

LEBO CITY COUNCIL

# Lebo awarded grant for downtown

**Ida Wilson**  
Reporter

LEBO — The City of Lebo has been selected once again to receive federal funds through the State of Kansas Transportation Alternatives Program. The maximum money that can be received is \$950,480 toward the expenses of the Downtown Phase 2 Project. The funds are for the 2021 Federal Fiscal Year.

During the March 2 regular monthly meeting of the Lebo City Council, the council approved proceeding with the \$1,301,100 Phase 2 downtown project.

During the meeting, a discussion took place on materials getting caught on the impellers at the Seventh Street lift station. This can cause the pumps to fail, ruin the pumps, and cause sewer backups. The pump has been taken apart twice in the last six months to clean rags and wipes from the impellers. The pumps at the other two lift stations have not had a problem. The council approved replacing the two impellers with Smith and Loveless brand "X-pellers" at a cost of \$3,815.91.

Jamie Jasnoski, council president, presided over the council, which included Troy Friend, Jerry Headley, Jerry

Julian and Jim Jones. Mayor Larry Boden was out of town. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance.

The local tennis courts are owned jointly by the city and the school district. The council approved splitting with the school district the \$18,000 cost to repair the tennis courts. The bid for the project is from Riggs Recreation Equipment, who will supply all labor and materials. The bid includes repair of concrete with two coats to resurface, two coats color, line striping, Pickleball court lines, and two new nets.

Lebo City Hall will help set up an information meeting between Amazon and local merchants to organize a "pilot program" Amazon is launching in Kansas. The program would utilize local businesses for the distribution of packages. It is projected to generate \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually for a business participating in the program, if the program is continued after the pilot segment.

Clerk Sloan reported Coffey County Spring Cleanup Week with free landfill service will be April 13-18. The city will pick up large items left at the curb of homes on Monday of that week. Items have to be sorted and cannot include regular household trash.

The council approved fund-

ing the Lebo Senior Center Nutrition program with a donation of \$400. The decision came after Verna Berry, the local site manager, thanked the council for their past support of the nutrition program. Berry said the Lebo location provided 2,717 meals last year.

Brett Stewart, TrustPoint Insurance, presented a 2019/2020 policy comparison to the council. The total policy cost will increase by \$4,195. The majority of the increase is related to the water towers having higher replacement values. Saving money by increasing the deductible was discussed. It was noted the three lift stations need to be added to the policy, because they had been overlooked in previous policies. The council approved renewing the city's insurance with EMC, through TrustPoint with Brett Stewart as the city agent, at a cost not to exceed \$58,000.

The council approved renewing the annual natural gas services contract with USDI for \$9,900, which is unchanged from last year. The company provides such things as leak surveys, odorant checks, case crossings, public awareness, and other record keeping required by KCC.

Officer Aaron Cathcard provided a written police report

that included citizens' complaints, criminal reports, traffic control and citations, assists with other agency, welfare checks, and domestic issues.

Clerk Sloan gave written reports on sales tax, monthly income/expense, bank balances, and the monthly clerk's cash report. The city received \$4,122.97 in compensating use tax in February and \$8,107.94 in sales tax.

The council approved transferring \$2,500 from the Economic Development Fund to the Tourism Expense Account for the Stars and Stripes Celebration. The Renegade Pullers Association is to get \$1,400 for the tractor pull.

Catherine Griffin reported municipal court had six cases in March and there were three zoning permits.

The council appointed Matt Hopkins to fill the remainder of a Park and Recreation Board position vacated by Jim Jones.

The council was told Casey's General Store and truck stop will begin construction in May on their new building.

The council was also told the culvert under the north Bree Drive is washing out and is to be repaired by the State of Kansas. The washing out of soil caused a gas line to be exposed which complicated repairs.

# Positive

Continued from Page 1

individuals with confirmed cases is supportive care.

If you have recently traveled to China, Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea and have developed fever with lower respiratory symptoms including cough and shortness of breath within 14 days of your travel, or have had contact with someone with a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19, stay home and call your healthcare provider.

For more information about COVID-19, visit KDHE's website and Frequently Asked Questions at [www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/).

## USD 244 Coronavirus Update

Burlington USD 244 Superintendent Craig Marshall issued a Coronavirus update Tuesday on the 244Alert System.

