

Harvey County 2021 Highlights and Accomplishments

January

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved extension of the Harvey County Mass Gathering Local Health Order and approved an Emergency Order of the Local Health Officer implementing the mass gathering limit.
- Designated INTRUST Bank as the official depository for public funds.
- Designated the Newton Kansan as the official County newspaper.
- County officials elected in the Nov. 3, 2020 general election sworn in.
- Don Schroeder joined the Harvey County Commission, representing District 3.
- Reorganization of the Commission with Commissioner George A. “Chip” Westfall as Chairman.
- Approved a proclamation honoring retiring County Commissioner Ron Krehbiel for 20 years of service.
- Awarded contracts to Vance Brothers and APAC for the 2021 asphalt road improvement projects.
- The fifth 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 modification of the Harvey County Mass Gathering Local Health Order and approved an Emergency Order of the Local Health Officer implementing the mass gathering limit.
- In-person public comment was reinstated for County Commission meetings after previously being paused due to COVID-19 precautions.
- Approved a contract to All Metal Recycling, LLC to remove the Solid Waste recycle sorting system.
- Approved a SPARK Phase 1 CARES Act funding report and change memo for December.
- Approved a contract with Nisly Construction for a pre-engineered steel awning at Solid Waste.
- Approved a contract with The Wilson Group for a rooftop HVAC unit replacement at the Harvey County Detention Center.
- Received and approved the 2020 Sheriff’s Office Forfeiture Report.
- Approved a proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for the impacts of the February 2021 winter storm.
- Entered into an agreement for the 2021 KDOT Federal Funds Exchange Program.

March

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Received the 2020 year-end financial report.

- Conducted the annual exemption review for the Budde Enterprises, Inc. tax abatement.
- Applied for Kansas Department of Health and Environment grants for the Health Department.
- Applied for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Grant with Reno and Barton counties for drug misuse prevention and intervention programs.
- Applied for Kansas Department of Health and Environment ELC grant for the Health Department's COVID-19 response.
- Received update on American Rescue Plan Act funding for Harvey County including the four intended purposes for the funds.
- Approved a lease agreement with Human Plant Solutions, LLC, for Building V at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Received and approved the Noxious Weed annual report.
- Approved a final SPARK Phase 1 CARES Act funding report and change memo for 2020.
- Approved rescinding the Harvey County Mass Gathering Local Health Order and the Harvey County Local Health Order requiring the use of face masks.
- Awarded a contract to Mies Construction for the replacement of culvert C-23.1 on Southeast 84th Street between South Hillside Road and South Oliver Road.
- Approved a resolution approving the City of Halstead's island annexation of the Wedgewood Golf Course property.
- Approved a proclamation in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Approved the Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways to a Healthy Community Pledges for the Storytelling and Food Systems Planning Packages.
- Approved the 2020 township annual reports.
- Approved a purchase of new election equipment, pending State certification, from Clear Ballot Group, Inc.
- Approved updated internal temporary policy modifications related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

April

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Received presentation on American Rescue Plan Act funding for Harvey County including the four intended purposes for the funds.
- Held a special joint Commission meeting with the City of Newton Commission.
- Approved Federal Aviation Administration grant offer, construction contract, and construction services contract for the Taxiway E reconstruction project at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved the Newton City/County Airport building maintenance and capital improvement plan for 2021-2022.
- Approved a proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.
- Received the first quarter financial report.
- Approved a supplemental ground lease with Midwest Electric Transformer Services, Inc. at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved the 2022 Harvey/McPherson County Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Kansas Department of Corrections grant applications.

- Approved a conditional use permit for the Butler Rural Electric Cooperative Solar Farm at 149 S. East Lake Rd.
- Approved a proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.

May

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved a proclamation for National Police Week.
- Approved a consulting agreement with McCully and Associates for appraisal services.
- Approved a contract with Klenda Austerman LLC for the collection of delinquent personal property taxes.
- Awarded a contract to Wray Roofing for roof repairs to Hangars J and K at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Approved updated internal temporary policy modifications related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, revisions were made from required masking to recommended masking for employees in County facilities.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Vogts Materials, Inc. at 4210 N. Hesston Rd.
- Approved the Health Department applying for a CDC Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans grant.
- Approved a Title VI Plan and Policy for Harvey County.

