

Harvey County 2024 Highlights and Accomplishments

January

- Designated INTRUST Bank as the official depository for public funds.
- Designated The Newton Kansan as the official County newspaper.
- Adopted a resolution setting elected official salaries and approved market adjustments for employee wages.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program.
- Approved a resolution ordering and authorizing the county counselor to initiate and conduct a tax foreclosure action.
- Completed reorganization of the county commission, with Commissioner Becky Reimer as chairperson.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day.
- Approved an Off-System Bridge Program Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for Bridge E-30.7.
- Approved revisions to the Harvey County Purchasing Policy.
- Conducted the annual exemption review for the Budde Enterprises, Inc. tax abatement.
- The eighth annual MLK Day of Service project was held by the Harvey County Department on Aging.
- Held the 47th annual Trappers Rendezvous at West Park, with more than 2,100 attendees.
- Responded to several winter storms, which included 2,549 miles of paved roads being plowed by Road and Bridge, 140 tons of salt being used by Road and Bridge, and 234 calls to dispatch.

February

- Approved a conditional use permit for Hank and Elaine Prouty at 4214 W. First St.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Matthew Hamm at 7700 E. First St.
- Presented 2023 Kansas Association of Counties service awards to 12 county employees.
- Received a report from the Harvey County K-State Research and Extension Office that 573 citizens were served during the SHICK enrollment period with a total prescription medication cost savings of \$151,236.
- Approved a joint enactment with the City of Newton regarding the composition and duties of the Newton City/County Aviation Commission.
- Approved a Better Food Policy Fund 2024-2025 grant application for the Health Department.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Dean and Renae Alison at 7530 N. Hoover Rd.
- Approved a letter of support for the City of North Newton's RAISE planning grant application for transportation planning.
- Approved a temporary remodel project for Courtroom 4 in the Harvey County Courthouse.
- Approved contracting with Schaefer Architecture to design a remodel of the Pine Street facility.

- Approved applying for a second Rural Hospital Innovation Grant in partnership with NMC Health.
- Approved a 911 console and raised floor replacement project for 911 Communications.
- Received the 2023 year-end financial report, which showed the County ended the year in a positive financial position.

March

- Approved revisions to the Harvey County RSVP Advisory Council bylaws.
- Received a Harvey County Detention Center facility assessment presentation from Goldberg Group Architects, LLC.
- Approved applying for Kansas Department of Health and Environment grants for the Harvey County Health Department.
- Approved applying for the Drug Endangered Children All Hands on DECK grant – Part 2, for the Health Department.
- Conducted the vote canvass for the presidential preference primary election.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Approved an emergency communication radio coverage enhancement project for the Courthouse and Detention Center.

April

- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- Approved an emergency communication radio coverage enhancement project for Harvey County East Park.
- Received a presentation of the 2023 financial audit from Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered.
- Approved applying for a Kansas Food Action Network grant for the Health Department.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of National Drug Endangered Children’s Awareness Day.
- Approved a project to replace the hangar doors on Hangars A and J at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Adopted a resolution setting interim policy and bylaws for the Harvey County Regional Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Approved a proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.
- The Healthy Harvey Coalition and the Health Department hosted a community celebration in Newton to commemorate 10 years of the Health Harvey Coalition.
- Approved a land use agreement with the Kansas Geological Survey to install a monitoring well at Harvey County West Park.
- Approved an agreement for the Kansas Department of Transportation’s 2024 Federal Funds Exchange Program.
- Received and approved the 2023 Harvey County Sheriff’s Office forfeiture report.
- Received the first quarter financial report.

May

- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Older Americans Month.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of National Police Week.

- Approved a proclamation in recognition of National Bike Month.
- Adopted a resolution granting a 10-year tiered tax abatement for Scorpius Industries, LLC for a new facility located at 8501 N. West Rd.
- Approved a Lasting Infrastructure and Network Connection grant agreement with IdeaTek Telcom, LLC, providing a \$250,000 local grant match. The agreement also required IdeaTek to connect three of the County's 911 communication towers with fiber connections.
- Approved an agreement with ADP, Inc. for a new human resources information management system.
- Held a memorial ceremony for Peace Officers Memorial day.
- Approved a consulting agreement with McCully and Associates for appraisal services.
- Conducted the vote canvass for the USD 440 Halstead-Bentley special election.
- Approved a proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for the May 19, 2024 severe storms.
- Adopted a resolution establishing and amending the fee schedule for the Harvey County Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Department.
- Approved the schematic plans for the Pine Street facility remodel and authorized Schaefer Architecture to complete the full renovation design.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Blake and Laura Lujano at 9009 NE 72nd St.
- Approved a resolution setting a code of ethical conduct for county commissioners.
- Conducted 2025 budget hearings.