"USD 244 is very aware of the Coronavirus and the issues related to this problem. We appreciate the questions we have received regarding current public health concerns," Marshall said. "Our school district is committed to protecting the health and safety of our students and staff. We continue to be in contact with our Coffey County Health Department on a regular basis. We thank Lindsay Payer and all the staff at the health department for working with our school system. Nurse Laurie Hermon and her assistant Julie Bull are on top of issues related to student health in USD 244. We will provide additional information as the need arises."

Marshall continued, "USD 244 is emphasizing hand washing/sanitizing in all buildings. We are working with Stacy Augustyn at Coffey Health System to bring programs to our schools to show the importance and need for hand washing/sanitizing to our students and staff. Margarito Solano, USD 244 maintenance director, organized training for our custodial staff on cleaning chemicals and sanitizing our buildings on March 6 during our in-service day."

Marshall provided the following online resources for those who are interested.

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment <http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Coffey County Health Department <https://www.coffey-countyks.org/county-services/health-department>
- KASB: <https://kasb.org/advocacy/keyresources/> (KASB will post additional resources on this page as they become available.)
- NSBA Legal Guide for COVID-19: <https://www.nsba.org/Resources/coronavirus/legal-guide>.

# County

Continued from Page 1

bids for Project LF2001-C, liner material and construction of Cell #4 at the county landfill. Blackburn explained the cell construction process and suitable material used in the process.

Commissioners approved waiving the county's bidding process, and to contract Blackstone Environmental for professional services related to quality assurance and quality control on the landfill Cell #4 project. Blackburn said Blackstone had done prior work for the county at the landfill. Except for the cost for the liner and professional inspection services, the county will do the remainder of the work related to the Cell #4 project.

Commissioners approved Blackburn's recommendation to approve Change Order No. 1, as recommended by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to update the groundwater monitoring procedure to a HydraSleeve monitoring well sampling at the county landfill. The change order will reflect a one-time fee of \$3,161 and possible event fee of \$323 with up to four events per contract.

## County Counselor

County Counselor Bowie looked into a request made last week by Administrative Assistant Donna Berland to have the board's mail delivered to her relocated office in the basement from the current location in the county clerk's office.

Bowie referred to state statutes about county clerk duties and Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) materials but didn't find anything specific to mail.

County Clerk Angie Kirchner said the same topic came up eight or nine years ago. The county clerk is the official secretary for commissioners. She said mail that comes through the county clerk's office is time stamped, which is especially important for certain bid openings. She also said there are people in the county clerk's office every day, which is convenient if someone needs to sign for a letter or package. The clerk's staff redirects any mail not specific to the county clerk's office.

Saueressig and Rowley were both on the board when the subject was discussed previously. "I don't see any reason to change it," Saueressig said.

Rowley said, "From my point of view, it would just be a matter of convenience."

It was the board's consensus not to change where the board's mail is delivered.

Commissioners entered into three executive sessions at Bowie's request:

► Five minutes for consultation with the county counselor to provide legal advice to the commission deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to KOMA. The commission and Bowie were present.

► 10 minutes for the purpose to protect the privacy rights of a county employee, deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to KOMA. The commission, Bowie and County Engineer Blackburn attended.

► Five minutes for consultation with the county counselor for the purpose of providing legal advice for matters deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to KOMA. The commission and Bowie were present.

## Miscellaneous

Kirchner told commissioners some curbing will need to be repaired in the west courthouse parking lot. Kirchner said she had talked to Blackburn about possibly doing an asphalt overlay on the parking lot.

Blackburn indicated they could probably make concrete repairs one more time and wait until closer to the end of the concrete's life before adding an asphalt overlay. Now, a couple of concrete panels need to be removed, costing up to \$10,000.

Haddock attended a ceremony Thursday, March 5, at the Capitol Rotunda that recognized EMP Shield, Burlington, with the Emerging Business of the Year award for the 11-county region served by Emporia State University. The Sweet Granada, Emporia, received the Existing Business of the year for the same region.

Commissioners also: ► appointed Elizabeth Collins (Dist. 4) as a member of the Coffey County Library Board to a four-year term, effective May 1 and ending April 30, 2024.

► approved Resolution No. 625-v, providing that the Board of County Commissioners of Coffey County shall have its financial statements and financial reports prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this state.

Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in Room 201 of the Coffey County Courthouse.

