

## Harvey County 2022 Highlights and Accomplishments

### January

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Recognized the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Harvey County 911 Communications Department.
- Designated INTRUST Bank as the official depository for public funds.
- Designated The Newton Kansan as the official County newspaper.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program.
- Reorganization of the commission with commissioner Don Schroeder as chairperson.
- Entered into an agreement with WSP USA Inc., for engineering services related to the High Risk Rural Roads signing improvement project.
- Adopted a resolution establishing commission districts based on 2020 Census data.
- Approved updated internal temporary policy modifications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved a conditional use permit for The Honey Barn at 6479 E. First St.
- Approved a proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Accepted a proposal for the sale of Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport for \$1.2 million.
- The sixth annual MLK Day of Service Project was held by the Department on Aging.

### February

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved a proposal for MKEC Engineers to perform the County's biennial bridge inspection.
- Approved a memorandum of agreement to supplement the Kansas Logistics Park Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newton.
- Approved an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for the Kansas Local Bridge Improvement Program, receiving \$150,000 for the replacement of bridge G-27.5.
- Approved the purchase of new election equipment from Clear Ballot Group, Inc.
- Received an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- Received the 2021 year-end financial report.
- Approved a notice of hearing for a 2022 budget amendment for the bond and interest fund.

### March

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Presented 2021 Kansas Association of Counties service awards to employees.
- Approved the 2022-2026 Strategic Goals for Harvey County.

- Approved a five-year agreement with the Boy Scouts of America Quivira Council for the Trappers Rendezvous event at West Park.
- Approved change orders for the Hesston Road reconstruction project and authorized the use of ARPA funding for a portion of the project.
- Approved a resolution ordering and authorizing the county counselor to initiate and conduct a tax foreclosure action.
- Received an update on the Cottonwood Complex wildfire, which burned approximately 120 acres in western Harvey County, and required a local disaster declaration.
- Applied for Kansas Department of Health and Environment grants for the Health Department.
- Approved updated internal temporary policy modifications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved ceasing the acceptance of single stream recycling at the Transfer Station effective May 1, 2022.
- Received and approved the Noxious Weed annual report.
- Held a budget hearing and approved amending the 2022 Harvey County budget.
- Approved the selection of McGrath Human Resources Group to complete a compensation and classification study for Harvey County.
- Approved a purchase agreement and long-term ground lease for Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport.

#### April

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Approved a proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- Conducted the annual exemption review for the Budde Enterprises, Inc. tax abatement.
- Approved the 2021 township annual reports.
- Approved final documents for the sale of Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved receiving OAA/State match funds for the replacement of the parking lot at Grand Central Senior Center.
- Received word that the State of Kansas planned to add four additional positions to the District Court, including a district court judge, magistrate judge, court reporter, and administrative assistant.
- Approved a proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.
- Approved eliminating internal temporary policy modifications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Received the first quarter financial report.
- Approved utilizing the standard deduction for the usage of ARPA funds distributed to the County.

#### May

- Approved a conditional use permit for F5 Outfitters Hunting Lodge at 3120 N. Harvest Hill Rd.

- Terminated a ground lease agreement with the Gerry O. Sibley Trust at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved a ground lease agreement with Tyree Ag at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Received a presentation from the U.S. Small Business Administration regarding low-interest loans for eligible applicants impacted by the Cottonwood Complex Fire.
- Approved a resolution rescinding the State of Local Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- Approved a proclamation for National Bike Month.
- Approved a proclamation for National Police Week.
- Received and approved the 2021 Sheriff's Office Forfeiture Report.
- Approved a consulting agreement with McCully and Associates for appraisal services.
- Approved a letter of support for the City of Halstead's Safe Routes to Schools grant application.
- Approved the 2023 Harvey/McPherson County Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Kansas Department of Corrections grant applications.
- Approved a contract with Karpel Solutions for a new records management system for the attorney's office, due to the District Court switching its record management system.
- Approved a grant application for a National Association of County and City Health Officials Health Department/Pharmacy grant program.
- Approved the renewal of commercial services agreements with Cox Communications.
- Approved the Department on Aging applying for five Older Americans Act grants through the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.
- Received presentation of the 2021 financial audit, which included no budget or cash basis law violations. The County's A-133 single audit was also reviewed.
- Conducted 2023 budget hearings.

