

Citizen Newsletter

City of Tonganoxie, KS

October 2021



FY 2022 Budget Adopted

The City Council adopted the FY 2022 Budget on September 7, 2021. In accordance with the new provisions set forth in SB 13, The City Council held public hearings on both the Revenue Neutral Rate and the Proposed Budget. The City Council kept the City's mill levy flat, and built the budget over three broad investment areas: Local Infrastructure, Operational Support and Community Support and Development.; a breakout of specific funding items is provided below. The budget was built on maintaining a City Mill levy of 37.382, with the addition of the Library mills of 7.851, which brings the total mill to 45.233.

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|  Local Infrastructure Investments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church St Bridge construction• 5th year of increased street maintenance• Rehab of Water Park Elevated Structures• Water Tower construction at Business Park• Church St Storm Water Phase 2• Bicycle Repair Stations in City parks |  Operational Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police Department Fleet Updates with 3 Tahoe Vehicles• Fire Department Additional FT Firefighter to combine Code Enforc. and Fire Inspection• 5% merit opportunity for FT employees• Fire Department & Legal Services Operational Costs |  Community Support & Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LCDC Annual Funding• LV CO Regional Transportation Study Participation• Community Event Funding• Local Organization Funding<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tong. Business Assoc.• Tong. Arts Council• Tong. Historical Society |
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Code Enforcement Efforts Enhanced



As you may have read above, the City Council approved a budget that includes a full-time Code Enforcement officer in 2022, which is an enhancement from the current part-time allocation. The City has taken increased efforts into addressing Codes related issues, with blitz efforts for parking on unimproved surfaces and overgrown vegetation. There have been prolonged efforts into addressing other issues, which have culminated in abatement work to remove a fire damaged structure, as well as addressing abandoned vehicles and other nuisance related charges; some of these efforts and guilty findings have been appealed as high as to the State of Kansas Court of Appeals, but guilty findings were upheld.



Business Parks Development Activity

In June, we were excited to announce that Hills Pet Nutrition was looking to make an investment at the Tonganoxie Business Park for a new \$325M manufacturing plant. The project will create a minimum of 80 jobs with an average annual salary of \$60,625; the plant is expected to be operational before the Spring of 2024. Unilock, the Business Park's first tenant, also has plans for constructing a concrete product manufacturing facility, which should begin during 2023. Unilock's building would represent an approximate \$30M investment, and create up to 30 new jobs. Both of these projects were brought to fruition through a teamwork approach that included the Leavenworth County Development Corporation, State agencies and the original grant from Leavenworth County which allowed for site development work. There is continued interest in the Park, and approximately 25 acres of the developed 140 acres remain available; the City originally purchased approximately 240 acres in 2009, and the remaining acreage adjacent to the East is also available.

We've also been fortunate to attract great businesses to the Urban Hess Business Center; which is owned by the Leavenworth County Port Authority and offers sites ranging from 1.5 to 4.5 acres. Recent additions to the Park include Wilson Glass, LLC, and Industrial Service Technologies (IST). Wilson Glass is a fabricator of commercial storefront windows and doors. IST built its new company headquarters and metal fabrication division, and has submitted plans for an additional 14k square foot building located next door. Particularly exciting about these two projects is that both owners are local and chose to grow their businesses here.



Tonganoxie Police Department—MILO trainer

As the City's Liability Insurance provider, Midwest Public Risk (MPR) offers a variety of training and education tools, including the use of a MILO trainer. The MILO is a training simulator that uses video interactions for use of force, de-escalation, firearms proficiency and tactical judgement training. TPD offers the public the opportunity to participate in the same training, and MPR allows the City to use the equipment in our facility for a week's time. TPD uses social media outlets to advertise time slots, and are eager to work with the public on this Community outreach initiative. Look for future opportunities to participate.



Public participation during the week of August 23rd

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

On March 11, 2021, following approval actions by Congress and the President, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) went into effect. By July, the City was made aware of available funds, through the State of Kansas, and the City Council was apprised of how these funds differed from CARES Act funds, and the eligible expenses for ARPA, as well as the timeline for expenditures. For the City of

Tonganoxie, the total amount of ARPA funds available are \$846,977.98, with an equal amount of \$423,488.99 made available in FY 2021 and FY 2022. While the City's \$834k of CARES Act funds were primarily distributed towards small business grants (\$446k), expanded free WiFi at the Library and Parks (\$175k), and enhanced Municipal Services at 303 Bury (\$200k), the ARPA funds are yet to be designated by the City Council. However, we know that by Federal guidelines, eligible uses are limited but generally include: responding to Public Health emergency, Revenue Loss, premium pay for essential workers, and water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. The City Council will consider recommendations from staff for uses of these funds during upcoming City Council meetings.

