

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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DECEMBER 2016

Innovations to Expect
for the 2020 Census

Improving Perception
with Data

Demand Transfer
Losses



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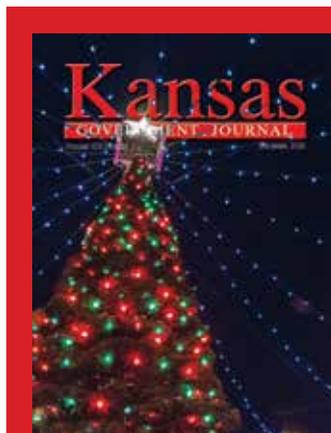
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A view of the Christmas tree celebrating the Christmas City of the High Plains in Wakeeney. For more information see our City Events on page 318.

Photo by Doug Stremel.

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

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2016 / 2017 League Events Calendar

December

23 - League Holiday (1/2 Day)

26 - League Holiday

January

2 - New Year's Day Observed, League office closed

9 - Legislative session begins (Topeka)

16 - Martin Luther King Day, League office closed

25 - Local Government Day (Topeka)

26 - Governing Body Meeting (Topeka)

Obituaries

Randal L. "Randy" Dorner died November 23, 2016. He was 60. Randy worked for the City of Haysville for more than 26 years, beginning his career as a park worker and then serving as Director of Public Works since 1996. Randy was knowledgeable on a variety of topics and dedicated to building the best Haysville possible. Many projects throughout Haysville bear his stamp, including expansions to the park system (such as a splash pad, ADA accessible fishing docks, two disc golf courses and numerous playground upgrades) and hike/bike paths, the East Grand Reconstruction Project, the Plagens-Carpenter Sports Complex, the new Haysville Activity Center, the 79th Street Recreation Complex and, most recently, the PRIDE Park fountain (whose photo won the first ever LKM photo contest). The 79th Street complex will be renamed "Randal L. Dorner Park."

Marvin Rainey died December 3, 2016. He was 83. Marvin was first appointed City Attorney for Shawnee in 1974. At that time the population of the city was 24,133 and it sat on 26.3 square miles. During Marvin's tenure, Shawnee tripled in population and doubled in square miles. Through the years, Marvin drafted thousands of ordinances and resolutions that shaped the City of Shawnee. He also had a significant impact in shaping Kansas municipal law during his exemplary career as a municipal attorney. Marvin became the City Attorney Emeritus for the City of Shawnee in November of 2014. Marvin's passion for local government was not just as City Attorney, as he served two terms as the Mayor of Overland Park, served as the Johnson County Election Commissioner and was active and engaged in legislative and political activities in Johnson County and Kansas his entire adult life.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



Is it just me, or is everything just a little easier when listening to Ella Fitzgerald? Even if it is just me, listening to her Christmas album helps settle the nerves and detach me from the end of year rush. (Or, is that crush?)

Last month, I visited Pittsburgh for the National League of Cities' City Summit. This annual conference always brings in great speakers from all over the country. I thought a solid message for us in local government came from Vernice Armour. Ms. Armour is a former Marine Corps officer who was the first African-American female combat pilot in the U. S. Armed Forces, piloting attack helicopters.

In discussing her experience on missions in Iraq, she noted the importance of the command structure. One did not act without clearance. She shared occasions of impatience while waiting for the magic words, "You have permission to engage," while watching fellow Marines in danger on the ground. For Vernice and others in the military, that sentence read this way: "You have permission to engage."

But, for the city officials in the audience, she called for a different reading of the sentence: "You **HAVE** permission to engage." At the local level, you see the issues your community is facing, and you have already been given permission (via election or appointment) to act. Home Rule is precisely about not having to wait for permission from some other level of government before acting. I think this mindset is a great one for heading into 2017.

Speaking of 2017, be sure to get your year with the League started off with a bang! January brings with it two, quick opportunities to be involved in legislative efforts. Local Government Day marks great collaboration between the League and the Kansas Association of Counties, as our organizations jointly host this event. Come to Topeka on Wednesday, Jan. 25, to hear from legislative leaders, meet your local representative and senators, and then join all legislators and local officials for a reception. (Contact your county commissioners and invite them, too. Maybe even offer to let them drive you to Topeka!) To prepare for your trip, join us for a free webinar previewing the legislative session on Thursday, Jan. 12. (Register for both of these events on our website: www.lkm.org.)

Many of the legislative leaders we will hear from will be new

to their positions—only Senate President Susan Wagle remains in her same role. Leadership elections held in Topeka resulted in the ascension of several legislators who I would characterize as being significantly more willing to listen to the concerns of cities. Likewise, many of the new committee chairs offer an exciting, fresh beginning for 2017. We look forward to working with them.

Overall, the legislature will experience a significant change in personnel. In both the Senate and the House, over 35% of the members will be new. Within this infusion of new blood is a significant population of individuals with city or county government experience. Six of the 14 new senators have served in local government, along with 12 of the 45 new representatives. Having people in the statehouse who have not just heard about local control, but have lived it, will be a welcome addition for 2017.

Sadly, the family of cities in Kansas has shrunk by one from 626. The City of Mildred in Allen County voted in November to dissolve. It will be conveying city equipment, funds and assets to the adjacent township and be assumed by them. We wish their residents well.

The League had been anticipating the possibility of the population of cities in Kansas shrinking to 625—though we thought it would be a different city. The City of Frederick in Rice County has slipped in population, and has not had sufficient interest to maintain a city council. The question of whether to remain a city was placed on the November ballot. The result of the vote was 13 in favor of remaining a city, and 7 voting to disband.

The problem with this result was there are nine residents of Frederick, and only six of them voted in the election. Ballots with the question regarding Frederick were improperly given to some additional voters. Unfortunately, this error was not addressed in the county canvassing of votes. According to the Secretary of State's office, these certified results stand, and Frederick will have to work with Rice County to once again seek permission to dissolve.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend from the entire staff of the League our best wishes. We feel fortunate to serve the citizens of Kansas by assisting your work in your cities. 2017 is shaping up to be a very interesting year, and we look forward to helping you however we can.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or comments – I'd love to hear from you: esartorius@lkm.org or 785-354-9565.



2017 Municipal Training Schedule

Classes are open to all elected and appointed city officials and employees.

All classes are held 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., lunch and materials included.

See the reverse of this page for more information about the program.

February & March

City Clerk Fundamentals (Elective)

- Thursday, February 23: Ellis
- Friday, February 24: Lindsborg
- Thursday, March 2: Altamont
- Friday, March 3: Shawnee

March

Municipal Finance (Core)

- Thursday, March 30: Russell
- Friday, March 31: Marysville

April

Leadership Summit (Core)

- April 21-22: Dodge City

May

Emergency Planning (Elective)

- Friday, May 5: Lyons
- Friday, May 12: Pratt

June

Personnel Management (Core)

- Wednesday, June 14: Phillipsburg
- Thursday, June 15: McPherson

August

KOMA/KORA (Core)

- Friday, August 11: Neodesha
- Friday, August 18: Edwardsville
- Friday, August 25: Garden City

September (League Conference: Wichita)

Saturday, September 16

- Municipal Finance (Core)
- Ethics & Civility (Core)
- Nuisance Abatement (Elective)

New Topic!

October

Occupational Licensing & Permitting (Elective)

- Thursday, October 26: Belle Plaine
- Friday, October 27: Leavenworth

New Topic!

November & December

Grant Compliance & Administration (Elective)

- Thursday, November 30: Tonganoxie
- Friday, December 1: Girard

*Schedule as of Oct 1, 2016: Tentative & Subject to change.
Refer to the League website for the most current information.*

Improving Perception with Data

by Aly Van Dyke

The City of Topeka – and governments in general – have a perception problem. Everyone from the Governing Body to field workers recognize this.

But Topeka’s Governing Body directed the City Manager to do something about it.

“As the capital city of Kansas, we know we need to be a leader, an example for other cities to follow and learn from,” said Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast and immediate past president of League of Kansas Municipalities. “The nine council members and I recognized trust and transparency as an issue Topeka can and should face to improve the perception of city government by our citizens.”

Jim Colson, City Manager at the time, took that direction, and told department directors to run with it. The central concept, he said, is simple: Do a better job telling our story.

To the fire department, that meant creating its own social media pages.

To communications, it meant starting tweet-a-longs with field workers and a two-minute video program about what’s going on in the city.

The police department launched a community policing initiative and started publishing a weekly newsletter and blog.

Municipal Court began an education series.

But the information technology department was different. In its capacity as an internal service provider, IT saw everything the city’s departments were doing to serve the public, and set out to find a way to tell everyone’s story.

“When the Governing Body and the City Manager told us to improve our transparency, I started doing some research on what other cities were doing,” said Deputy IT Director Sherry Schoonover. “I found several cities that were focusing on providing raw data to constituents. I wanted to see how that would look for us.”