June

- Appointed Pam Thomas as the Harvey County Appraiser.
- Approved a grant agreement with the KDHE for a \$69,987 Rural Hospital Innovation grant for NMC Health to purchase new equipment, which will allow them to better service clients.
- Approved the use of opioid settlement funds to pilot the Waymaker Academy in the Detention Center.
- Approved a grant request for the Women, Infants, and Children program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the KDHE.
- Approved a fire sprinkler flush and conversion project for the Detention Center.
- Approved a Solid Waste Fund rate adjustment for 2025, including \$3 per ton for municipal solid waste and \$5 per ton for construction and demolition.
- Approved revisions to the Harvey County Purchasing Policy.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the installation of stop signs at NW 12th Street and North Sand Hill Road, and NW 12th and North Wheat State Road.

July

- Adopted a resolution authorizing the installation of speed limit signs on West Dutch Avenue.
- Approved serving as the applicant for a Community Development Block Grant for Youth Job Training in collaboration with Harvey County Economic Development Council and USD 373-Newton.
- Held the annual budget work session to review the proposed 2025 budget.
- Adopted a charter resolution exempting Harvey County from conducting annual sanitary inspections of school buildings and grounds.

- Adopted a resolution amending a coroner’s permit fee.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Kevin Lambert at 8527 S. Spencer Rd.
- Adopted a resolution for the 2024 Kansas Region G Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Approved an agreement with HNTB for final design services for Runway 8-26 at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Received the second quarter financial report.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the submission to the electors a proposition concerning the sale of alcoholic liquor in Harvey County.

August

- Conducted the vote canvass for the 2024 primary election.
- Received a report that the courthouse east elevator project is now complete.
- Approved the 2024 five-year update to the Central Kansas Regional Solid Waste Authority Management Plan.
- Received a presentation from Schaefer Architecture on the design for the Pine Street facility remodel, authorized finalizing the construction plans and put the project out to bid.
- Approved the 2026 Healthy Harvey Wellness program.
- Conducted a revenue neutral rate hearing and budget hearing for the 2025 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted a resolution exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2025 Harvey County budget.
- Received a presentation from STAND about their youth activities and programs.
- Approved the Department on Aging applying for the Older Americans Act grants through the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.
- The Sheriff’s Office conducted the first of two DUI check lanes for 2024.

September

- Approved a Safe Streets and Road for All planning grant agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation and the City of Newton.
- Adopted a resolution approving the functional classification of roads in Harvey County.
- Approved applying for an Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.
- Approved an allocation of \$5,000 from the Special Alcohol and Drug Program Fund to provide funding for the STAND program in Harvey County.
- Approved concurring to the City of Newton’s proposed Urban Area Boundary as part of the State and Federal government’s functional classification of roadways process.
- Received a report that the West Park shower house project is complete.
- Adopted the 2025 budget and 2025-2029 capital improvement plan.
- Approved applying for the RSVP AmeriCorps Senior Grant program.
- Received a presentation of the 2024 biennial bridge inspection report.
- Approved a three-year contract for independent audit services with Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered.
- Approved the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services FY2025 Older Americans Act Area Plan for the CPAAA.
- The Harvey County RSVP lets its annual 9/11 National Day of Service project, collecting 1,208 pounds of food to be donated locally to the Salvation Army.

- Thanked Greg Nye for his 18 years of service as the Harvey County Counselor.
- Approved an agreement with Bradley D. Jantz for county counselor services.

October

- Received the gold level risk control certification from the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT), resulting in a 5% workers compensation insurance premium reduction for 2025.
- Conducted the annual review of the County's Road Impact Fee Resolution.
- Hosted an employee in-service day for County employees on Columbus Day.
- Received a presentation from the Kansas Water Office on the implementation of the Kansas Water Plan.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the adoption of the Harvey County 2024 Comprehensive Plan.
- Approved recertification of Harvey County Transportation's Title VI documents.