#### June

- Conducted 2023 budget hearings.
- Received a presentation from STAND about their youth activities and programs.
- Approved a grant application for the 2022 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan program.
- Approved updated bylaw for the Department on Aging Advisory Council.
- Approved a land lease incentive repayment at the Newton City/County Airport for a ground lease agreement with Park Aerospace Corporation.
- Received the 2022 biennial bridge inspection report.
- Approved a lease agreement with Forsythe Aviation, LLC for Hangar AA at the Newton City/County Airport.

#### July

- Approved a proclamation in recognition of National Park and Recreation Month.
- Entered into an agreement for the 2022 KDOT Federal Funds Exchange Program.
- Approved an allocation of \$5,000 from the special alcohol and drug program fund to provide funding for the STAND program in Harvey County.
- Held a special commission meeting to review the proposed 2023 budget.
- Received the County's first payment of opioid settlement funds from the State of Kansas.

- Approved a grant request for the Women, Infants, and Children Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Approved a resolution determining facts to support the approval of a city annexation of a non-adjointing tract of land by the City of Newton. The tract is owned by Full Vision, Inc.
- Received a report on the planning commission's plan to consider revisions to the County's commercial renewable energy project regulations.
- Received the second quarter financial report.

### August

- Conducted the vote canvass for the Aug. 2 primary election.
- Approved a ground lease agreement with 620 N. Oliver, LLC at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved a letter of support for IdeaTek's Kansas Broadband Infrastructure Grant application.
- Approved physical activity workplace policies for internal use at Harvey County.
- Approved the 2024 Healthy Harvey Wellness Program.
- Received a report that the Kansas Secretary of State ordered the hand recount of the constitutional amendment question and the State Treasurer-Republican race ballots from the recent primary election.
- Approved earmarking \$250,000 of the County's ARPA funding for broadband improvement projects in Harvey County.
- Approved the 2022 update to the Central Kansas Regional Solid Waste Authority management plan.
- Approved a resolution creating a special revenue fund for Kansas Fights Addiction Act funds.
- Approved an allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to Harvey County Fire District No. 1 and to Burrton Consolidated Fire District No. 5.
- Attended a wind farm tour in Kingman County.
- Conducted a vote canvass for the recount of two Aug. 2 primary election contests.
- Approved a grant match of \$250,000 for IdeaTek's Kansas Broadband Infrastructure Grant application, pending approval of a contract for County services and IdeaTek receiving the broadband grant.
- Approved a proposal for the modernization of the east courthouse elevator due to its recent failure.
- Conducted a revenue neutral rate hearing and budget hearing for the 2023 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted a resolution exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2023 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted a resolution amending the joint resolution establishing the Whitewater River Consolidated Fire District to change the audit requirements for the district.

### September

- Conducted the vote canvass for the USD 460 special bond election.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Bradley and Rebecca Haines Antique Car Storage at 10029 S. Kansas Rd.

- Approved a conditional use permit for Byron and Susan Schrag’s Vacation Rental Cabin at 1734 SE 96<sup>th</sup> St.
- Adopted the 2023 budget and 2023-2027 capital improvement plan.
- Approved the Health Department applying for the KDHE Overdose Data to Action grants.
- Received a presentation on the planning commission’s proposed amendments to the commercial renewable energy project regulations.
- Approved the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging Area Plan for federal Older Americans Act funding for fiscal year 2023.
- Received a presentation of a new Road and Bridge and Noxious Weed facility concept plan and feasibility study.