Schoonover researched dozens of open data software companies, listening to demonstrations and pitches until she found the right fit for Topeka: Socrata, Inc. Socrata is a software-as-a-services provider that is a global leader in providing open data and government performance management solutions.

“Early on, I realized that having spreadsheets with a lot of numbers doesn’t mean anything to a lot of people,” Schoonover said. “They need charts and graphs, something visual to help them easily understand the data.”

In Socrata, Schoonover saw an intuitive, visual way to tell Topekans how their tax dollars are being spent by showing them. The easiest way to start down this open data path, Schoonover said, was with the City’s 200-page budget book.

“For a budget to accurately tell the story of what a city values, and for that budget to be understood by its citizenry, it needs context,” she said. “Numbers in some tabular form are insufficient when describing the complexities of how a budget works. The most comprehensible budget is not ‘just a collection of numbers,’ it includes definitions, references, analysis, and other tools, which explain the whys and whats of allocations.”

Schoonover spent \$5,000 from IT for the software and spent the next few months building the interactive budget portal. Only when



Deputy IT Director Schoonover has spearheaded Topeka’s open data initiative.



Topeka department leaders meet on performance measures to be included in the open performance portal.

it was done, and she had something to present, did she bring the idea forward to the City Manager.

“It was one of those ‘ask for forgiveness later’ moments I had a good hunch would work out,” Schoonover said.

When Colson saw the budget portal for the first time, he said it was the best visualization of a budget he’d ever seen, after decades of working in economic development and city management.

The City presented the budget portal to the Governing Body. The response was about the same:

“We were blown away,” Mayor Wolgast said. “With one glance, anyone could tell you how much the city was spending on infrastructure, on public safety, on the zoo, anything. We immediately knew this tool would be critical in helping the city educate the public about how we use their tax dollars – earning their confidence and trust in the process.”

The city then held a media workshop and produced a tutorial video in advance of the 2016 budget, so reporters and the public would know the portal was there and how to navigate it for a more informed budget process.

The budget portal was a hit, bringing in record numbers of traffic to the website. As of June 2016, there had been nearly 160,000 views on the data portals.

“So,” the Governing Body asked the City Manager, “what’s next?”

And the city’s open data initiative was born.

Since the launch of the budget portal in May 2015, the City has launched another three portals: Capital Budget, Capital Projects and Checkbook. Next up is the Performance Portal, which shows the goals and progress toward each goal set by each department.

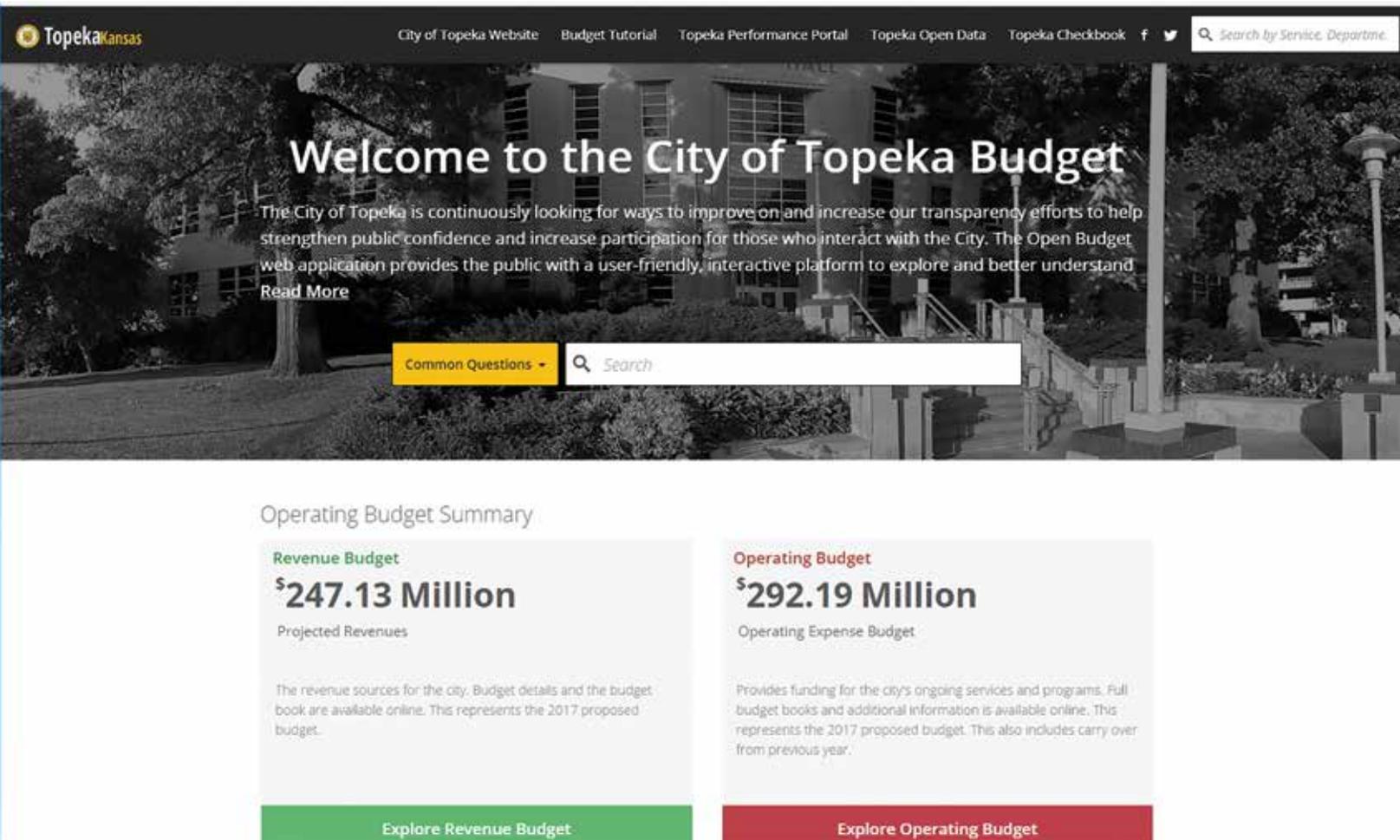
Combined, the portals are capable of presenting several hundreds of datasets and have cost the city less than \$60,000. Topeka also earned the prestigious honor of being named a “What Works Cities” by Bloomberg Philanthropies, providing the City with one-on-one help from the country’s leading agencies in open data policy and production.

“The ‘What Works Cities’ selection was an endorsement of the City’s existing efforts to track, use and publish data,” Wolgast said. “It is a validation of the City’s commitment to continue to pioneer and expand its goal of becoming a more open and accessible government.”

Through this partnership, IT has worked with other departments to understand the data they keep, forming a comprehensive data inventory that now serves as a checklist for our future open data portals.

The City currently is in the process of developing an open data policy that calls for publishing publicly available information in accessible, interactive ways on a routine basis. A public survey and education campaign will be used to get a feel for what information

A screenshot of Topeka’s open budget portal landing page.





A screenshot of Topeka's homepage, prominently featuring our open data options. All images provided by the City of Topeka.

people want and how they can use it.

“The portals have improved communication with the media and public, giving the Governing Body and City leaders a place to direct people who have questions about construction or budget figures,” Wolgast said.

The initiative also has helped internally by providing easy, intuitive access to our data – the finance director actually uses our checkbook portal to look up vendor payments, rather than our more complicated purchasing software.

But even more importantly, the open data initiative has vastly helped the City improve its operations and processes.

“Trying to establish the standard on the backend to continually present correct information helped us identify shortfalls in our processes and address the issues,” Schoonover said.

The Capital Projects Portal is another example. The portal provides an interactive visualization of the City's infrastructure projects.

“In trying to launch this portal, we discovered the information required was kept all over the place, from dozens of datasets to sticky notes and sometimes just in people's heads,” Schoonover said. “Creating the portal forced us to improve how we maintain and update this data, which, in turn, has made life a lot easier for everyone – and should save the City quite a bit of money in the long run.”

The success of the City's open data initiative has involved cooperation and buy-in from departments across the City. In some cases, that has meant more work for City employees. The City also is being held even more accountable to the services we provide Topekans in very public ways.

There have been some concerns from among staff, Schoonover said, but for the most part, employees are reaping the benefits from the portals – making their lives easier both in obtaining and keeping track of information.

Open data isn't just about publishing data any more – cities have been putting out information on websites for decades. Now, open data is about making that information accessible – easy to find, easy

to understand, easy to manipulate. This brand of open, intuitive, interactive data isn't the future for City governments – it's happening now, and it's time for each municipality to get on board.

This brand of open data is the definition of telling your city's story better – all it really takes is that little push.