November

- Conducted the vote canvass for the 2024 general election.
- Approved a funding allocation of \$35,000 to the USD 373 Newton Career and Technical Education Electrical Training Program for startup costs related to the program.
- Recognized the service of U.S. Veterans through the Operation Green Light project, illuminating the Courthouse green leading up to Veterans Day.
- Awarded the bid for the Pine Street building renovation project to Vogts Construction for \$1,877,000.
- Adopted a resolution for the five-year update to the Central Kansas Regional Solid Waste Authority Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Adopted a resolution establishing time limits for parking at the Pine Street building.
- Received the third quarter financial report.
- Accepted the resignation of Anthony Swartzendruber, Harvey County administrator, effective Dec. 27, 2024.
- Adopted a resolution requesting the Planning Commission make a recommendation as to the advisability of declaring a minimum maintenance road in Walton township.
- Approved a PartnerSHIP grant application for the Health Department.
- Approved the KDOT State Fiscal Year 2025 Public Transportation Grant application.
- Approved a shared roads maintenance agreement memorandum of understanding with the City of Halstead.
- Approved continuing a contract with The Newton Kansan for the 2024 publication of legal notices.
- Received a Risk Management Excellence Award from KCAMP, along with a premium rebate check of \$6,554.56.
- Approved an economic development interlocal agreement with the cities of Harvey County and the Harvey County Economic Development Council, Inc.
- Approved a contract with Vogts Construction for the Pine Street building renovation project.
- Approved a road maintenance agreement with the City of Newton.

December

- Held the annual employee Christmas dinner at The Porch.

- Presented longevity awards to 17 employees with between five and 20 years of service.
- The Sheriff's Office led the annual First Responders Holiday Helpers drive, providing food boxes to 185 families during the holiday season.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Mario Lara at 133 SW 64th St.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Trevor Bergen at 7525 S. Webb Rd.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Nex-Tech Wireless at 19673 W. Dutch Ave.
- Held a budget hearing and approved amending the 2024 Harvey County budget.
- Approved a contract with the Harvey County legal services panel.

Harvey County Departmental Highlights and Accomplishments

Administration

- Finalized plans and approved a contract for the Pine Street facility renovation project.
- Completed the job description update project with McGrath Human Resources Group and began implementation of the ADP human resource information management system.
- Began a project to create a new Harvey County website.
- Enrolled 40 new employees, offered eight EMPAC training sessions to employees, provided monthly risk management online trainings to employees, and facilitated 22 media releases.
- Received positive audit and single audit results, and adopted a 2025 budget that maintains reliable, timely services for our citizens and includes a responsible, forward-thinking general fund balance.

Aging

- The Department on Aging increased community contact for the third year. The department provided more than 4,200 callers with information, resources, and assistance over the phone or in person, and distributed 151 farmers market voucher booklets to Harvey County residents to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, an economic impact of \$ 7,550. The department also assisted 264 people with Social Security and Medicare enrollments.
- Staff worked to strengthen evidence-based programming for those in late adulthood utilizing OAA ARPA funding. With these funds, the department was able to offer an additional A Matter of Balance Fall Prevention class, train staff and offer a Stress Busting for Caregivers class, and provide an additional 250 units of respite care to support Harvey County Caregivers working to keep their loved ones in the home.
- Interurban Transportation provided over 5,000 rides for Harvey County residents, including 705 Find-A-Way rides to low-income individuals for medical, pharmacy, grocery store trips, and social service agencies, an economic impact of \$2,953 from a community partner grant from Asbury Park Foundation. During 2024, Interurban provided more than 900 rides for non-emergency medical trips through an agreement with Modivcare, providing an economic impact of more than \$6,000.
- Department outreach through the As We Age newsletter now reaches 699 unduplicated homes in Harvey County by emailing or mailing four publications each year. Social media posts on Facebook and X in 2024 yielded more than 8,330 reaches, and in-person presentations and health and safety fairs generated an additional 847 citizen contacts.
- RSVP added 25 volunteers. These volunteers have given the community more than 9,500 hours of service with an economic impact of \$278,752.32, according to IndependentSector.org, from October 2023 to September 2024.

Appraiser

- Even though the market was highly volatile, the Harvey County Appraiser's Office was in compliance with the State of Kansas.
- Certification with the Harvey County Clerk's Office was done in a timely manner for real estate and personal property.
- We lost two employees to retirement but gained two new employees. They have acclimated well.