### October

- Approved a proposal with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the restoration of collapsed riverbanks at East Park and West Park.
- Hosted an employee in-service day for County employees, which included an organization-wide gathering for the first time since 2019.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.
- Held a special commission meeting at the Meridian Center to receive public comment and consider recommended changes to the commercial renewable energy project regulations within the Harvey County Unified Development Code.
- Adopted a resolution amending the Harvey County Unified Development Code, Section 16.14 Commercial Renewable Energy Project.
- Denied a conditional use permit for Verlin and Sonya Siefkes’ recreational vehicle at 4120 N. Webb Rd.
- Approved applying for an Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.
- Approved engaging Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered for services related to the transition of the county treasurer.
- Approved a project agreement with Imagine IT for enhancing and expanding the use of multi-factor authentication within the Harvey County information technology infrastructure.
- Received the third quarter financial report.

### November

- Received a Risk Management Excellence Award along with a premium rebate check of \$4,674.63 from the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool.
- Approved applying for the RSVP AmeriCorps Senior Grant program.
- Approved a real estate purchase agreement with Prairie View, Inc. for the purchase of the health services building located at 215. S. Pine St.
- Conducted the vote canvass for the Nov. 8 general election.
- Becky Fields Opland was sworn in to fill the unexpired term for county treasurer.
- Heather Figger was sworn in to fill the unexpired term for county attorney.
- Awarded a contract with Hutton construction for the repair of the rail on bridge G-12.4 located on Southwest 36<sup>th</sup> Street over the Little Arkansas River east of Halstead.
- Approved updating Harvey County Transportation’s Title VI documents.

- Approved the KDOT State Fiscal Year 2024 Public Transportation Grant application.
- Received a presentation on McGrath Human Resources Group's compensation and classification study, and approved the implementation of the compensation recommendations for 2023.
- Approved a proposal for architectural services with SJCF Architecture to update the courthouse space study, and block diagram study of the building at 215 S. Pine St.
- Approved the renewal of the Community Fisheries Assistance Program Agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.
- Approved the Computer Information Concepts annual peopleware agreement renewal for maintenance and enhancements.
- Approved continuing a contract with The Newton Kansan for the 2023 publication of legal notices.
- Approved a revised county counselor's employment agreement with Greg Nye.
- Approved a contract award to Cooper Construction, LLC for KDOT Project 04 C-5136-01 for a grant funded signage project.

#### December

- Held the annual employee Christmas dinner in person for the first time since 2019.
- Presented longevity awards to employees with between five and 35 years of service.
- Approved the Harvey County Food and Farm Council's five-year plan.
- Approved a contract with the Harvey County Legal Services Panel.
- Received a presentation of the 2022 transitional agreed-upon procedures report for the treasurer's office.
- Approved a modification to the treasurer's expectations letter dated Nov. 22, 2022.
- Approved a check cashing policy for Harvey County.
- Approved a memorandum of understanding between Harvey County Transportation and Modivcare.
- Approved a second Kansas Logistics Park memorandum of agreement with the City of Newton.
- Held a budget hearing and approved amending the 2022 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing funding for KDOT Project 40C-5075-01 for the replacement of bridge E-30.6.
- Adopted a revised Harvey County Travel and Business Expense Policy.

## Harvey County Departmental Highlights and Accomplishments

### Administration

- Completed reports and continued planning for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- Completed and began implementation of the Compensation and Classification Study with McGrath Human Resources Group.
- Enrolled 57 new employees and facilitated 20 media releases.
- Hired and trained a new Assistant County Administrator/Finance Director, a new Human Resources Director and several department heads.
- Received positive audit and single audit results, and adopted a 2023 budget that maintains reliable, timely services for our citizens and includes a responsible, forward-thinking general fund balance.