June

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Toured the Law Enforcement Center remodel improvements.
- Conducted 2022 budget hearings.
- Approved a lease agreement with Midwest Aircraft Services, Inc. for Hangars B and E at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Received presentation of the 2020 financial audit, which included no budget or cash basis law violations. The County's A-133 single audit was also reviewed.
- Approved a contract with P1 Group, Inc. for a new domestic hot water system for the Harvey County Detention Center.
- Approved an allocation of \$5,000 from the Special Alcohol and Drug Program fund to provide monies for the STAND program in Harvey County.
- Approved a resolution rescinding the State of Local Disaster Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved a resolution appointing Michele Lowery as County Appraiser.
- Approved a lease agreement with WWCP Investments, LLC and the City of Newton for the storage of emergency response equipment and vehicles.
- Approved a resolution authorizing participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program.

July

- Received FEMA hazard mitigation grant of \$56,625 for the installation of outdoor warning sirens at East Park and West Park.

- Approved agreement with Ford Motor Company to return a faulty Sheriff patrol vehicle.
- Approved proclamation of a State of Local Disaster Emergency for a severe storm on June 25, 2021.
- Received a presentation on the public rollout of the Everbridge Emergency Notification System.
- Approved a contract with Marvin Planning Consultants, Inc. to create a new comprehensive plan for Harvey County.
- Held a special Commission meeting to review the proposed 2022 budget.
- Approved the Health Department applying for and receiving a \$160,000 Kansas Department of Health and Environment Immunization Action Plan Supplemental 4 Vaccine Equity grant.
- Awarded a contract to Klaver Construction for the replacement of bridge G-27.5 on Southeast 36th Street just east of South Webb Road.
- Approved a conditional use permit for Kaye Electric at 3410 S. Anderson Rd.
- Accepted the public dedications for the Orpin Estates Plat.
- Approved a grant request for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Approved an agreement with Federal Signal Corporation for the purchase of outdoor warning sirens for East Park and West Park.
- Approved a resolution approving amended bylaws and an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool.
- Received the second quarter financial report.

August

- Approved a resolution supporting the expansion of Amtrak passenger rail service in Oklahoma and Kansas.
- Approved an Off-System Bridge Program Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for bridge E-30.6.
- Approved the High-Risk Rural Road funding agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation.
- Approved a resolution authorizing a public sale of Hangar W at the Newton City/County Airport.
- Received an update that Harvey County's official population for the 2020 Census is 34,024.
- Approved the 2021 update to the Harvey County Regional Solid Waste Plan.
- Approved the Health Department applying for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Overdose Data to Action and ODMAP grants.
- Approved the Department on Aging applying for five Older Americans Act grants through the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.
- Approved a Law Enforcement Center Maintenance Agreement with the City of Newton.
- Conducted a revenue neutral rate hearing and budget hearing for the 2022 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted a resolution exceeding the revenue neutral rate for the 2022 Harvey County budget.
- Adopted the 2022 budget and 2022-26 capital improvement plan, which included no mill levy increase.

- Approved a letter of support for the Health Ministries Clinic’s service area grant application.
- Approved a resolution of intent to issue industrial revenue bonds for Bluestem Communities.

September

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved an agreement with P1 Group, Inc. for the maintenance of systems at the Harvey County Detention Center.
- Conducted the vote canvass for the USD 439 bond election.
- Appointed Lona Kelly as the Department on Aging director effective Oct. 4, 2021.
- Approved a Kansas Logistics Park memorandum of agreement with the City of Newton.
- Approved the 2023 Healthy Harvey Wellness Program.
- Approved a five-year Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentives Program contract with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for archery turkey, archery deer and waterfowl hunting at East Park.