 Aly Van Dyke is the Media Relations Director for the City of Topeka. She can be reached at avandyke@topeka.org or (785)368-0991



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Struggle for Justice

Editor's note: The author is a Past President of the League of Kansas Municipalities, and was awarded the E. A. Mosher Award for Excellence in Local Government in 2006.)

To be sure, there is still a struggle to be had for justice in this country. The violent events of this year have, in addition to tearing open our old wounds, forced us to confront the issue of institutional racism in the context of a purportedly post-racial America. Brutal images of black men dying in the custody of police have become inescapable. Likewise, images of murdered police officers haunt our waking days. Sadly, it seems that violence has become the story; savage imagery our only means to communicate. We are encouraged, often subconsciously, to pick a side rather than engage in a meaningful discussion about context.

Indeed, it is far easier to frame our current issues as an us versus them problem than it is to take the time to analyze their root causes. It is much more uncomplicated to simply say that black people are criminals and white police officers are racists than to examine the effects of social and economic isolation in the inner-cities. Moreover, it is more convenient to assume that our institutions, including our criminal justice system, are immune from racism because there is a black president now sitting in office.

Although we have made great progress as a society, racial justice has yet to be achieved. Racially driven poverty, joblessness and extreme segregation persevere despite years of incremental improvements. The problems that we face today with regard to racial relations are not entirely different than the ones that we faced at the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Justice, of course, cannot be achieved by acts of violence. Martin Luther King Jr more eloquently made this point in his Nobel lecture, "The Quest for Peace and Justice," on November 11, 1964: "Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral. I am not unmindful of the fact that violence often brings about momentary results. Nations have frequently won their independence in battle. But in spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace."

These lines out of King's lecture are as poignant today as it was when he delivered it over 50 years ago. As such, we would be wise to heed his proposition and disavow all forms of violence as a means of achieving racial justice. Moving forward we must refrain from picking a side and instead come together to solve the problems that we face.

Richard Jackson, ECKAN CEO

East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN)

2017 LEAGUE OPERATING BUDGET

As approved by the League Governing Body in Pittsburg on September 16, 2016.

REVENUES	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
General Operations		
Dues and Research	813,000	826,000
Rent Receipts	155,000	155,000
Kansas Government Journal	120,000	120,000
Publications and Advertising	115,000	102,000
Conference and Service Awards	280,000	280,000
Interest Earned and Other Revenue	6,500	9,000
Sub Total - General Operations	1,489,500	1,492,000
Special Programs		
Ordinance Codification	15,000	5,000
Personnel Programs	30,000	30,000
Workshops and Seminars	30,000	30,000
Affiliate Services and Other Programs	38,000	38,500
Sub Total - Special Programs	113,000	103,500
Endorsements / Sponsorships		
KMIT	70,000	70,000
Sponsorships	-	5,150
Sub Total - Special Programs	70,000	75,150
TOTAL REVENUES	1,672,500	1,670,650
EXPENSES		
Personnel Services		
Staff Salaries	750,000	827,000
Staff Benefits	258,000	274,000
Professional Memberships	19,500	21,000
Training and Travel	40,000	40,000
Sub Total - Personnel Services	1,067,500	1,162,000
Contractual Services		
Building Maintenance	60,000	63,000
Equipment Related	56,500	58,000
Publications and Printing	30,000	31,000
Kansas Government Journal	62,000	62,000
General Overhead	23,000	23,000
Conference and Service Awards	230,000	230,000
Meeting Expense	25,000	23,000
Sub Total - Contractual Services	486,500	490,000
Commodities		
Office Supplies and Paper	12,500	14,000
Books, Software, and Subscriptions	15,000	26,000
Utilities, Telephone, and Postage	53,000	53,000
Sub Total - Commodities	80,500	93,000
Capital Outlay		
Equipment Purchases	10,000	10,000
Building Improvements	-	15,000
Sub Total - Capital Outlay	10,000	25,000
Special Programs		
Personnel Programs	2,000	500
Workshops and Seminars	25,000	23,000
Affiliate Services and Other Programs	1,000	250
Sub Total - Special Programs	28,000	23,750
Transfer to MPIF	-	10,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,672,500	1,803,750



Compensation Data: League Completes the 2016 Salary, Benefits and Personnel Practices Survey

by Brock Ingmire

Survey Response & Scope

Nearly 170 member cities (approximately 29%) responded in full to the League's survey. In examining the population breakdown of those respondents, it is a fairly representative portrayal of the diversity in population of cities in Kansas. The survey had responses from cities below 200 people and cities with more than 100,000. As survey users get into the data, they will find the data easy to navigate and organize based on factors that are representative of your community. Such characteristics could include population, region, or even the size of the workforce.

The survey collected data on hourly wage and salary rates for 75 commonly found positions within city operations, with an additional 21 frequently contracted services. While not all cities had the same composition of positions, there is an adequate amount of data available that should offer a representative portrayal of most positions. Apart from that, information on vacation hours, accumulation of vacation and sick leave, health insurance costs, benefits and a multitude of other points of information were collected.

Initial Findings and Assessing the Data

Results from the Salary, Benefits and Personnel Practices Survey highlight that cities in Kansas are continuously improving efficiency in city operations when it comes to workforce. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the cities are likely to increase their workforces at a rate of 1.29% annually to accommodate increased complexity and array of city services offered and population growth.¹ Based on cities who responded to the League's survey, they saw their workforce increase at a rate of only 0.64% annually.

With the gradual, yet small, increase in the municipal workforce in Kansas, cities have done what they could to provide cost-of-living adjustments and salary increases in order to retain qualified employees. Over the past two years, municipal workers, on an annual average, experienced a salary or wage increase of 1.63%. As cities continue to stretch their dollars further to provide reasonable cost-of-living adjustments in salaries and wages, the survey found that they are also dealing with annual average increases in healthcare costs of 7% to 9%.

Accessing the Data and Limitations

In addition to the spreadsheet of data that is commonly collated and produced for members, the League also produced a report this year that analyzes common trends found among all cities in municipal salary, benefits and personnel practices. Also, the spreadsheet for the Survey's data is more user friendly than in the past – allowing members to sort data as they see fit, while also being more printer-friendly.

This past November, the League completed its 2016 Salary, Benefits and Personnel Practices Survey. The survey's data and results are intended to provide League members with a comprehensive analysis of municipal finance practices in Kansas when it comes to personnel. The information will also help the League's advocacy efforts to inform legislators of one perspective of the fiscal environment that cities in Kansas face.

Since the early 2000s, the League has been producing this survey as a benefit to its members. As the League moves forward, the Salary, Benefits and Personnel Practices Survey will be provided on a biennial basis. Resources will be provided to accommodate for any independent research cities would like to undertake on their own in the off-years of conducting the survey. Uniquely, this survey's data recognizes that salary alone is not an entirely representative description of one's compensation package. To that end, the League has collected information on personnel practices and benefits so that when interpreting the salary information, cities may also take a look at the broader compensation package offered by a city.

Although there have been many improvements in the League's survey process, limitations still exist in using the data. Notably, it is important to note that job titles are not entirely indicative of the responsibilities and duties that each employee takes on within a city government. As a result, the salary data arising from the survey can be used as a good starting point, but cities are encouraged to also do their own research and utilize multiple sources before coming to a conclusion on an appropriate salary or hourly wage range.

Cities who responded to the survey in full will receive a free copy of the data and the report. For cities who did not fill out the survey, the data and results are available at a small cost by going to the League's website and visiting the online store at www.lkm.org/store. The League is thrilled to offer this service to its members and is looking forward to conducting the Survey again in 2018!

 Brock Ingmire is the Research Associate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach him at bingmire@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.



Sources

- 1 Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015). Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates – Local Government, Excluding Schools and Hospitals.

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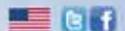


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Demand Transfer Losses

by League Staff

The Kansas Legislature continues to implement budget and tax policies with negative repercussions on local governments' finances. During the 2015 session, the Legislature placed a limit on the amount of property tax revenue allowed to be collected by local governments. Should a city or county intend to increase their collected property tax revenue at a rate higher than inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, they would be required to hold an election to do so. Throughout discussion on the property tax lid, proponents suggested that the rate of increase was rising much higher than inflation. Among other considerations, such claims fail to take into account the Legislature's decision to not fund most demand transfers over the past 13 years, and only partially in most years prior to that.

Since 1997, cities and counties in Kansas have lost at least \$2,241,931,524 as a result of the Legislature's decision to not fund statutorily-required transfers. While in recent years some of these transfers have been listed as "state aid" in budget materials, this label is not reflective of how these transfers have historically been classified. The LAVTRF and the CCRS funds (explained below) were part of an agreement between the State and local governments that involved the loss of local revenue sources in exchange for the establishment of these funds. The past 20 years are illustrated below.