- The Appraiser’s Office held 98 2023 payment under protest hearings, 212 2024 informal hearings and 11 Board of Tax Appeals hearings.
- Through our website and mailings, the Appraiser’s Office informed the public of the statute changes for personal property. This saved more than \$4,000 in mailing fees.

Attorney’s Office

- Completed four jury trials, all with guilty verdicts, including Harvey County’s first jury trial under Jessica’s Law (for sex crimes against a minor).
- Provided training and support to law enforcement and community partners by attending multidisciplinary meetings, hosting law enforcement training lunches and being available for input and advice.
- Supported law enforcement and Kansas prosecutors by conducting trainings at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and the 2024 Kansas District Attorneys Association fall conference.
- Continued efforts to address truancy in Harvey County by working with community partners in creating a Truancy Review Board and other coordinated services.
- Worked with the Sheriff’s Office to address violations of the Kansas Offender Registration Act and to hold registered offenders accountable for non-compliance.

Clerk/Election Office

- Planned and implemented successful presidential preference primary election in March, a special election for USD 440-Halstead in May, a primary election in August and a general election in November.
- Continued revamping procedures, processes and training materials related to usage of the Clear Ballot election equipment. Implemented new Modus election and poll worker management system.
- Continued implementing requirements of “Truth in Taxation” legislation (SB 13) including calculating and distributing revenue neutral rates and assisting entities with compliance. Prepared and mailed 22,316 total estimated tax notices.

Communications

- After extensive work, study and discussion, new Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols were put in place. Working with county EMS chiefs and our medical director, Dr. Paul Bogner, we put together protocols for staff. These protocols are easier to use, simple and straightforward.
- We continued to foster strong partnerships with responder agencies and regional partners, including through the policy and procedures of our Emergency Services Association, and our Incident Tactical Dispatch team working with Fire and Emergency Response Team, and assisting in the state COMMEX to test and credential other field communications trainees.
- Despite increasing call volumes and staffing shortages, our dispatchers remain accommodating and willing to work overtime for the greater good of Harvey County.

District Court

- Completed the temporary remodel of Courtroom 4.
- Completed the second year of the courtroom seating replacement project. Replaced the gallery chairs, jury box chairs and witness chairs in Judge Lane’s courtroom.

- The Harvey County Drug Court is in year three, and continues to graduate individuals through the program. The District Court appreciates the non-financial support of the County staff and commission.

Emergency Management

- Activated the Emergency Operations Center to coordinate response and recovery efforts during the May 19, 2024 severe weather event. This response involved structural and heavy vegetative damage to multiple communities throughout Harvey County. We obtained Federal Disaster Declaration DR-4811, and continue to work with local, county, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Federal Emergency Management Agency officials in the ongoing recovery efforts.
- Continued to develop and incorporate framework for County-wide standardized approach to active shooter response protocols and support for educational institutions throughout Harvey County. Assimilated processes into the Harvey County Emergency Operations Center protocols.
- Further operationalized the strategic Harvey County Emergency Operations Plan by updating and utilizing all-hazards tactical checklists in a variety of operational settings.
- Improved community preparedness and resilience by partnering with local officials to identify critical prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery plans and considerations, to include cyberattacks, continuity of operations and continuity of government.
- Continued to build and sustain partnerships by teaming with community groups, local school districts, colleges, long-term care and health providers, civic organizations, first responders and volunteer agencies.

Health

- Conducted 13 Ways to Kill Your Community book clubs across the County, culminating in a town hall meeting with over 70 residents. Multiple outcomes are now in the works related to building volunteer bases, community connectedness and economic growth. Network Kansas funding provided for the books and town hall meeting.
- Storytelling videos were created to tell the progress and success of the Healthy Harvey Coalition's 10-year outreach and sustainable changes to make Harvey County healthier. Funding was provided through the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation.
- Increased participating clients by 2%, averaging 553 clients per month, for the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program from January to September 2024. The total enrolled clients averaged 652 per month.
- Department outreach and education were provided by staff at Hesston Middle School, Hesston and Bethel Colleges, Newton High School, NMC Health, Health Ministries Clinic, Halstead Health and Rehabilitation and Kansas Christian Home. Education included interactive lessons about the Community Health Needs Assessment process, disease investigations, general community health, and preparedness exercises.
- Prepared and moved equipment to the third floor of our building as part of the Pine Street facility remodel.

