

# EL DORADO

## K A N S A S

TO: City Commission  
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager  
SUBJ: Weekly Report  
DATE: May 10, 2024

### **Items of Note:**

- The Parks Division placed El Dorado's famous hanging baskets in the downtown corridor this week. The planter boxes will be filled with flowers in the coming days.
- Pre-season maintenance activities for the summer pool season continue as staff prepares for opening day on May 25. Splash pad maintenance started in preparation for opening on May 25.
- Park staff applied another round of fertilization on the ball fields this week. They are working diligently to overcome some turf issues caused by the uneven weather this spring.
- Garver, the consultant for the Constant Creek Sewer Project, identified a sub-consultant for the archaeological work needed before we can let the project for bid. Staff will schedule this work so we can move closer to the bid date for the project.
- Mayer Specialties will work on the Cure-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Sewer Project for the Arizona/Lawndale area in May. This work will help address some sanitary sewer issues that have presented maintenance challenges for the department.
- To date, the Public Utilities Department has visually inventoried 4,784 services for the Lead Service Line Inventory required by the federal government. Public utilities are required to inventory these services to determine the number of lead or copper service lines that exist in the system. It is likely that the next phase will require replacement of these service lines, although we will have to wait to see how the federal government decides to address this issue that is more prevalent in other communities. Most services in El Dorado comply with federal regulations and will not require replacement.
- Chief Holton and Sergeant Skov attended a two-day training course at KLETC to assist in the instruction and evaluation of new KLETC recruits during practical exercises on the topics of identification and arrest of suspects, domestic violence, and other scenario-based police responses.
- Police officers responded to ninety-four calls for service during the week. Seventeen calls led to criminal investigations.
- Detectives from the El Dorado Police Department and outside agencies located a missing juvenile that was reported on April 9. The juvenile was found safe.
- The Fire Department completed twenty-four hours of training and conducted fifteen inspections. Many career and volunteer members attended the hands-on experience in fire suppression. Fire Department statistics from January 1 through April 30 include: Fires –

53; EMS / Rescue – 309; Hazardous Conditions - 29; Service Call – 62; Good Intent Calls – 80; and False Alarm – 26.

- Department directors have been preparing proposed operating budgets for the 2025 budget. This year, the City is using ClearGov, an online budgeting software, that will streamline the budget preparatory process and allow for the creation of a multi-year budget forecast to improve financial planning.
- Greenbush anticipates that the City can lower natural gas budgets by 10% and projects electric costs to remain mostly stable for next year. Evergy may still file an amendment for a rate increase with the Kansas Corporation Commission in 2025. This is welcome news, especially considering an increase in utility costs over the last few years.
- The City plans to propose a utility rate increase for water and sewer in the coming weeks to raise revenue needed to pay for several significant capital projects. Utility rates have not been increased since 2017. Staff met this week to develop a campaign to inform the City Commission and public about the proposed utility rate increases. Staff will present the plan to the City Commission soon.
- Experience El Dorado secured an opening act for GoldFest. Unfortunately, the main act withdrew their acceptance offer because of personnel issues. Kate and the talent company will continue to search for an act that the community will enjoy. Kate is currently focusing on planning Kids Week, which will take place in June this year to beat the summer heat.
- Kate and Julie have been working with the El Dorado Walnuts, the WarDogs, and the Celebration of Freedom Committee to coordinate the 4th of July game at McDonald Stadium. The WarDogs Baseball Team is comprised of current and prior service members who travel the country raising funds for various veteran support services. This year's game will open with the presentation of service dogs to two Kansas veterans. The team will also do a community service project on July 3 and have asked to participate in the festivities at East Park on July 4.
- Outside maintenance staff had some work this past week cleaning up some debris from the recent storms. The "debris field" was not as bad as some of our neighbors experienced, although there was still some clean-up work that needed done.
- Cameras have been installed at the East Park ballfields. This effectively completes the vertical construction work related to the Concession/Restroom Project. Staff will now focus on finishing the Central Park fields.
- The Refuse Division received one of two long-awaited rear-load trash trucks. It will be placed into service as soon as Refuse staff have received training to operate it. This vehicle replaces a 2002 vintage trash truck. Operating with such an old truck speaks volumes about Justin Guy, the City's Fleet Maintenance Technician, who works hard to keep the fleet working for as long as possible.
- On Wednesday, the EFABC Board adopted its annual budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The budget shows anticipated revenues of \$204,441 against expenditures of \$191,048. The budget anticipates a carry-over reserve balance of \$51,280. The adopted budget also sets aside \$17,000 to long-term maintenance needs, which will be transferred to the BCC

Foundation to earn a return until needed. The budget also included a multi-year forecast to assist the board with financial planning for the future.

- A special thank you goes to Girl Scout Troop 40374, who donated \$500 to the Animal Shelter this week from their cookie sales.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for May 14 at 7:00 pm at the Elks Lodge, 121 E. Pine Avenue.

**City Manager’s Priorities:**

1. Housing Work Plan
2. Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan
3. Economic Development Incentive Update

**Upcoming Milestones/Deadlines:**

- **May 20** – Constant Creek Sewer Interceptor Project Contract Approval
- **May 15** – Turf and track replacement at BG Stadium begins
- **August** – Transportation Master Plan Completion

**Personnel Update:**

- *Vacant, advertised positions:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (6), Patrol Officers (1), Patrol Sergeant (1), Detective (1), Public Utilities Distribution Maintenance Worker
- *Vacant, not advertised:* Wastewater Operator
- *Pending Offers:* Patrol Officer (Anticipated start date May 22), Firefighter, and Utilities Distribution Maintenance Worker
- The City is filling several high school internships to give young people an opportunity to get real-world experience in municipal government career fields. High school interns will work for the following departments: Marketing - Alyssa Patty (Circle) and Gillian Johnson (Circle); Engineering – Quinn Houseman (El Dorado); Public Utilities – Marcus Roberts (El Dorado)
- Jason Cogdell and Ted Pope tested for KDHE drinking water certification.

**Commission Calendar:** *Upcoming City Commission Items (subject to change):*

- **May 15 Work Session** – Central Avenue Project Overview; Utility CIP Review
- **May 20 Regular Meeting** – Public Hearings on Dilapidated Houses; W. Towanda Rezoning Request; Belly Acres West Plat
- **May 29 Work Session** – General CIP Overview; Utility CIP Review and Rate Proposal