October

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Awarded contract to Wichita Fence Co. for fencing at the Solid Waste facility.
- Approved a contract with Lindburg Vogel Pierce Faris, Chartered for 2021-2023 auditing services.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$11 million in industrial revenue bonds for Bluestem Communities.
- The first session of the Harvey County Drug Court was held.
- Hosted an employee in-service day for County employees, which included departmental-level meetings due to being unable to meet as a full group.
- Approved applying for an Emergency Management Performance Grant from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.
- Approved a resolution withdrawing from the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties.
- Approved a resolution joining the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust for 2022.

November

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Adopted an Internal Control Policy for Harvey County.
- Approved a Charter Resolution providing the bonding flexibility for road, highway, and street improvements.
- Adopted a Federal Grant Procurement Policy for Harvey County.
- Received the third quarter financial report.
- Conducted the vote canvass for the Nov. 2, 2021 city/school general election.
- Approved the KDOT State Fiscal Year 2023 Public Transportation Grant Application.
- Received a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

- Adopted a COVID-19 Premium Pay Policy for Harvey County.
- Approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding for employee COVID-19 premium pay.
- Approved an agreement with BKD, LLP for grant management and compliance services for the American Rescue Plan Act.
- Approved a mutual aid agreement with the City of Hesston for the Harvey County Emergency Response Team.
- Approved repairing the dam overflow pipe at Camp Hawk.
- Awarded a contract to Pearson Construction for the Hesston Road reconstruction project.
- Held a budget hearing and approved amending the 2021 Harvey County budget.

December

- Received weekly public health preparedness updates from the Health Department related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Presented longevity awards to employees with between five and 30 years of service.
- Presented a retirement plaque to Linda Kientz for retiring after working for Harvey County for 36 years.
- Approved the revised Harvey County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Approved a Kansas Opioids Memorandum of Understanding with the Kansas Attorney General, League of Kansas Municipalities, and the Kansas Association of Counties.
- Approved the CIC annual Peopleware agreement renewal for maintenance and enhancements.
- Approved a contract with the Harvey County Legal Services Panel.

Harvey County Departmental Highlights and Accomplishments

Administration

- Completed close-out of the CARES funding program and began programming for American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- Facilitated the organization's transition to the Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) for workers compensation insurance.
- Enrolled 27 new employees and facilitated 72 media requests, 80 media releases, and 22 media conferences.
- Worked through the transition of several department heads and leadership positions.
- Received positive audit and single audit results, and adopted a 2022 budget that maintains reliable, timely services for our citizens and includes a responsible, forward-thinking general fund balance.

Aging

- Interurban Transportation provided essential rides for medical, pharmacy and grocery visits, increasing the number of rides over 2020 by approximately 300. This increase occurred while continuing to observe social distancing and masking mandates established by the Kansas Department of Transportation.
- RSVP collected food for The Salvation Army during the Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 9/11 Days of Service, exceeding its collection goal with a total monetary value of \$4,876.
- Organized electronic and paper files to streamline processes and increase productivity, and resumed in-person advisory council meetings.
- Created first social media post for Facebook and Twitter, along with creating the "As We Age, supporting the journey" newsletter to support citizens looking for reliable information and support as they age. This will also help to meet CPAAA grant requirements.
- Identified needed training and network meetings for staff to sharpen and increase their knowledge on topics to support older adults in varying situations.

Appraiser

- Revalued real estate, personal property, and oil and gas.
- Achieved compliance by the State of Kansas.
- Received new aerial photography to appraise properties, which included change data to easily identify changes since the last flyover.
- Pam Thomas completed the requirements to receive her Registered Mass Appraisal designation.

Attorney's Office

- Oversaw the transition of newly-elected county attorney Jason Lane.
- This fall the County Attorney's Office, together with the Court and other community partners started a local drug court program that focuses in on treatment and preventing recidivism for people charged with drug and other related crimes.
- In 2021 the County Attorney's Office joined the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT). DVRT is a group of community members including Newton Police Department,

Newton City Prosecutors Office and Safehope tasked with tracking trends, providing training and supporting victims in domestic violence cases.

