out on budget.

Projects: The water system improvement project is well under way. The project will eliminate the clearwell, which would otherwise be due for an expensive rehabilitation and replace it with a modern in-line chlorinator. The \$543k project, will be funded by a \$401k REAP (Rural Economic Action Plan) grant from ACOG (Association of Central Oklahoma Governments) and the balance from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The new waterline is installed, sanitized, tested, and tied in at the south connection point. The north tie in will be completed after the new chlorinator is online, tested and fully functional. The chlorine room is 70% complete. H&E Water Wells is drilling a test well at a location between Well Site 1 & 2 on 1 acre of property on which the City has an active lease. If the test well proves the site to be a good choice, we will install a new well on that location with a construction permit from OWRB. Cost of the new well (Well Site #5) will be comparable to the originally planned offset drill and well improvements of Well Site #1. After completion of the well at Well Site #5, the city will petition OWRB for a permit to operate the well and secure water rights the City has access to.

We are moving forward on our OWRB funded wastewater infrastructure project. The project will include a new wastewater lift station, pressure main and gravity sewer serving the south side of the city. The project engineering is moving forward at this time, and the DEQ permit has been submitted. City staff has inspected the site and asked for a few changes to the plan to accommodate the geography of the site and our plans to connect the site to our downtown area by way of a walking/biking trail.

The city petitioned ACOG to reallocate our REAP grant, intended to be used for the recoating of the water tower, to a roads grant which will provide the balance of funding necessary to repave the roads at West Washington, Railroad Ave, and other adjacent roadways.

The city is proud to announce the appointment of John Whitham to the position of Police Chief. Police Chief Whitham has an impressive resume including 16 years in law enforcement, and 10 years' experience as the police chief in two towns similar in size to Crescent. Chief Whitham and his wife Merry are relocating to Guthrie, until a suitable house in Crescent becomes available. Merry was raised in Abilene, Kansas and John was raised on a farm in Craig, Missouri. John resided in Oklahoma since 1985 before moving to Kansas in 2020. Chief reports he's happy to be back in Oklahoma. The Whitham's enjoy music and travel, particularly to visit kids and grandkids in Colorado and Kansas. John is an avid firearms enthusiast and was IPSC champion in 2006.

-Ryan Wallace, City Manager