

Quarterly Issues Program List

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3rd Quarter – July 1st through September 30th, 2023

Section I – Issues

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Section II – Programs

Issues: Highways and Transportation

Program Title: At Issue

July 2nd, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 28 minutes – This is a repeat of the previous week’s program with KFDI’s George Lawson presenting an interview with Executive Director Chad Parasa with the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, known as WAMPO. Parasa talks about a survey that is being conducted through July to get input on transportation priorities for the Wichita area. The input will be used to develop an MTP 2050 plan for issues relating to driving, walking and biking paths, transit and other areas. The plan will address safety, travel time, improving connectivity and creating a more equitable transportation system.

Issues: State Government, Human Trafficking, County Government, Opioid and Fentanyl Overdoses

Program Title: At Issue

July 9th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 31 minutes - KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from a recent news conference on a new Kansas law that targets human trafficking. Wichita Police Chief Joe Sullivan and Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter held the news conference to clear up some misinformation and concerns about the new law, and they explain that it is only aimed at people who are involved in human trafficking operations, not against people who may be providing assistance to illegal immigrants.

The second portion of the program is a segment from a recent Sedgwick County Commission meeting. Health Department Director Adrienne Byrne explains a grant application to the Centers for Disease Control for funding to hire staff persons to help in collecting data that can be used to combat opioid overdoses and the fentanyl concerns in the community. There are also comments from County Commissioners David Dennis and Jim Howell, along with Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner.

Issues: Homelessness Among Veterans, Veterans in the Criminal Justice System

Program Title: At Issue

July 16th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 27 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from a recent news conference on homelessness among Wichita area veterans. The United Way of the Plains announced a new initiative to reduce homelessness to “functional zero” and there are comments from United Way President Pete Najera, Vice President Abel Frederic, Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple, Sedgwick County Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner, Wichita Housing and Community Services director Sally Stang, and Chandra Miller, Interim Medical Director for the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center.

The second part of the program is a discussion from a recent Sedgwick County Commission meeting on a Veterans Treatment Court for the judicial system. There is a presentation from Lori Gibbs, Deputy Director of Adult Corrections Programs with the Sedgwick County Department of Corrections. She talks about a program to divert veterans into treatment programs instead of jail. There are also comments from County Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner and Commissioners David Dennis and Jim Howell.

Issue: Local Government and Taxes

Program Title: At Issue

July 23rd, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 30 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from recent meetings of the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission. In the first segment, Wichita City Manager Robert Layton presents his recommended budget for city operations for 2024-25, talking about key areas for the use of taxpayer dollars, with funding for police and fire enhancements and expansion of operations for two library branches. The second segment features Sedgwick County Manager Tom Stolz presenting his recommended budget for 2024, with an introduction by County Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner. The county discussion focuses on staffing for the Election Office, EMS, and the 911 system, along with funding for mental health and other needs.

Issue: Local Government and Taxes

Program Title: At Issue

July 30th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 30 minutes – This is a repeat of the previous week’s program with presentations on the recommended budgets for the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County for 2024.

Issues: Crime and Law Enforcement, Mental Health

Program Title: At Issue

August 6th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 29 minutes – KFDI's George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from a recent news conference by the Wichita Police Department. Wichita Police Chief Joe Sullivan, Lieutenant Aaron Moses and Mayor Brandon Whipple talk about a recent surge in violence that claimed 15 lives and doubled the city's homicide rate from late June into early July. They appeal to the community to get involved and help defuse situations before they result in violence.

The second segment of the program is a repeat from a segment that aired on June 18th on the expansion of the Integrated Care Team from one team to four teams to respond to mental health crisis incidents in the community. There are comments from Sedgwick County COMCARE director Joan Tammany, Wichita Police Captain Jason Cooley, and COMCARE Director of Crisis Services Jennifer Wilson. The expansion was approved by the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission.

Issues: Air Service and Illegal Gambling

Program Title: At Issue

August 13th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 28 minutes – KFDI's George Lawson presents an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from a July 14th news conference featuring U.S. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, American Airlines Executive Vice President Nate Gatten, and Wichita Director of Airports Jesse Romo. They talk about new direct flights to Washington, D.C. that will be added by American to Wichita air service later this year, and the impact that will have on promoting growth in the Wichita region.