- In July 2021 the County Attorney's Office conducted our first post-covid jury trial. Masks, screening, plexiglas, spaced jury selection and video conference technology made it possible for the trial to meet the safety standards set by the State. The County Attorney's Office continues to meet the adjusting safety needs of the Court and the community throughout the pandemic.
- So far in 2021 the County Attorney's Office has filed 615 adult criminal cases, 81 juvenile offender cases, 1207 traffic cases, 34 child in need of care cases, 65 care and treatment cases and 122 asset forfeiture cases.

Clerk/Election Office

- Planned and implemented successful Special Election for USD 439 in August and City/School General Election in November.
- Began process of acquiring new election equipment, including receiving Commission approval to purchase the equipment from Clear Ballot Group, Inc. for a total cost not exceeding \$233,635.
- Implemented requirements of new "Truth in Taxation" legislation (SB 13), including calculating and distributing revenue neutral rates and assisting entities with compliance.

Communications

- Serviced an increased call volume despite staff vacancies and time missed due to COVID-19 precautions.
- Continued work to update our EMD protocols from NAED to APCO. Worked with the EMS chiefs and our medical director to assure this new program will be the best for dispatchers, responders and citizens.
- Replaced microwave dish, tower lights and radio site battery backup.

District Court

- Swore in a new District Court judge.
- Planned and launched the first ever Harvey County Drug Court.
- Hosted virtual court and livestream court proceedings.
- Resumed jury trials while implementing COVID-19 precautions.

Emergency Management

- Worked in conjunction with the Community Chaplain Response Team – with initial funding from the Central Kansas Community Foundation – to organize training for the first Harvey County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Through the Hazard Mitigation Grants Program, acquired outdoor warning sirens for East Park and West Park. Both sirens have public address capability.
- Completed a major revision of the 2014 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This revision also added several new components to the EOP, including dip sites and a debris management plan.

- Enhanced the capability of the shelter trailer located within Harvey County to provide immediate resources for establishing a public shelter. This trailer is one of 12 trailers located in South Central Kansas, in addition to resources from the American Red Cross.
- Facilitated planning and organizational approach toward COVID-19, including: setup of logistics to forecast, evaluate availability, prioritize PPE needs, acquire and distribute PPE; foster partnerships with community agencies to identify community needs; sought out opportunities to support the health care response; and provided logistical support to the Health Department for Point of Dispensing (POD).

Health

- Coordinated and managed COVID-19 pandemic demands with partners as a countywide effort, increasing department size for disease investigations and contact tracing.
- Conducted efficient vaccine scheduling and COVID-19 Point of Dispensing (POD), partnering with the Harvey County Department on Aging/RSVP for volunteers and adding temporary qualified staff to ensure a smooth operation of POD.
- Advanced Community Health Improvement Plan with development of Behavioral Health Team, Creative Placemaking outreach to include Newton Housing Authority, expansion of Harvey County Farmers Market as a destination, and initiation of partnership of Walk & Roll Harvey with Newton Murals and Art Project.
- Women, Infants, and Children program increased outreach of clients through 2021, with 85 percent average enrolled participation from January to October – an increase of 4 percent over the previous year. In October, WIC reached 89 percent (584 clients) of enrollees.
- Awarded two multi-year COVID-19-specific grants to ensure continuity of response to pandemic with vaccine distribution and staffing for investigation and contact tracing, totaling \$431,358.

Information Technology

- Maintained computer services for the County with minimal service downtime.
- Provided phone and computer support, along with managed IT service for County departments.
- Installed a new server, NAS units and 73 new computers. Also reformatted approximately 40 computers for reuse.
- Completed four projects in conjunction with managed service, including network cleanup, server and NAS installation and upgraded Lotus Notes server and software.

Maintenance

- Installed a wall mount eyewash station in the Detention Center chase area near the interior entry to the boiler room.
- Facilitated the replacement of the RTU-1/HVAC rooftop unit at the Detention Center.
- Facilitated the upgrade of the HVAC Control System at the Detention Center.
- Facilitated the replacement of the original domestic hot water tanks and equipment at the Detention Center with three boilers – two 500-gallon storage tanks and a water softening system.
- Installed new stair tread in the east stairwell of the Law Enforcement Center building.