# Grant

Continued from Page 1

this summer. "The high quality of applications for projects this year made the process especially competitive" said Jenny Kramer, KDOT State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. "Projects tied to local long-term transportation and/or bicycle and pedestrian master plans were especially strong because they demonstrated a commitment over time to promote transportation choices and make their communities bicycle and pedestrian friendly."

KDOT evaluated each application and made selections based on criteria developed using input from various departments and external partners such as safety and network improvements, cost estimates, project readiness, public support and other factors. The total estimated costs for the 18 selected projects are over \$13 million. Each project sponsor must commit to providing at least 20 percent of the cost of the project as a local cash match.

# USD 244

Continued from Page 1

The school district has applied for an \$188,000 early childhood block grant to start a community-based daycare program. If awarded the grant, the current administrative offices would be remodeled to accommodate up to 62 children, including birth through 5 years old. The tentative opening date would be January 2021. Successful grant recipients will be announced July 1.

During the public comment portion of Monday's school board meeting, local pastor Jay Hale voiced his opposition to the school district pursuing a daycare program. Hale also attended last week's Burlington City Council meeting.

"I believe all of you are making an effort to govern well ... but I don't agree with all the board's decisions," he told the school board. "I think we all agree there is a need (for daycare), but I don't believe 244 is the right agency (to pursue this)."

Hale said adding one more building will result in additional maintenance costs, including building maintenance and janitorial costs.

"Can this school district do this? I think it can ... but, I think it detracts from the mission," he said.

Hale concluded by saying he believes this action deserves a vote of the people.

Later in the meeting, Supt. Marshall and the school board discussed the city hall donation and plans for a community-based daycare program.

The Coffey County Health Department did a study in 2017 that showed only 50 percent of daycare needs are being met in Coffey County. In January, a community-based daycare was listed as a possible project on a three-year plan for improvements and programs.

"The last five months, discussion has opened my eyes about the importance of daycare," Marshall said.

Marshall assembled a community advisory committee to gather information about daycare. He also met with daycare providers.

"Everyone told us the same thing - this is a huge need in our community," Marshall said. "Daycare providers are thrilled we are looking at this ... they told us to be ready for this to explode."

Marshall believes there are eight or nine local daycare providers. They are turning away people, because they are full.

"I thought they would be offended, but they were excited," said school board member Selena King.

Marshall cited several examples where potential employees turned down jobs or did not settle in Coffey County because they could not find daycare.

Marshall said potential partnerships will be possible with area daycare providers when it comes to providing training for first aid, CPR, etc. Marshall said state officials

said the district has a perfect environment for day care in the existing administrative building, including having four exits, nearby cafeteria, and close proximity to the elementary school for pickup and drop off of children.

The main issue in the building, originally built in 1923, is the plumbing. New plumbing will be required to add sinks/restrooms designed for kids. Other required work will include carpet and paint. Playground areas will be fenced in off the building to the east or south.

Marshall said the daycare program is intended to be budget neutral. Donations from Wolf Creek, economic development and local businesses combined with daycare fees are expected to cover all costs, including the wages and salaries of up to 14 full-time staff. A full staff is expected to include a director, three classroom leaders, nine licensed staff and one food service.

Marshall was excited about the possibilities of having more young families move to Coffey County. "The more kids we have, the better our (school) budget will be," he said.

"I would love someone to take this on as a business," Marshall said. "But, local daycares can't make it work outside of their home."

"It is important we get this grant, but there are other options, other grants," board member Monique Hart said.

"What if we don't get the grant?" King asked.

"We would probably get the community steering group together and try to figure out how to make this happen," Marshall replied. "Worst case scenario, we will have this building open for other possible scenarios."

# City

Continued from Page 1

personnel policies and guidelines established by the City of Burlington in 1996.

The council granted Salli Stewart's request to close two blocks of Third Street, between Neosho and Miami streets, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 13, for an annual event known as the "Crap Fare." The council added a stipulation that the organizers will clean up the area afterward.

Stewart also informed the council that the Burlington Promotions organization decided to suspend the Taste of Fall Festival held in October.

Zoning Clerk Jimmy Huginin told the council spring cleanup dates have been set in Burlington. Brush will be picked up curbside April 6 and designated trash items will be picked up April 13. He expects to send letters to 15 nuisance property owners urging them to take advantage of the free spring cleanup. Lenard suggested council members possibly consider helping physically-limited people get items out to the curb for cleanup week. Schneider also wanted to remind people to place brush

parallel to the curb to minimize any damage to yards.