### Aging

- The Department on Aging staff has increased aging and position-specific training, strengthening the department's knowledge base and scope of services. The department provided information and resources to 2,456 Harvey County citizens via in-person and over-the-phone visits in 2022. We increased the number of Farmers Market Bucks delivered to the community, providing access to fresh fruits and vegetables to 125 people, and assisted 100 citizens with Medicare Open Enrollment-SHICK Counseling service, saving them \$35,288 in potential medication charges in 2023.
- RSVP increased the number of participants who have returned to in-person volunteering. Eighty-seven volunteers provided 9,448 hours of service to a community impact of \$68,403.52, according to IndependentSector.org.
- Interurban Transportation secured additional grant funds to provide medical, pharmacy, and grocery store trips for low-income individuals living in Newton, those most impacted by the O T Cab rate increase.
- Department outreach has increased with the addition of the As We Age newsletter, which reaches 527 unduplicated homes in Harvey County. Four quarterly publications were mailed or emailed in 2022. Caregiver-specific posts on Facebook and Twitter yielded 52,400 reaches, 436 likes, and 71 shares.

### Appraiser

- Revalued real estate, personal property, and oil and gas.
- Achieved compliance by the State of Kansas.

### Attorney's Office

- No report submitted.

### Clerk/Election Office

- Planned and implemented successfully a primary election in August, a special election for USD 460 in August and a general election in November. Conducted complete manual recount of two primary races/contests.

- Acquired, implemented and utilized new election equipment from Clear Ballot Group, Inc. for all elections in 2022. Revamped procedures, processes and training materials related to usage of the new equipment. Remodeled/revamped new storage room for election equipment.
- Continued implementing requirements of “Truth in Taxation” legislation (SB 13), including calculating and distributing revenue neutral rates and assisting entities with compliance. Implemented new requirement to prepare and mail estimated tax notices to all taxpayers.

### Communications

- Maintained our quick answer and dispatch times even with a slight increase in calls.
- Continued training of new hires throughout the year.
- Continued to work on the migration from the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED) Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols to Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) EMD protocols. Much work has been accomplished on this in the past three months, and we anticipate making the transition in the spring.
- Moved to the new AT&T Switched Ethernet (ASE) 911 system for the State of Kansas, providing more reliable and faster speed on the hosted 911 network, as well as the room to later expand into pictures, video and other options should we choose to do so.

### District Court

- Launched Odyssey, a new centralized case management program, to include Judge Edition.
- Through State of Kansas legislation, were allocated a new district court judge, new magistrate judge, and two support staff.
- Created a temporary courtroom for a fourth judge due to expanding court operations.
- Served as a pilot court for Kansas Legal Services, assisting pro se litigants on site and served as a pilot court for online protection from abuse/protection from stalking applications directly through the eFiling system.
- Completed the first year of the Harvey County Drug Court.

### Emergency Management

- Partnered with the Community Chaplain Response Team to establish the new Volunteer Response Team. The VRT will also lead the new Emergency Support Function–17: Volunteer Management. This ESF will coordinate volunteer efforts supporting a disaster within Harvey County.
- Operationalized the strategic Harvey County Emergency Operations Plan by creating a tactical playbook.
- Prepared a more robust social media outreach and engagement plan, with a focus on community education and preparedness, weather alerts, and suicide prevention.
- Continued work developing the new ESF-18: Mental and Spiritual Health. This new ESF will take a whole of community approach for mental and spiritual health during and after a disaster. Our support will be to citizens and response personnel alike.
- Partnered with the Central Kansas Community Foundation and the CCRT to obtain an educational outreach grant focused on underserved communities within Harvey County. The grant will enable the CCRT to better educate underserved communities on emergency preparedness.

