

# EL DORADO

## KANSAS

TO: City Commission  
FROM: David Dillner, City Manager  
SUBJ: Weekly Report  
DATE: July 19, 2024

### **Operational Updates:**

- Staff worked with Nowak Construction to reduce the bid price for the Constant Creek Sewer Interceptor Project. The engineer's estimate was \$4.3 million, and Nowak's bid came out to \$5.8 million. The negotiations brought the cost down to \$4.7 million by changing part of the scope of the project. The savings come from relocating a portion of the project to minimize the impact on a neighborhood. Garver, the project engineer, will have to redesign the modified scope of the project. It will also require a KDHE and USACE permit. Staff will bring the modified bid to the City Commission for approval on August 5. We are confident that we can begin construction on the downstream portion of the project while the redesign takes place. The contractor will then be able to proceed with the modified section to minimize the overall delay to the project.
- Nowak Construction installed the 16-inch water main to Vine Street. The contractor bored the main under Central Avenue near the Kansas Oil Museum. This part of the project ran into some obstacles after encountering an old bridge abutment. Vine Street on the north side of Central Avenue will be closed beginning July 19, with traffic being detoured to Main Street. Excavation for the storm sewer box has begun and the headwall will be placed early next week.
- Governor Kelly announced \$26 million to various communities for road improvement projects. The City of El Dorado will receive a \$400,000 grant for a mill and overlay project on Central Avenue from Haverhill Road to Jones Street. The City is required to provide a 25% match of local funds. The grant will help the City with its maintenance needs on Central Avenue. The full cost of a mill and overlay for the entire stretch of Central Avenue is estimated to cost upwards of \$2.5 to \$3.0 million.
- Five applicants had confirmed the testing date for the Police Department. Two of the five have been tested and are scheduled for interviews.
- Police officers responded to 131 calls for service during the week. Thirty-four calls were criminal cases worked by officers.
- The Fire Department completed a total of twenty-five hours of training. Fire Department statistics for the week include: Fire (1), EMS/Rescue (9), Hazardous Conditions (1), Service Call (2), and Good Intent Calls (4).
- Staff participated in a conference call with S&P to answer questions about the City's financial condition and economic outlook. These questions will help inform S&P as they consider a bond rating for the City's upcoming bond sale. The City's most recent

bond rating was “AA-, stable,” which is likely to remain the rating for this upcoming issuance. The bond rating provides general information to potential investors about the likelihood the City will repay its debt. It also informs the buyers of the bonds and may influence the interest rate the City receives on the issuance. We should receive the rating in the next few weeks ahead of the bond sale.

- The Notice to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate at 65.704 was provided to Butler County. Staff continues to develop the proposed 2025 budget. Several opportunities have been identified that will lower the need for a significant increase to the mill levy. Some of these opportunities include increasing various miscellaneous fees to offset a portion of the needed increase. We are also looking at spending down fund balance and reducing some operating expenses.
- Experience El Dorado received a signed contract for the headlining act for GoldFest. The City is still waiting on the signed agreements for the other acts. Staff met with representatives from Butler Community College to coordinate this year’s festival with a Butler football game. Everything appears to be coming together for what should be an excellent festival despite relocating from downtown due to construction.
- Experience El Dorado met with the National Fishing League about a potential crappie tournament in 2025. Kate Bosserman will present the league’s proposal at the next Experience El Dorado Committee.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- July 21 – Farmers & Art Market
- July 27 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) – Motorcycle and Car Show at Speedtrap Distillery
- There are two weeks left in the Pasta Patrol Food and School Supply Drive. Non-perishable food items or school supplies may be donated at the Police Department until August 1. Items will be donated to schools throughout Butler County.

#### **Personnel Update:**

- *Vacant, advertised positions:* Patrol Officers (2), PU Maintenance Worker (1)
- *Vacant, not advertised:* Public Works Maintenance Worker (5)
- The Fire Department conducted interviews on July 17 for a firefighter position. The committee may make a conditional offer of employment next week.
- Police Officer Chris McGathy was promoted to Patrol Sergeant.
- Sheila Yrjanainen was hired to fill the Senior Center Director position. Her first day is July 22.

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

- **July 31 Work Session** – Work Session Topics; Budget Discussion (Enterprise Funds)
- **August 5 Regular Meeting** - Award of Series 2024A General Obligation Bonds; Main Street Quarterly Report; Constant Creek Sewer Interceptor Bid; Standard Traffic Ordinance; Uniform Public Offense Code
- **August 14 Work Session** - Budget Discussion