LAVTRF

(Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction Fund)

Established under K.S.A. 79-2959, LAVTRF is currently supposed to transfer 3.63% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. Revenue sharing in this manner dates back to the 1930s with the current statutory framework being established in 1965. At that time, the local share of certain cigarette revenue stamp taxes and cereal malt beverage taxes were rolled into the state general fund and a direct transfer was made into the LAVTRF to replace the loss of these funds (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 530, 1965).

Reduction in LAVTRF			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$48,661,000	\$46,949,000	\$1,712,000
1998	\$50,688,000	\$47,771,000	\$2,917,000
1999	\$55,122,000	\$55,122,000	\$0
2000	\$57,903,000	\$57,903,000	\$0
2001	\$60,315,000	\$54,139,000	\$6,176,000
2002	\$61,980,000	\$54,680,000	\$7,300,000
2003	\$62,431,000	\$26,247,000	\$36,184,000
2004	\$64,636,000	\$0	\$64,636,000
2005	\$66,521,000	\$0	\$66,521,000
2006	\$66,682,000	\$0	\$66,682,000
2007	\$71,233,000	\$0	\$71,233,000
2008	\$71,063,598	\$0	\$71,063,598
2009	\$69,860,878	\$0	\$69,860,878
2010	\$67,430,000	\$0	\$67,430,000
2011	\$81,788,000	\$0	\$81,788,000
2012	\$87,665,000	\$0	\$87,665,000
2013	\$92,021,000	\$0	\$92,021,000
2014	\$88,644,600	\$0	\$88,644,600
2015	\$90,203,785	\$0	\$90,203,785
2016	\$96,519,286	\$0	\$96,519,286
Total Thru FY 2016	\$1,411,368,147	\$342,811,000	\$1,068,557,147

CCRS

(County City Revenue Sharing)

Established under K.S.A. 79-2964, CCRS is supposed to transfer 2.823% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. CCRS was established in 1978 as part of an agreement between the State and local governments regarding a number of different taxes. In particular, the local share of cigarette and liquor enforcement tax revenues was traded for the establishment of the CCRS (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 401, 1978).

Reduction in CCRS			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$37,117,000	\$35,095,000	\$2,022,000
1998	\$38,570,000	\$35,709,000	\$2,861,000
1999	\$41,376,000	\$36,566,000	\$4,810,000
2000	\$44,359,000	\$36,932,000	\$7,427,000
2001	\$46,004,000	\$34,531,000	\$11,473,000
2002	\$46,901,000	\$34,876,000	\$12,025,000
2003	\$47,868,000	\$16,741,000	\$31,127,000
2004	\$51,564,063	\$0	\$51,564,063
2005	\$53,422,952	\$0	\$53,422,952
2006	\$56,609,567	\$0	\$56,609,567
2007	\$57,920,881	\$0	\$57,920,881
2008	\$55,206,431	\$0	\$55,206,431
2009	\$54,329,823	\$0	\$54,329,823
2010	\$52,570,000	\$0	\$52,570,000
2011	\$63,606,000	\$0	\$63,606,000
2012	\$68,175,000	\$0	\$68,175,000
2013	\$71,563,000	\$0	\$71,563,000
2014	\$68,937,660	\$0	\$68,937,660
2015	\$70,150,216	\$0	\$70,150,216
2016	\$75,061,693	\$0	\$75,061,693
Total Thru FY 2016	\$1,101,372,286	\$230,450,000	\$870,922,286

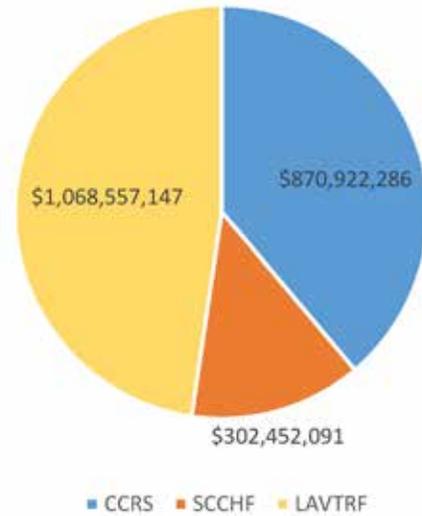
**SCCHF
(Special City-County Highway Fund)**

Established under K.S.A. 79-3425(i), this portion of the Special City-County Highway Fund is funded by the motor vehicle property tax. The other portion of SCCHF is funded by the motor fuels tax, and transfers from that portion of the fund have not been reduced to date.

Reductions in SCCHF			
Fiscal Year	Statute	Actual	Loss
1997	\$15,998,000	\$10,553,000	\$5,445,000
1998	\$15,683,332	\$10,737,000	\$4,946,332
1999	\$16,124,589	\$10,995,000	\$5,129,589
2000	\$17,920,464	\$11,182,000	\$6,738,464
2001	\$18,068,010	\$10,343,000	\$7,725,010
2002	\$15,729,000	\$10,447,000	\$5,282,000
2003	\$19,498,652	\$10,063,000	\$9,435,652
2004	\$20,454,000	\$5,032,000	\$15,422,000
2005	\$22,056,000	\$10,064,000	\$11,992,000
2006	\$25,811,513	\$10,064,000	\$15,747,513
2007	\$29,031,000	\$10,064,000	\$18,967,000
2008	\$29,685,531	\$10,064,000	\$19,621,531
2009	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2010	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2011	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2012	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2013	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2014	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2015	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
2016	\$22,000,000*	\$0	\$22,000,000
Total Thru FY 2016	\$ 422,060,091	\$119,608,000	\$ 302,452,091

* The Kansas Department of Transportation has quit calculating this number, so it represents a conservative estimate of the amount that should have been transferred.

**Total of All Demand
Transfer Losses Since 1997
= \$2,241,931,524**



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Innovations to Expect for the 2020 Census

by Brock Ingmire

Despite the 2020 census being a few years away, the U.S. Census Bureau is encouraging cities to be proactive and learn about new innovations the Bureau is implementing for the upcoming Census process. As the Bureau looked at cutting costs to the tune of \$5.2 billion for the upcoming census, their effort required innovations on four fronts: re-engineering address canvassing, optimizing self-response, using administrative data and third-party data, and re-engineering field operations. In the Bureau's reliance on third-party data, one of the key components for the 2020 census will be a reliance on cities to provide the Bureau with timely information and filling out the appropriate surveys.

Innovations for the 2020 Census

The first innovation in the Census process is a re-engineering of how correct addresses are found for citizens across the U.S. In 2010, the Bureau relied on in-field canvassing for nearly all of its operations to find correct addresses. For the 2020 census, the Bureau will shift the majority of the work in-office. Beginning in 2015, the Bureau has been proactively updating its address list based on data from a multitude of government and third-party sources, including the U.S. Postal Service, state and local governments, and satellite imagery. Based on that first step, the Census Bureau will then send out in-field address canvassers to collect the expected 25% of addresses left to be collected.¹ As a result, filling out surveys sent

to residents and cities in years prior to the population count, such as the American Community Survey, are becoming increasingly important components to the Bureau's operations.

The second innovation is optimizing self-response. Since 1970, the common practice to collect population data has been a paper-based questionnaire mailed to each individual household for whom the Bureau had a correct address for. However, what was efficient in 1970 is turning out to be costly and less efficient as we look to 2020. For 2020, the Bureau will send out mailers encouraging household participation in the census process through an Internet-based survey. Although, approximately 20% of households in areas with a high concentration of older populations or a lack of Internet accessibility will still receive printed questionnaires for households to fill out and return by mail.²

The third innovation, which relies on the continued participation of local governments, is the Bureau's decision to incorporate more administrative and third-party data into their processes. It is expected that nearly 56 million people will not respond to the new, online data collection platform.³ To reduce the in-field workload by canvassing, the Bureau is planning to use federal, state and local government databases to identify vacant addresses and transient citizens who had recently moved and narrow the final list to 40 million households for which canvassing is required.

Finally, and more internally for the bureau, the last innovation is

to re-engineer field operations. This last innovation largely stems from the development of smart phone mobile technology that allows Bureau canvassers to track their work, receive real-time updates in the field (from processes such as in innovation #3), and allows mapping of census blocks to cover for a more efficient approach to canvassing.

Cities' Role

One of the most important steps for city governments in the 2020 census process is to ensure that the Bureau has received an updated copy of the Boundary and Annexation Survey from you. Made available on an annual basis, this survey allows cities to keep in touch with the Bureau and provide updated information about the legal boundaries that make up a city. This information is critical to have as the Bureau sets up their census blocks (commonly made up through barriers of roads, creeks/rivers, and railroads). Of specific importance is to ensure you fill out and submit changes through the Boundary and Annexation Survey no later than the deadline prior to the 2019 submission date. Failure to do so will likely mean that your city's changes will not be reflected in the 2020 census. Filling out this survey ahead of the 2020 census will be particularly important

as the Bureau begins to use data to tailor their canvassing efforts to areas with the lowest response rates. For more information on the Boundary and Annexation Survey, you can visit <http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html>.

