

First Quarter 2023 Issues – KGFF-AM, Shawnee, OK

1/3/23

Higher costs have surpassed the city's estimate for funding vehicle repair/maintenance and fuel costs across several departments, so Finance Director Lindsey McNabb- Fox brought a budget amendment request to the Shawnee City Commission to make the adjustment needed to cover costs. The additional appropriation is for \$103,890 to the General Fund for fuel, oil and lubricants for various departments. She said the additional appropriation will be funded by water sales projecting to exceed budget estimates in the Shawnee Municipal Authority Fund.

1/19/23

Adam Panter, who was first appointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt as Interim District Attorney for the last part of Allan Grubb's term in 2022, has now officially taken his oath of office to serve as district attorney of Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties for the next four years. Panter said he was notified by Gov. Stitt that he was also being appointed to fill the four-year term of David Hammer, who died few days after the election in June 2022. Hammer would have taken office this month; Panter was formally sworn in during ceremonies Jan. 3.

1/26/23

The Avedis Foundation has just announced its award of a \$252,422.50 grant to Uplift Mentoring in Shawnee for facility renovations. Uplift Mentoring's facility, built in 1978, serves as a place of opportunity, hope, and growth for hundreds of children and families in the community through the collaborative work of six nonprofits housed at the facility. With more than 20,000 square feet of space, the facility is an asset to the organization and the community at large. The grant from Avedis Foundation will allow Uplift Mentoring, formerly known as Mission Shawnee, to renovate their existing building into more efficient and usable space to better serve the community. The renovations will allow Uplift Mentoring to physically reflect the value and worth of the children and families they serve.

2/7/23

Pottawatomie County school districts — and the Family Justice Center — are continuing to gather additional funds to support education, thanks to an area tribe, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN). In February, CPN's first contribution in 2023 for the 14 school districts in Pottawatomie County and the Family Justice Center (FJC) was put on the books. This month, CPN gave \$56,283.14 to the school districts and \$562.83 to the FJC.

2/14/23

The Avedis Foundation has just awarded a \$15,000 grant to Infant Crisis Services. This grant will allow the BabyMobile to continue serving clients in the Pottawatomie and Seminole county service area. The BabyMobile program provides a week's supply of diapers and formula or toddler food, depending on the age and nutritional needs of the child. Any child under the age of four can visit four times per calendar year. The BabyMobile has been serving Pottawatomie County since 2017, and it is consistently one of the busiest communities on the program's roster. It currently visits Shawnee and Seminole an average of five times a month.

2/23/23

Last month Shawnee voters approved a 0.5 percent sales tax for uses including water, wastewater, and roadway infrastructure, as well as debt service obligations associated with capital improvement projects. On April 1, the Oklahoma Tax Commission will begin collecting the additional 0.5 percent sales and Use tax. The Wastewater Treatment Plant project includes the replacement of a 40-year-old wastewater treatment plant and the conversion of a 70-year-old wastewater treatment plant into a lift station. The project will provide protection of citizen health and safety, promotion of continued community growth, and allow for future expansion capabilities to support the next generation. On Tuesday, during the Shawnee City Commission meeting, a resolution was authorized to pledge the 0.5 percent sales tax as collateral for all existing loans held with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

3/2/23

A special celebration for Creed Humphrey, starting center for the Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs and Shawnee High School graduate, is set for 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 4, at Jim Thorpe Stadium on the campus of Shawnee High School. Humphrey is a 2017 graduate of Shawnee High School. The celebration will include a blessing from John "Rocky" Barrett, Tribal Chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and a presentation of the Key to the City of Shawnee from Mayor Ed Bolt. A live stream of the event will be shared. The celebration is open to the public.

3/13/23

A three-day special candidate filing period begins today for those interested in running for the seat of District 2 Pottawatomie County commissioner. Governor Kevin Stitt recently called a special election to fill that vacant seat, Pottawatomie County Election Board Secretary Patricia Carter said. The vacancy was created this month with the retirement of longtime District 2 County Commissioner Randy Thomas. The Special Primary Election will be held June 13, 2023. The Special General Election for the seat will be held September 12, 2023. The filing period begins today at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

3/28/23

A juvenile male suspect was being held on a \$250,000 bond Monday in connection with a shooting that injured a woman in Tecumseh Friday evening. Tecumseh Police Chief J.R. Kidney, who said the investigation is ongoing, said the suspect was transported to the juvenile center after being apprehended following a manhunt Friday night. The shooting occurred about 6:30 p.m. Friday evening near the intersection of Bob Crouch and Gordon Cooper Drive. A female, identified by Kidney as Hannah Wiens, 21, suffered two gunshot wounds and was transported to OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Kidney said Wiens was treated for those injuries before being released from the hospital Friday night.