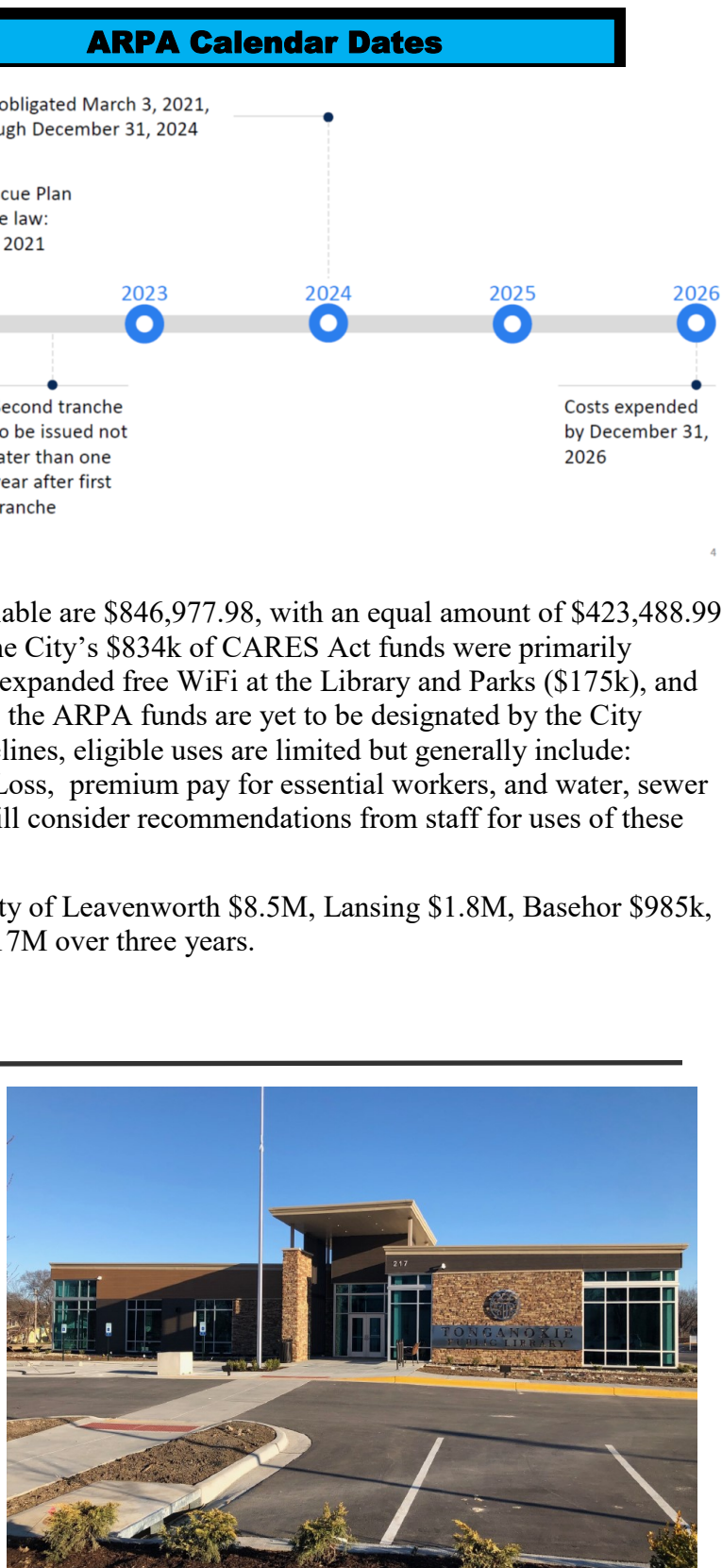
Other entities also received funds, including the City of Leavenworth \$8.5M, Lansing \$1.8M, Basehor \$985k, and USD 464 received ESSER funds that total \$2.17M over three years.

Library Notes

Did you know that your library card gives you free access to a huge collection of audiobooks that you can download straight to your phone? Just install the Libby app -- available on Apple and Android -- and get to listening. There are no costs and no late fees -- it's all completely free with your library card.

If you don't have a library card, swing by and we'll get you set up. (And if you have a very old card, you might need to call us to get you updated.) Once you're in you can use Libby to download ebooks, audios, and even comics with your handheld device -- on top of all the physical books we've got on the shelves.

Also, don't forget about the boosted free public WiFi available in the parking and outdoor areas of the Library.



How to Contact your Council Members



David Frese

Mayor

dfrese@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2024



Loralee Stevens

lstevens@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2022



Chris Donnelly

cdonnelly@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2022



Jake Dale

jdale@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2024



Jennifer McCutchen

jmccutchen@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2024



Rocky Himpel

rhimpel@tonganoxie.org

Term expires in 2022

Community Events

Congratulations and thanks to Tonganoxie Business Association for a very successful Tongie Days event on Saturday, September 18th. The downtown 4th St setting served well for the approximately 50 vendors, 4 food trucks, West Haven Baptist Church hosted an incredible kids carnival area, Tonganoxie FFA Chapter brought their petting zoo, live music from some entertaining bands, and a car show. This was the first year of taking Tongie Days from its traditional June date, and combining it with an event previous known as Sunflower Stroll into one event in September. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year!

Tongie Days was held on September 18th



Congratulations and thanks to the Tonganoxie Arts Council for an exceptional 2021 Plein Air Art Festival held from September 30th—October 3rd. The downtown 4th St setting served as a focal point for activities such as street performers, vendors, glass blowing exhibition, car show, food trucks and numerous activities. The artists were mobile as the competition portion of the festival had them traveling to locations in and around the City limits. A Gallery space was established at the 304 Building downtown, and the public was also welcomed to attend the award ceremony and view the winning paintings. In addition, a meet and greet with the artists was held, and all had an opportunity to purchase unique artwork representing Tonganoxie. If you missed the event, be sure to mark your calendars for next year!

Plein Air Art Festival was September 30th—October 3rd



- **Kids Halloween Scavenger Hunt**, October 25th—29th, look for upcoming additional information on where you can find Clues
- **Spooktacular**, October 29th, 6-8pm, Downtown 4th St
- **Business Expo**, hosted by Tonganoxie Business Association, November 18th, beginning at 6pm, Brunswick Ballroom
- **Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting**, November 20th, parade on 4th St begins at 5pm, tree lighting follows parade at 321 S Delaware. For more information on parade entries, contact Diane Bretthauer at 913-645-4726, dibert@kansasins.com