 Brock Ingmire is the Research Associate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach him at bingmire@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Sources

- 1 2020 Census Operational Plan. (2015, Nov.) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
- 2 2020 Census Operational Plan. (2015, Nov.) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
- 3 Thompson, J. (2015, Nov.) Written Testimony by the U.S. Census Bureau's Director to the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Subcommittee on Information Technology of the Committee on Government Oversight and Reform.



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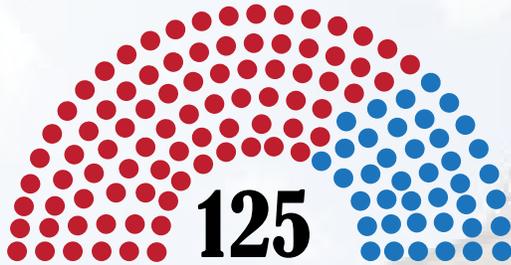
Exploring the 2017 Legislative Session

Following the November elections, the makeup of the Kansas Legislature shifted to a more moderate collection of legislators. Many ran on platforms that sought to stabilize revenue and budget expectations and increase education funding. Importantly, Legislators-elect highlighted in their League candidate questionnaires a desire to uphold the constitutional principal of home rule for cities across the state.

What does the Legislature look like?

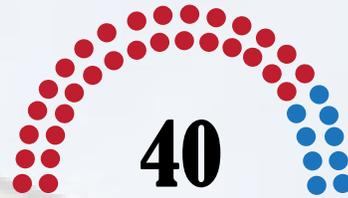
Kansas House of Representatives

(85 **Republicans**, 40 **Democrats**)



Kansas Senate

(31 **Republicans**, 9 **Democrats**)

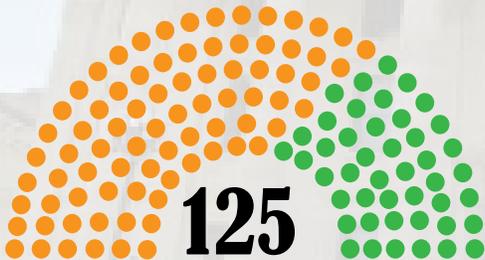


In the House, 36% of legislators will be replacing incumbents this session. Whereas in the Senate, there was a turnover rate of 35%.

Legislative Turnover – New Faces

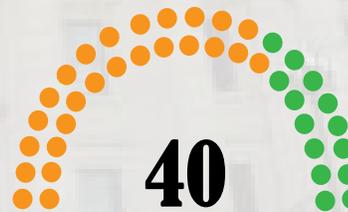
Kansas House of Representatives

(80 **Incumbents**, 45 **New Members**)



Kansas Senate

(26 **Incumbents**, 14 **New Members**)



What does this mean for cities?

For cities, this means that our legislative advocacy team will be spending a lot of time educating new legislators on issues important to cities. So, what can you do to help?

- **Contact Your Legislators:** Whether it's participating in the League's Key Contact program or inviting your legislators to attend a city council/commission meeting, establish communication and help them understand the issues important to cities.
- **Local Government Day:** On Wednesday, Jan. 25th, the League is hosting a day specifically meant to facilitate meetings between legislators and their city leaders. In the morning, schedule meetings with your legislators, talk with them about issues important to your city, and make sure to invite them to the League's evening reception. Register at lkm.org/event/LocalGovDay.
- **Stay Engaged:** Stay on top of League Legislative Webinars, League News, League Legislative Alerts, and the League's Legislative Tracking. If there's a bill important to you scheduled for a hearing, 13 committee rooms are expected to have the capability to provide livestreaming over this next session. Stay in-touch with your legislators and the League's advocacy team whenever an issue arises that is important for you and your city.

Best Practices

by Mark Tomb

Show Some Respect

A large portion of my job as the Iowa League’s director of membership services is answering questions from city officials. This is truly one of the more enjoyable aspects of my job, assisting members as they work through situations and ultimately helping cities achieve their goals. Occasionally, these conversations relay concerns regarding the lack of civility and respect as it relates to other elected officials, city staff and/or the public.

In my now 15 years of working for cities (eight in Iowa, seven in Kansas), I’ve seen how the deterioration of civility can spiral out of control and paralyze decision-making. We often think in the middle of a troubling experience that it has never been this bad, but I have been assured by people who have been at this longer than I have that this is cyclical. While that long-term view doesn’t help people through the immediate situation, it does offer hope that things will change and ultimately improve.

Obviously, the key is to not let things deteriorate to such a dysfunctional level. Have spirited debates, but don’t let personal disagreements or difficult constituent relationships cloud the discussion and the decision on the next issue. Be able to move past difficult issues, and do the work our residents demand. We still need to do the people’s business.

I recently received “7 Keys to a Respectful Meeting” from the Robert D. and Billy Ray Center at Drake University. The Ray Center is creating resources to improve respect and civility in our communities through their Show Some Respect campaign. Whether it is a meeting of your city council, your place of employment or your family, these expectations are important life lessons.

7 Keys to a Respectful Meeting

1. Listen attentively.
2. Respect the opinions of others.
3. Keep an open mind.
4. Give constructive comments, suggestions and feedback.
5. Avoid personal attacks.
6. Remember the things we have in common.
7. Value people, the process and the results.

For more information on this Ray Center program visit www.ShowingRespect.org. For help with your city issues contact

 *Mark Tomb is the Director of Membership Services for the Iowa League of Cities. You can reach him at marktomb@iowaleague.org or (515) 244-7282.*

This piece originally ran in the September 2016 issue of *Cityscape* magazine, a publication of the Iowa League of Cities.

Legal Forum

by Larry R. Baer

League Legal Department: "Hello, May I Help You?"

To many of you this, or something similar to it, is what you hear on your first contact with the League. Maybe you are a new clerk, or an elected official or a city attorney and you have been told to “call the League” and “find out what we can do.” The legal department is directly or indirectly involved in most services provided to and conducted for our member cities and their officials.

This month’s Legal Forum is devoted to the League’s “legal inquiry line.” The legal inquiry line is one of our core services. It is probably the busiest and most recognized service provided to our members. We handled more than 2,400 inquiries in 2015 and are well on our way to that number for 2016. Because of its high usage rate, we thought explaining its purpose and some of the limitations on the service would give a better understanding of the League’s role and help to foster a more efficient relationship between the legal department and you, our member cities.

The League has three attorneys on staff to assist you: Larry Baer, Eric Smith, and Amanda Stanley. Tami Martin is our Legal Services Coordinator. We are also assisted at times by one or more legal externs. Through the use of our “Lawyer of the Day” (LOD) program, we strive to have an attorney available every day from 8:00 A.M. to 5 P.M. This allows the other attorneys in the office to work on other inquiries or more complex projects. There are exceptions, such as during the League’s conference and when the Legislature is in session, when these outside duties often reduce our ability to immediately take your calls; however, our goal is to return your call as soon as possible.

In addition to phone inquiries, we also receive e-mail inquiries. Depending upon the nature of the question posed, we either respond directly to the e-mail or ask that the person making the inquiry call us to discuss the issue. A direct response is most frequently given when a very simple answer is adequate or when the furnishing of a copy of an ordinance, or other written material previously prepared by the League, answers the question. A request for phone contact will be made when more information is needed or the answer will prompt more questions from the person making the inquiry. Other than the short e-mail answers, the League does not give written opinions.

Whether making a phone or e-mail inquiry, it is always best to contact us as far in advance of needing the answer as possible. A last minute call as you leave for the council meeting may result in no answer, or a very limited one, because the LOD is not immediately available or the question needs some research. Whether you contact us by phone, e-mail, or voice mail, please always leave contact information. This should include your name, your position with the city (clerk, mayor, council member, municipal judge, etc.) the name of your city, phone number and a brief description of your question.

The primary duty of the League’s legal inquiry system is assisting our approximately 590 member cities and 70 member counties. We take calls from local government officials and employees regarding legal questions relating to their official positions. “Legal assistance” questions may extend to personality issues, political disagreement or policy decisions. In these circumstance we may be able to give some broad guidance based upon our own life experiences, but we cannot and will not directly enter into personality conflicts or the setting of policy. We also will not provide advice or answers to an employee or elected/appointed official whose interests may be adverse to the city’s interest. In such a case, we will most frequently direct the person to an appropriate state or local agency or recommend they seek independent counsel.

We generally restrict our responses to inquiries from the general public to general information available through public sources, by referring them to League published sources or furnishing phone numbers for other agencies or associations that may be able to assist them. We do not give advice on specific legal questions to the public. Even though it may seem like the right thing at the moment, please do not direct non-municipal officials or employees to call the League for advice because we may have to decline to provide such service.