The city has been approached about selling seven lots in Industrial Park No. 4. The industrial park consists of approximately 25 acres and 12 lots. It is located south of Industrial Park No. 3, which is located just south of 10th Road abutting U.S. 75.

Mayor Luke said the city has owned the industrial park for 40 years and no one has expressed interest in building there. If the lots are sold, the city would have to spend around \$250,000 to make improvements such as roads, to accommodate the business. Once special assessments are made for the cost of improvements, the cost of the remaining lots would likely be prohibitive.

The city planned to make an offer for the interested party to purchase the entire industrial park for \$33,600 contingent on vacating the platted roads and retaining utility easements.

The electric department employees spent time preparing for an outage planned by Evergy on Tuesday, March 10, to replace a damaged utility pole along the river. Electric Superintendent Alan Schneider said Evergy would de-energize the line for the repair, which required the city's electric plant to generate electricity. At the time, Schneider guessed the electric plant would run for up to six hours, starting before 9 a.m. The city's generation cost will be submitted to Kansas Power Pool (KPP) for reimbursement.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent Danny Hawkins said they continue to have a lot of problems with sewer lift stations. About twice a week workers have to pull out pumps to remove foreign objects such as mop heads, gloves, towels and rags. Most of the problem is on the north end of town.

Hawkins expects to participate in voluntary algae testing every other week from May 1 through Oct. 31. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has a program where the city will only have to pay \$25 per sample, which is a \$75 savings. Hawkins said the testing is expected to be mandatory in a couple of years.

Hawkins took the city's new truck to John North Ford in Emporia in an attempt to fix a fuel leak, at the time believed to be a faulty module. Hawkins said the problem was determined to be the truck bed installation. The bed was installed by Knapheide.

"Are we going to apologize to Crow-Moddie?" Scothorn asked. "We threw them under the bus (at the last meeting)."

"The facts I had at the time is what I reported to the council," Hawkins said. "There are discrepancies on both ends."

Scothorn said Crow-Moddie did offer a loaner vehicle, only it was not the type of vehicle the water department could use.

"I visited with Knapheide ... they are investigating," Hawkins said. "If it was their fault, they are willing to pay for it."

Parks Superintendent Kev-

in Boyce said park employees have been trimming long-hanging limbs in the parks. Because of tree boars, 18 pine trees and stumps are being removed at Jones Park.

Four out of five solicited truck bids were received for a regular cab 2020 or 2021 ¾-ton 4-wheel drive pickup for the parks department. On a 5-1 vote, the council accepted a \$30,016 net bid from Crow-Moddie Ford, Burlington. The bid includes a \$1,000 trade-in of a 2001 Dodge 2500 pickup. Crow-Moddie's bid was the second lowest bid; however, it was within the five percent variance allowed for local bidders. Jasper voted against the motion, saying he wants to fix the vehicles the city has instead of going out and buying new vehicles.

- The council also approved:
  - ✓ Claims Ordinance No. 2020-04 in the amount of \$118,578.41.
  - ✓ Claims Ordinance No. 2020-05 in the amount of \$84,782.71.
  - ✓ 2020 Amusement and Dance licenses for the American Legion.
  - ✓ A park agreement between the City of Burlington and USD 244 Recreation Commission outlining the responsibilities of both parties concerning Kelley Park and Jones Park.
  - ✓ Authorizing the City of Burlington to enter into negotiations with USD 244 with the intent to donate the 301 Neosho building and adjoining building to USD 244 for administrative offices.

The next Burlington City Council meeting will be 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Burlington City Hall, 1013, N. Fourth, Burlington.

# Schrock

Continued from Page 4

exactly the same time nationwide.

In America, there are states debating ending the daylight savings time system. David Prerau describes the history and arguments in "Seize the Daylight: The Curious and Contentious Story of Daylight Saving Time." Germany began daylight saving time (DST) during World War I to save fuel. President Franklin Roosevelt did the same during World War II. But farmers, who operated on a universal sun-up-to-sundown work schedule hated it, so it was soon repealed. It came back when business lobbies representing sports as well as barbecue companies felt DST increased revenue by hundreds of millions of dollars because of the extended daylight to play ball, golf, and barbecue in the back yard. But costs for lighting have changed with LED bulbs, air conditioning is another modern expense, and the science on sleep disruption can be argued for either side.

So "springing forward" and "falling back" remains a political debate in the U.S.

But China is well adapted to their uniform system. They have adjusted.