The second segment is from a Wichita City Council meeting during the past week, with Assistant City Attorney Jan Jarman talking about an increasing problem with illegal gambling machines in local businesses. She presents changes in city ordinances to allow the city to suspend beer, liquor, tobacco and entertainment licenses for businesses found to have these gambling machines. The City Council voted unanimously to approve these changes. City Council Member Bryan Frye also made comments during this discussion.

Issues: Law Enforcement Policies and Practices

Program Title: At Issue

August 20th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 25 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments on a consultant’s study of the Wichita Police Department. The comments are from a news conference announcing a dashboard that the public can see on the City of Wichita web page to see the recommendations from the Chicago firm of Jensen Hughes on policies and practices of the Police Department. There are comments from Jensen Hughes representative Robert Davis, Police Chief Joe Sullivan, Mayor Brandon Whipple, Racial Profiling Board Chairperson Sheila Officer, Pastor Odell Harris and Police Lieutenant Aaron Moses.

Issues: Health Education, Local Government and Community Services

Program Title: At Issue

August 27th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 26 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report with three segments.

The first segment features comments from a recent presentation to Sedgwick County Commissioners. Kansas Health Science Center President, Dr. Tiffany Masson, provides an update on the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, which opened a year ago in downtown Wichita with its first class of students. There are also comments from County Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner and Commissioners David Dennis and Sarah Lopez.

The second segment is from a recent announcement of a partnership with Wichita State University and Ascension Via Christi Health on a program to train, recruit and retain health care workers. There are comments from Kevin Strecker and Laurie Lebarca of Ascension Via Christi, and Wichita State University Provost Dr. Shirley Lefever.

The third segment features comments from Wichita Mayor Brandon Whipple and the city’s Park and Recreation Director, Troy Houtman, on plans to renovate the Carl G. Brewer Community Center at McAdams Park. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

Issues: Education, Cultural Affairs

Program Title: At Issue

September 3rd, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 29 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson presents a repeat of the April 30th program, which is an extended, long-form, in-depth news report featuring comments from a recent discussion at a Sedgwick County Commission meeting. Commissioners heard a report on a strategic plan for the Exploration Place Museum and Science Center in Wichita. Exploration Place board chairman Patrick Goebel explains plans for an amphitheater, a playscape and renovations over the next two years. There are also comments from EP President Adam Smith, Deputy County Manager Tim Kaufman and Commissioners Pete Meitzner, David Dennis, Sarah Lopez, Ryan Baty and Jim Howell.

Issues: Mental Health, Transportation

Program Title: At Issue

September 10th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 27 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts a program with two segments. In the first segment, KFDI’s JJ Hayes interviews Communications Director Eric Litwiller of the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas. He talks about mental health issues relating to the start of a new school year and the stresses and strains that are experienced by parents and students.

In the second segment, KFDI’s George Lawson presents an interview with Communications and Special Events Manager Megan Lovely with the City of Wichita, talking about the process of updating the city’s bicycle plan. She talks about upcoming events where people can provide input on bike paths and issues affecting bicycle transportation in the city.

Issue: Local Government

Program Title: At Issue

September 17th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 27 minutes – KFDI’s George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report with comments from a Wichita City Council meeting during the past week. The Council adopted an ordinance with licensing requirements for properties used as short-term rentals, such as Airbnb and Vrbo. There are comments from Planning Director Scott Wadle, Chief Deputy City Attorney Sharon Dickgrafe, Council members Brandon Johnson and Jeff Blubaugh, Trish Hileman of the College Hill Neighborhood Association, and Wichita property owner Kelly Reid.

Issues: Suicide Prevention, Health Insurance

Program Title: At Issue

September 24th, 2023 – 6 a.m. – 27 minutes – KFDI's George Lawson hosts an extended, long-form, in-depth news report with two segments.

The first segment is from a recent report presented to Sedgwick County Commissioners by the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The report is presented by Dr. Nicole Klaus of the KU School of Medicine, reporting on the numbers from 2022. There are also questions and comments from County Commission Chairman Pete Meitzner and Commissioner Ryan Baty.

The second segment is a repeat of the April 2nd program segment dealing with health insurance. This is an interview with Jessica Valez, Revenue Cycle Manager, and Director of Communications Paul Cruz from Hunter Health of Wichita. They talk about the importance of renewing Medicaid coverage. There is some new information to introduce this segment with a recent report that around 60,000 Kansans have lost Medicaid coverage.