Finally, remember that each city has, or should have, its own city attorney. The League legal staff is here to serve as a resource for the city, this includes the city attorney. The League, however, is not your city attorney. You should seek your fact-specific advice from your city attorney. Your city attorney is the one that is on the ground floor, knows, or should know, the day-to-day activities of your city and is most familiar with your particular needs. More importantly, if a matter goes to court, your city attorney will be representing you. When you call, we will ask if you have conferred with your city attorney and what, if any, advice or opinion did you receive. We are not here to second-guess your attorney. We do not know what your attorney’s thought process may have been and what factors, some of which we may not be aware of, were considered.

When in doubt about whether or not that we can help you, please call. If we are not able to answer or assist you, we may be able to refer you to someone who does not have a conflict. Please take advantage of your League membership by making use of all of our services and participate in our educational programs. The League is here to assist you and your city. We look forward to working with you in the future.

 *Larry R. Baer is the General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach him at lbaer@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*

Kansas Sister Cities

How to Create a Sister City



Overland Park Sister City Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany. Photo provided by the City of Overland Park.

Editors Note:

Thank you to all of the cities that submitted stories about their sister cities! We hope that this will help other cities look into finding a sister city. On page 311 we have our 2016 cumulative index. There you can take a look at other cities that submitted a story about their sister city. This article and those cities could be a great resource in finding your sister city.

I never set out to create a Sister City. I run a not-for-profit center in rural Baldwin City, Kansas. Over the last ten years I have been visiting a small town in South Africa. As I visited year after year, I fell in love with the people and beauty of the river valley called Riviersonderend, which means river without end. I always felt more at home in this small town, away from the hustle and bustle of the nearby city of Cape Town. It felt more like the pace, safety, and comfort that I find at home in Baldwin City. With a similar size population, Riviersonderend is also surrounded by agricultural land and shares some similarities with Baldwin City.

Gradually, it dawned on me that it would be delightful if we could connect these two small cities through a Sister City International relationship. Neither city had ever had a Sister City, so it was an exploration process for me. I first approached the mayor in Riviersonderend to see if there would be an openness to pursuing a Sister City. The issue I encountered was that the governmental structure in South Africa is one in which the mayor governs an entire municipality, which, in turn, covers many larger cities. At that level of governance, dealing with an issue isolated to a small city might take a low priority on the docket. So, while the mayor was in favor of the concept of creating a Sister City, the decision had to go before the Municipal Council.

I presented the idea to the city council of Baldwin City and they were receptive to the idea. After considering another city as a candidate, Baldwin City agreed to extend an invitation to Riviersonderend. On my next visit to South Africa I carried a Memorandum of Understanding from the Mayor of Baldwin City and met with an official of the municipality. I was assured there was interest and we discussed ideas for possible educational and cultural exchanges between the two cities. The process lingered over the next year, as I was told the municipal council was too busy to deal with the agreement.

Baldwin City officials suggested that I meet with the chamber of commerce in Riviersonderend and deal directly at the city level. When I returned to South Africa, I spoke with the head of the chamber of commerce and found that it was a very small group and was not very active. The head of the chamber connected me with a woman who was in charge of tourism in Riviersonderend. She was very motivated to support the sister city agreement and immediately took the Memorandum of Understanding to the mayor herself. The agreement was immediately signed and we were on our way. On my following trip I continued to work with the tourism board, an active and motivated group. Their support of this relationship seems key to the success of our sister city agreement.

Our agreement is focused on grassroots exchanges managed by volunteers. We formed a Sister City Team to create ideas for projects for cultural and educational exchanges. Some of the activities we have undertaken have been exchanges between classrooms. Teachers in Baldwin City schools have created fun items that could be carried to the same grade level in Riviersonderend. The classes there have made small items or cards for me to carry back to the students here. Each classroom then learns a bit about the sister city and has a window into another part of the world and its culture. Currently, seventh graders are creating a video that will portray a day in the life of Baldwin City. We hope that a similar video can be made in Riviersonderend that we can share in the schools here.

A group of grandmothers in Riviersonderend have started up a quilting group and we raffle a sister city quilt each year raising funds for their Youth Education Fund. Currently 13 students are being assisted with their expenses to attend major universities. Quilting is a popular craft in Baldwin City and our Maple Leaf Festival always features a large quilting exhibition. Riviersonderend is now also starting up quilting exhibitions too.

Our projects are simple but it is a good start. Baker University is in Baldwin City and it is our hope that students will travel to Riviersonderend for internships. Several older high school students from Riviersonderend have visited Baldwin City and so gradually we are growing a deeper relationship between our cities.

From my experience, it seems necessary to find a similarly sized town to your own. It is beneficial to have an existing relationship. Riviersonderend is far away and choosing a closer city to join into a sister city agreement would have been easier. One thing I know for sure is that when we join hands across the sea with another culture, people are touched at depth on both sides. I urge you to try creating a sister city for your town. It helps bring us all together on this little planet.

 Robin Goff is the Founder of The Light Center, a small retreat center on 35 acres in the woods just west of Baldwin City. She can be reached at info@lightcenter.info.

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Kansas Government Journal

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Kansas

Kansas launches Initiative to Boost High-speed Internet Access in Schools

A potential \$100 million initiative will spread high-speed internet to school districts across Kansas, state officials announced as they launched the two-year effort.

The program is expected to boost internet access in 10 to 20 percent of districts. Kansas will partner with EducationSuperHighway, a California-based nonprofit focused on upgrading educational internet access nationwide.

Officials described EducationSuperHighway's role as providing technical expertise. The organization will coordinate with districts and internet service providers to develop plans for upgrades.

Governor Sam Brownback said Kansas may have to allocate upward of \$10 million toward the program, which he said would come from the Universal Service Fund. The hope is that 80 to 90 percent of project costs can be paid for by the federal government.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zzwboh>

Minneola

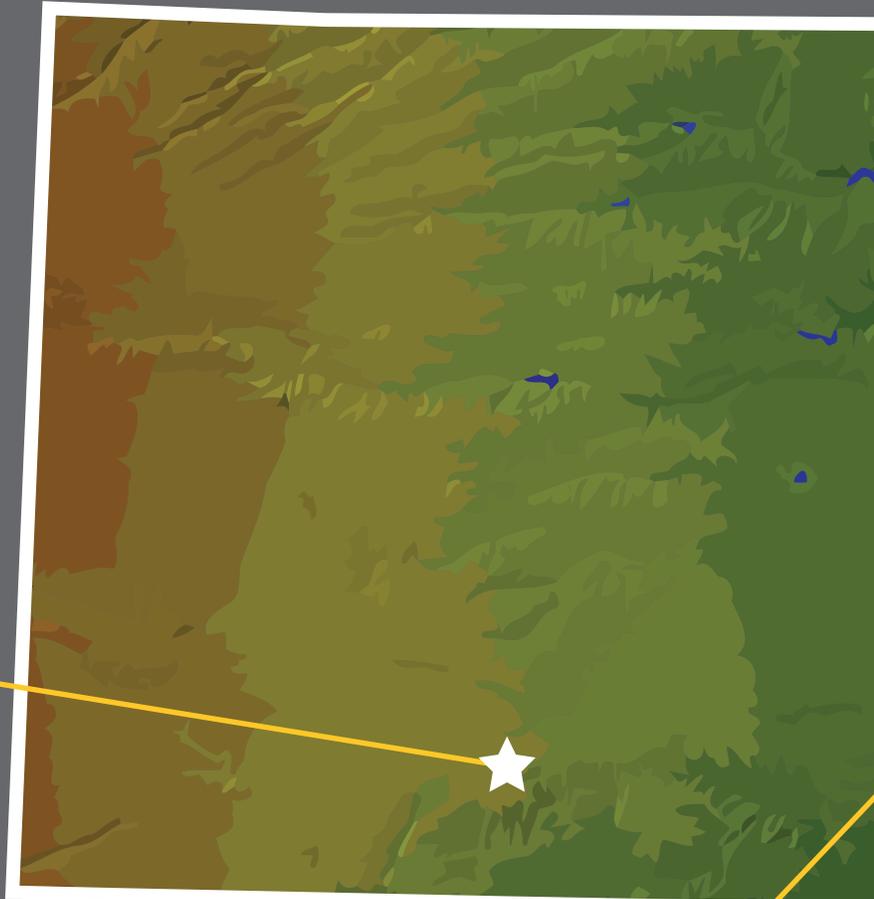
Wind Power Blows in Big Money to Ford, Clark counties

"So the benefits to the counties Ford and Clark as well as to Minneola school board is quite significant with more than 1.2 million per year in direct payments to those counties, local landowners, and the school district," said Michael Sheehan, a representative with Capital Power.

The money doesn't come as taxes. Instead, Capital Power gives an agreed-upon contribution, which is then divided out among local counties, school districts, landowners, and other entities.