Information Technology

- Replaced firewalls for Courthouse, Parks, Solid Waste and Health.

- Completed operating system upgrades for four servers.
- Replaced 46 computers.
- Installed server hardware and additional storage capacity.

Maintenance

- Completed the modernization and jack replacement for the east Courthouse elevator.
- Converted the Detention Center fire suppression system from a dry system to a wet system.
- Installed a new generator at the Pine Street facility.

Noxious Weed

- Treated 4,979 total acres in private, county and townships for field bindweed, johnsongrass, musk thistle and sericea lespedeza.
- Performed the annual spraying for the Sheriff's Office shooting range and two communications tower sites, as well as sprayed West Park for sand burrs, bridge guard rails on County roads, and the Harvey County Road and Bridge yard.
- Worked on brush on Northeast 60th Street west of Spencer Road and cleaned up tree storm damage in the parking lot at the Pine Street facility.
- Replaced two office computers, two spray system tablets and an office printer.
- Worked on training a new spray technician.

Parks

- Completed the construction of the West Park shower house.
- Purchased docks for East Park.
- Replaced windows in the East Park machine shop.
- Navigated challenging conditions for visitors and staff at East Lake, tending to extended drought conditions and blue green algae blooms.

Planning, Zoning, and Environmental

- The 20-year Comprehensive Plan update was approved in November. The plan will serve as a guide for land use decisions and development of regulations over the next 20 years. The Comprehensive Plan is developed from citizen input of the desires for Harvey County.
- The Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals held eight meetings in 2024, holding public hearings for 10 conditional use permits, two approved variances, and discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.
- As of Dec. 1, 2024, 101 building permits had been issued, including 11 new homes. In 2023, there were 89 total permits with 12 new homes. There were 42 land splits completed.
- Conducted 34 mortgage inspections, issued 50 water well permits and 21 sewer permits.
- Implemented a new fee schedule for the department to offset the increasing costs of running the department. This places more of the cost of services on those using the services instead of directly on the taxpayers.

Register of Deeds

- As of Dec. 11, the Register of Deeds Office has processed over 4,300 documents for the year.
- Handled documents efficiently with a one business day processing time.

- Furthered Register of Deeds educational training and CIC training.

Road and Bridge

- Completed 7.86 miles of hot mix asphalt overlay.
- Completed 7.32 miles of Microseal.
- Replaced two dilapidated structures with bridges.
- Assisted Burrton and Halstead with storm damage cleanup from May 19.
- Completed two miles of road regrade on South East Lake Road.

Sheriff's Office

- Integrated Axon in-car cameras and body cameras for all patrol deputies. So far, this system has been much better and less time-consuming.
- Accomplished 100% certification for all patrol deputies concerning Crises Intervention Training. This training certifies our deputies to respond and mitigate calls with people in crises.
- Accomplished 100% certification for all patrol deputies concerning Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement. This training certifies deputies with advanced skills for DUI detection and DUI investigations.
- Upgraded to a new Jail Management System in the Detention Center.
- Worked with Prairie View and the Community Chaplain Response Team to facilitate the Waymaker Program, which is a drug rehabilitation program for inmates.

Solid Waste

- Passed all State inspections.
- Zero lost time for accidents.
- Installed new heater in the maintenance shop.
- Received the permit from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the construction and demolition center cell expansion.
- Played an integral role in the response to the May 19 storms, taking in 151 tons of tree debris in the days following the weather event. This was in addition to our own facilities taking on damage in the storms.

Treasurer's Office

- Received the assessment report from the Kansas Department of Revenue, and all vehicle clerks are above 90% accuracy. Driver's license processors are also above 90%.
- Cross-trained all employees to process vehicle transactions as well as property tax payments as a convenience to the taxpayers.
- Received approval from KDOR and trained additional vehicle employees to approve title applications as needed.
- Implemented a point-of-service payment system for all three sub-departments that will accept multiple forms of payment, tap capability and integrate with CIC for tax payments.
- Collected \$11,488.00 in antique vehicle county fees to the County General Fund, and \$31,331.00 in property tax, through Nov. 25, 2024. Some counties do not bill antique vehicle owners after the initial registrations, citing it does not bring in enough revenue to account for the time spent to compile, print and mail them.