Noxious Weed

- Sprayed 1,963 acres of roadside in the county and townships.
- Completed annual spraying in West Park (sandbur) and at shooting range.
- Acquired and installed snow blade for ATV to push snow at the Courthouse.
- Acquired and installed lightning suppressor on CAT 6 cable coming into Noxious Weed building.
- Acquired two new computers with solid state drives along with two battery backups for the office.

Parks

- Started construction on new Bait Shop/Parks department office facility.
- Assisted with the completion of several Eagle Scout projects (fish habitat at East Park and West Park, landscaping at Camp Hawk, trail markers at East Park).
- Public alert warning systems installed at East Park and West Park.
- Negotiated five-year hunting agreement with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, adding archery turkey hunting.
- Exceeded 2020 revenue. Through November 2021, East Park is at \$211,588.14 vs. \$190,588.14 through November 2020. West Park is at \$108,674.78 through November 2021 vs. \$74,792.66 through November 2020 (this is without any Trapper's Rendezvous revenue as 2021 Trappers was canceled due to COVID-19) and Camp Hawk is at \$39,846.79 vs. \$23,019.59 for the same dates. Thirty-nine percent above budgeted revenues year-to-date.

Planning, Zoning, and Environmental

- Hired Marvin Planning Consultants to begin compilation of new comprehensive plan for Harvey County, including opening online survey for public feedback and scheduling upcoming meetings for next phase of the plan.
- Real estate inspections increased from 27 in 2020 to 38 as of Dec. 1, 2021, and extended outreach to realtors to let them know requirements for inspection as homes come on the market.
- New floodplain maps were proposed, including review by county officials. The maps are now in the engineer study phase, which will become more detailed and be mapped with floodways.
- Facilitated 73 building permit applications as of Dec. 1. Fourteen of the permits were for new homes. As of Dec. 1, 25 sewer permits and 24 water well permits have been issued.
- The planning commission met four times in 2021. In April, they recommended the approval of a solar farm that was built by Butler Electric at the corner of First Street and East Lake Road. In July, they recommended approval for Kaye Electric to relocate to the 3400 block of South Anderson Avenue and approved the Orpin Estate Plat. They also met in December on a conditional use permit for a welding/fabrication business located in the 7000 block of S. Prairie Lake Rd.

Register of Deeds

- Handled documents efficiently to ensure the index books are current.
- Continued training for passport recertification.
- Raquel Langley attended Register of Deeds school.

Road and Bridge

- Completed the bituminous overlay project – 4.61 miles by APAC-Kansas.
- Completed the bituminous seal project – 20.31 miles by Vance Brothers.
- Completed the bridge G-27.5 replacement (Southeast 36th Street, between South Webb and South East Lake roads) – by Mies Construction.
- Completed the culvert C-23.1 replacement (Southeast 84th Street, just east of South Hillside Road) – by Klaver Construction.
- Completed the planning and bid letting for the Hesston Road rehabilitation project, with bid awarded to Pearson Construction.

Sheriff's Office

- Replaced the rooftop unit at the Detention Center.
- Replaced the domestic hot water system and added a water softener for the Detention Center.
- Completed the indoor gun range in the Law Enforcement Center.
- Obtained some body cameras from a grant and began deploying those tools in the field.

Solid Waste

- Completed the fencing project around the facility.
- Completed construction of the household hazardous waste awning.
- Passed all Kansas Department of Health and Environment inspections.

Treasurer's Office

- Completed ikan setup for online payments, which is working well.
- Completed the tax foreclosure sale, with 10 properties and a total of \$22,550 collected.
- Trained a motor vehicle clerk in the commercial motor vehicle registration system.
- Cleaned up backroom office to create motor vehicle and commercial motor vehicle training area using current computers.
- Transitioned new county treasurer, Amanda Hitschmann.