"[It's] very helpful, especially in these hard economic times for people," said Ford County Treasurer Debra Pennington, "and I don't think that people realize the impact that it does give to our community and the benefits that it does give us."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hooaxdf>



Halstead / Newton / Goessel

History Channel to Film in Goessel for Immigration Story

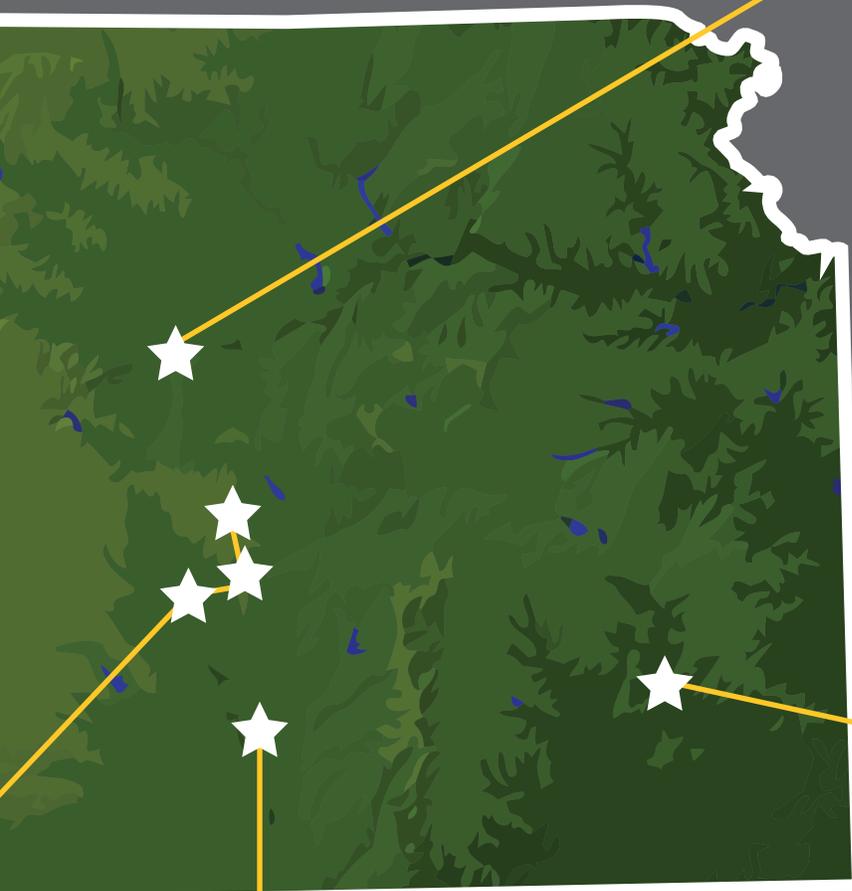
A History Channel crew will be filming in Newton, Goessel and Halstead this week to help tell the story of Mennonite immigration from Russia to this area some 145 years ago.

Karen Penner, board member for the Warkentin House Museum in Newton, will be one of the sources to be interviewed.

"The History Channel is planning a four-part series on immigration to the United States," Penner said. "I'm assuming that means four one-hour parts. It's just one little section of the whole immigration story."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zdzfkul>

VERNMENT NEWS



Salina

Salina Learns from Joplin with New Tornado Siren System

The county's emergency management says it will make the county safer during severe weather season. Deputy director Bernard Botson says it's a project two years in the making. He says they worked with the emergency manager in Joplin, Missouri and learned from that devastating tornado, how the sirens in Saline County could be improved.

One of the new features - a battery backup and solar charging panels. It means if severe storms knock out power, they'll still operate. Botson says that need is something they learned from the 2011 Joplin tornado.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hdmmltb>

Chanute

City Encouraged to Market Properties Online

Chanute city commissioners opened discussion Monday evening about how to best market city-owned properties.

Matt Godinez, executive director of the Chanute Regional Development Authority (CRDA) met with the commission to start the talks, and said he wanted to see a marketing plan moving forward. The issue begins with how to publicize lots available in the Osa-Martin development.

"We just want to be proactive," Godinez said. "We wanted the discussion to just get rolling."

He said there is a lack of marketing for the Osa-Martin development beyond the signs up nearby. Godinez said he wants to use technology that is available to make people aware online.

City officials also want to sell vacant lots that the city maintains and to fill in residential neighborhoods. Godinez said the CRDA also has discussed a land bank program.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zn8pe3c>

Derby

Mock Council Provides Government Insight

With Derby Mayor Randy White providing some gentle guidance, eighth grade student Adonijah Cummings brought the gavel down at City Hall, just like White does two times a month to open city council meetings.

The gavel exercise was just part of a mock council meeting held to show students how the real city council runs.

Some 11 students from Derby Middle School were on hand for the session, one of a series of six tours of city departments that the Teen Leadership Class at the school has undertaken in the past month to learn more about city operations.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hcwc2uu>

Classified Advertising

City Manager, Chickasha, Oklahoma

The City Council of Chickasha, Oklahoma is seeking an experienced public manager with very strong leadership and financial management skills. Located 35 miles southwest of Oklahoma City and 36 miles west of Norman, the City's location gives residents access to the amenities of a major metropolitan area including professional and major college sports, a major commercial airport, theater and other cultural activities, with the quiet rural atmosphere of a small town.

Chickasha is located in the middle of the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province (SCOOP). SCOOP encompasses 3,300 square miles of south-central Oklahoma; most of which is within four counties-Stephens, Grady, Garvin and Carter. The area, the potential of which some have compared to the Bakken area of North Dakota, has experienced the recent ups and downs of oil prices. In addition, Chickasha is experiencing several new retail developments, two planned hotels and a 200 home subdivision.

The Home Rule City Charter, adopted in 1946 and last amended in 2005, provides for a Council/Manager form of government. The City Council is composed of a Mayor and eight Council members serving two-year terms. The City Manager directs the affairs of a full service municipal organization with 137 full-time and 10 FTE part-time and seasonal employees and a Fiscal 2016-2017 combined budget that totals over \$40.8 million for all funds. The General Fund represents \$10.9 million, and the Municipal Authority/Utilities Fund represents \$16.1 million of the total. For a detailed profile of the position go to www.chcpublicsectorsolutions.com.

The City Council is seeking candidates who have at least seven years of experience as a city manager, or assistant city manager in an organization of comparable complexity to the City of Chickasha. This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in public or business administration or a related field. The City Council will require the City Manager to reside within the city limits of Chickasha.

A competitive compensation package is negotiable DOQ of the person selected. City has a generous benefits program including Oklahoma Municipal Retirement System, health and life insurance, paid

vacation, sick leave and holidays.

How to Apply / Contact

To apply send an electronic version of your current resume, salary history and a list of ten work-related references (including supervisory) with phone numbers to G. Chris Hartung at jobsearch@chcpublicsectorsolutions.com. The first review of candidates will be January 16, 2017.

Community Development Director, Cimarron, Kansas

Description & Details

Community Development Director

The City of Cimarron, Kansas (Population 2,262), located in Southwest Kansas is seeking a dedicated and energetic individual for the position of Community Development Director. The Community Development director reports directly to the City Administrator and is responsible for overseeing a results oriented, customer centered approach to development related services such as community marketing and development, business recruitment, retention, and expansion, historical preservation and tourism. Must be forward thinking, have strong problem solving and communication skills, and have a presence in the community.

The Community Development Director shall have a working knowledge of community development and functions thereof. The Community Development Director shall have a minimum educational qualification of a high school diploma. Two (2) years of experience in community development or related field. Must have a valid driver's license and must reside in Cimarron, KS within 90 days of start date.

The wage range for this position is dependent on qualifications. In addition to wage, the City of Cimarron offers a competitive benefits package.

Interested candidates should submit a resume by mail or email. Position open until filled.

Jeff Acton, City Administrator PO Box 467 / 119 S Main Cimarron, KS 67835

Citysuper@ucom.net

For questions regarding this position, please call (620) 855-2215 or send an email to citysuper@ucom.net.

How to Apply / Contact

To see full job description or to apply visit www.cimarronks.org.

Community Development Director, Cameron, Missouri

Description & Details

The City of Cameron sits at the crossroads of the nation, in northwestern Missouri. The Clinton County portion of the City is part of the Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas Metro Area, and the DeKalb County portion is part of the St. Joseph, Missouri-Kansas Metro Area. Cameron is home to almost 10,000 residents.

Cameron operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City has 65 FTEs and an FY 2017 budget of \$20 million.

Reporting directly to the City Manager, the Community Development Director improves the City of Cameron through existing business retention and development, attracting new businesses that improve the quality of life, and promotion of the Cameron area to attract visitors. The position is responsible for Planning and Zoning Administration, and works with the Board of Adjustment, in addition to overseeing Economic Development, Public Relations, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control services.