## Health

- As per state law, the newly developed school inspection process was implemented at each K-12 building (private and public). Each building was toured and passed the annual inspection.
- Awarded CDC Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan one-year grant to engage community partners of Newton and North Newton to develop a plan to reduce health inequities.
- Remained up-to-date on COVID-19, Ebola, and MPOX to offer services to county residents. This included hiring a nurse specific for COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Harvey County Drug Court successfully completed one year with 17 clients. Agency collaboration, with health department's fiscal management of U.S. Department of Justice funds, allowed the establishment of the program and nine partners to attend the National Drug Court Conference. For the next five years, Mirror, Inc. was awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant to manage the court's expenses.
- Worked hand-in-hand with the Detention Center related to COVID-19 and other diseases.

## Information Technology

- Worked through the transition and merger of Gilmore Solutions to Imagine IT, Inc.
- Replaced more than 55 devices throughout the organization.
- Completed a backup and disaster recovery hardware project.

## Maintenance

- Purchased a new 54-inch Hustler mower, which provides a clean cut for the courthouse lawn.
- Began installation of new parking curbs in the south parking lot. The curbs are made of high-grade recycled plastic.
- Began installation of 110-volt LED bulbs in the south parking lot bollards.
- Began installation of 277-volt LED bulbs in the north parking lot bollards and the Detention Center sidewalk bollards. These bulbs are long life, high efficiency and are 5000K. They will be easy to maintain.

## Noxious Weed

- Sprayed 819 acres in county rights-of-way and 935 acres for townships. Sprayed sheriff's office shooting range and fairgrounds, and sprayed West Park for long spine sandbur.
- Worked on brush in the following locations: South Kansas Avenue between Southeast 72<sup>nd</sup> and Southeast 125<sup>th</sup> streets, Southwest 125<sup>th</sup> Street from Meridian Avenue to the City of Sedgwick, and Ridge Road from the City of Sedgwick to U.S. Highway 50.
- Installed snow blade on ATV for snow removal at courthouse.
- Built and installed boom mount on UTV.

## Parks

- Finished and opened the new East Park bait shop.
- Purchased and placed new buoys at East Park.
- Appointed three new members to the Parks Advisory Board.
- Created a designated dog park swim area at East Park, which will open in the spring.

- Pleased to have had a record-setting camping season.

#### Planning, Zoning, and Environmental

- Updated the regulations for commercial renewable energy projects. The updates included changes to setbacks, requirements for noise and flicker for wind energy, and wildlife and floodplain protection.
- The planning board held 12 meetings and a couple of public workshops. During those meetings, they considered five conditional use permits, one variance, and one zoning change. They also worked on the new comprehensive plan and regulation updates.
- Issued 90 building permits, 12 of which were for homes.
- Conducted 34 mortgage inspections. Home inspections for sales were busy at the beginning of 2022, but slowed down toward the end of the year.

#### Register of Deeds

- Processed over 5,000 documents, all of which were completed with a one date turnaround time.
- Furthered Register of Deeds educational training on the current CIC program to assist in preparing documents and reports for the various financial institutions.

#### Road and Bridge

- Completed Hesston Road rehabilitation project.
- Completed North East Lake Road regrade project, four miles between Northeast 12<sup>th</sup> and Northeast 60<sup>th</sup> streets.
- Replaced Camp Hawk spillway pipe.
- Fully staffed as of the end of November.

#### Sheriff's Office

- Raised money for the purchase of K-9 Max. Completed all training required to put Max into service.
- Organized and executed a successful DUI check lane for the first time in many years.
- Collaborated with Prairie View to provide mental health counseling/therapy for inmates in the Detention Center.

#### Solid Waste

- Passed all State of Kansas inspections.
- Started the Household Hazardous Waste Reuse program.
- Upgraded trucks, trailers, and equipment.
- Updated office flooring.
- Began the engineering process for a center cell expansion for the construction and demolition landfill.

#### Treasurer's Office

- Along with the transition to a new treasurer, hired a full staff and had them equipped on computers with programs they need to perform their job duties within a week of their hire date.

- Cross-trained vehicle employees to process tax payments.
- Connected with the State of Kansas to provide services in the driver's license office twice per week while new staff goes through the State of Kansas background check process and training.