A bachelor's degree and three years of progressively responsible local government development and zoning administration experience are required. A master's degree and Certified Economic Development (CECd) credentials are preferred.

How to Apply / Contact

View complete position profile and apply online at:

<http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>

For more information:

Doug Thomas, Senior Vice President

Strategic Government Resources

[Doug Thomas @ GovernmentResource.com](mailto:GovernmentResource.com)

Public Works Foreman, Edgerton, Kansas

The Foreman is a full-time position in the Public Works Department under the direct supervision of the Public Works Superintendent. Our ideal candidate is a proven leader and manager. They thrive in a fast paced environment. They are dedicated to teamwork, and the professional development of staff. The Foreman will insure the proper maintenance and/or construction efforts of and for all City-owned Infrastructure and Facilities; the Foreman will also assist

in the financial operations of the Public Works Department. Essential job functions include the oversight of all construction, maintenance, operation, and repair of; city streets and rights-of-ways, city stormwater infrastructure, mowing of City rights-of-way, easements and City properties; maintenance and servicing of the city's fleet of vehicles and equipment and provide assistance to the utilities department including water and sewer on an as needed basis. The Foreman will also oversee the snow/ice removal operations, this will include emergency on call operations.

How to Apply / Contact

To review the complete position description, please click here. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, KS 66021 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Completed applications may be delivered in person to City Hall or if through e-mail, send Cover letters, Resume, and Application to rrmunicipaladvisory@gmail.com

Human Resources Director, Amarillo, Texas

Amarillo sits at the crossroads of America, almost equal distance from both coasts, with a population of nearly 200,000 residents and covering 100 square miles. Located in Potter and Randall Counties in the Texas Panhandle, Amarillo is the county seat of Potter County. Amarillo and the associated region have a quality of life that makes living and working in the area very attractive.

The City of Amarillo is a home rule municipality and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Human Resources Director reports directly to the City Manager. The City of Amarillo has 2,152 full-time employees and 333 part-time employees.

The Department is comprised of eight full-time positions and two part-time positions and has an FY 2016 adopted budget of \$985,000. The City of Amarillo operates under a Civil Service System for all full-time employees. Police and Fire personnel follow State Civil Service requirements and laws. All other employees are subject to Local Civil Service rules.

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in human resources management, business or public administration, or a related field is required. A master's degree is preferred.

The successful candidate will have five or more years of managerial/supervisory experience in human resources. Previous experience in a civil service city is preferred. Experience in an executive level position within a municipal government may be considered in lieu of direct human resources experience.

How to Apply / Contact

View complete position profile and apply online at:

<http://bit.ly/SGRCurrentSearches>

For more information contact:

Cindy Hanna, Managing Director,
Recruitment

Strategic Government Resources

CindyHanna@GovernmentResource.com

Maintenance Tech I, Edgerton, Kansas

The Maintenance Technician I is a full-time position in the Public Works Department under the direct supervision of the Public Works Superintendent or Foreman. The Maintenance Technician I – Public Works will be assigned various basic duties and tasks necessary for the operation and maintenance of public infrastructure, utilities, and facilities for the City of Edgerton. Essential job functions include: construction, operation, repair and maintenance tasks on city streets and rights-of-ways; snow/ice removal; construction, operation, repair and maintenance tasks on city stormwater infrastructure; provide support to utilities department including water and sewer; mowing City rights-of-way, easements, parks and City properties; and maintenance and servicing and city's fleet of vehicles and equipment.

How to Apply / Contact

To review the complete position description, please click here. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 404 E. Nelson, Edgerton, KS 66021 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Completed applications may be delivered in person to City Hall or if through e-mail, send Cover letters, Resume, and Application to rrmunicipaladvisory@gmail.com

Police Officer, Merriam, Kansas

The City of Merriam is seeking qualified applicants for the position of police officer. Starting salary is \$42,556 annually with a salary range of \$42,556 - \$63,833

Comprehensive benefits package includes KP&F retirement.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Must be 21 or older;

Must have a valid driver's license with a good driving record;

Must have high school diploma or equivalent;

Must be in good physical condition;

Must be able to touch type a minimum of 25 wpm;

Must have a good criminal record free of any serious traffic,

misdemeanor or felony convictions.

If reasonable accommodation is necessary to schedule testing or further information is needed contact captain Troy Duvanel at 913-322-5567, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

How to Apply / Contact

To begin the application process, you must successfully complete the P.O.S.T. exam offered at Johnson County Community College -12345 College Blvd. Overland Park KS. The exam is offered on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. A link to testing registration and dates is listed below:

http://classsearch.jccc.edu/class/results?query=XNP+6300&s=&term_type=ContinuingEd

Once the P.O.S.T. is successfully completed, a Cooper fitness assessment test will be administered, followed by a panel interview, background investigation and interview with the Chief of Police. The anticipated starting date is in the first week of April, 2017.

Visit our web site to see the entire hiring process and further information at www.merriam.org/MPD

EOE/ADA/Drug Screen - The City of Merriam does conduct background checks/ investigations to include a polygraph examination.

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CITY EVENTS

McPherson

Holiday Light Trolley Tours

Now - December 22

Discover holiday lights throughout the City of McPherson while riding on the trolley. Cost is \$5 and includes holiday trivia, music and prizes. Advance tickets required; great holiday activity for large groups. Tour nights include December 8, 15, 17, 18, 19 & 22 with departures from the McPherson Museum at 6, 7 & 8 p.m. Trolley capacity: 22

620-241-3340 | visitmcpherson.com/

Winfield

Isle of Lights

Now - December 30

Come see the Beautiful Isle of Lights in Winfield! Admission is FREE! Donations are appreciated. Horse and Carriage rides from Broken Spoke Dispatch LLC are available on Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 10, weather permitting. The price is \$5.00 per person.

620-221-2420 | www.isleoflights.org

Montezuma

We Remember: Images From The National World War II Museum

Now - January 22, 2017

“We Remember: Images from the National World War II Museum” exhibit includes 75 images from the collections of The National World War II Museum and the National Archives. It is a mixture of iconic images, as well as lesser-known and never-before-published snapshots taken by veterans. The Museum is going to enhance this once in a lifetime exhibition by displaying objects and artifacts on loan from local area residents that have special meaning from their family or friends who served in World War II and have great stories behind the objects. Come see these great images, meaningful artifacts and share these great stories with your

children and grandchildren! This exhibit was developed by the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world – why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today. Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America’s National WWII Museum, it celebrates the American Spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who served on the battlefield and the Home Front.

620-846-2527 | www.nationalww2museum.org

Wakeeney

Christmas City of the High Plains

Now - January 3, 2017

Since 1950, WaKeeney has been known as the "Christmas City of the High Plains." Each November WaKeeney is magically transformed into a holiday wonderland from the Saturday following Thanksgiving through New Year's. A magnificent handmade, 35-foot tree of fresh pine greenery rests under a canopy of heavenly blue lights in the middle of the main downtown intersection at Main and Russell Avenue. The canopy of blue lights radiates from the four ivory stars that crown the tree. In addition, a four-square block area around the tree is draped with fresh greenery, handcrafted wreaths, bows, and bells, and of course, more lights. The entire downtown business district is also outlined with over 2000 perimeter lights which remain lit year round. The entire display is made up of approximately 3 miles of electrical wiring, 1400 lbs. of fresh greenery, and 1100 yards of fresh greenery roping. This annual tradition is considered the largest Christmas tree and lighting display between Kansas City and Denver.

877-962-7248 | www.wakeeney.org

Manhattan

Festival of Lights

Now - January 1, 2017

Fourth annual lighting of Blue Earth Plaza and 50-foot tree as Manhattan ushers in the holidays! It's a sight to behold in Downtown Manhattan all along Poyntz Avenue as well, where there and Blue Earth Plaza lights continue to shine bright nightly through New Year's Eve..

785-776-8829 | www.mhkfestivaloflights.com/

Lincoln

Post Rock Country Christmas

December 17

Lincoln County celebrates the holidays with a day of shopping, pictures with Santa, Chamber Buck giveaway, dance recital, a free movie at 1 p.m. and is free to the public at the C.L. Hoover Opera House.

916-645-2035 | lincolnchamber.com

Canton

Annual Elk Days

January 21, 2017

A celebration of Maxwell's Wildlife Refuge's majestic elk herd. This is a perfect opportunity to see elk and bison on our 45-minute tour followed by lunch served in the warm tour center. Tour at 10 a.m. Fee will donation for tour and lunch; reservations required.

620-628-4455 | friendsofmaxwell@yahoo.com

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<http://www.lkm.org/page/CityEventssubmission>

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- **Annual Contribution Discounts** — Members earn discounts based on safety records and participation in KMIT safety programs.

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