



April 14, 2020

## City Manager's Report

The City continues to work with State and Local health department officials to keep our citizens and staff safe as the COVID-19 disease continues to spread throughout the United States. As I write this, 1.65 million people worldwide are reported to be infected, and more than 100,000 have died...in the US we are nearing 500,000 infected and 18,000 dead. In Oklahoma, reports tell us there are 1,794 cases and 88 deaths. In Logan county, 7 confirmed cases have been reported. I write this more for posterity than actual reporting as the numbers are climbing even as I type this, but I want to remember these moments as we look back in this time. I am proud of each of the responses this Council and The City of Crescent have made. We acted early and have taken pro-active but measured steps at each inflection point. We have prioritized the health of our citizens, friends and families but not at the expense of liberty.

Our COVID-19 response began more than a month ago, and I reported to council last month that we had begun acquiring supplies necessary to deal with our response. Those requirements have changed as more was discovered about the disease, but I am happy to report we have adequate supplies of PPE across all departments for the immediate time frame. Our Police Chief, Andy Stephens (also our Emergency Manager) has provided a detail account of our response to date in his report. Also, an account of our continued response along with information and resources has been made available at [www.cityofcrescent.com/covid19](http://www.cityofcrescent.com/covid19). I intend to leave that page up permanently as a record of events. Part of our response was the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center. Costs for this service are expected to be reimbursed by FEMA and employment was first offered to staff who would have otherwise been displaced due to COVID-19 related closures.

The SCADA system is functioning to control our freshwater system. Controlling the freshwater system took a large amount of time from staff. The wastewater part of the SCADA system will take another couple months to complete. The primary wastewater lift station had additional electrical damage that was uncovered as the installation progressed, and the decision was made that it would be cheaper for the insurance company to replace everything than to work around the few archaic components that would remain. The reduced workload by automating the freshwater system has been a relief for the public works employees.

The automatic reading water meter system is in the process of being upgraded to its final configuration. The permanently attached meter reading antenna was installed on the old water tower behind the Fire Department, as that location showed the best radio signal. The system should be online next month, assuming the hardware installation personnel can secure airline travel. Interim Public Works Supervisor, Nick Powell is using the time saved by automating the fresh water system to start catching up on the maintenance of the town. Because of the reduced traffic, you will see an increased focus on roads and parks.



**Roads:** We are still applying cold patch asphalt to fill the worst potholes. We will resume using hot patch for our repairs when the weather warms up. We are still waiting for the weather to warm to apply asphalt to the library parking lot in completion of our REAP grant. We are planning projects that include cleaning plugged drain culverts and adding additional culverts where required.

**Admin:** Sales Tax: March: \$30,419.00 We are currently 75% of the way through the fiscal period, reports show that General Government has spent 74.5% of our planned expenditures and received 76.4% of our expected revenues. Those numbers look good but include insurance funds for damages incurred through the year. Actual tax revenues have declined substantially below our budget projections, and the City continues to take steps to reduce expenses and cut costs. Public Works have spent 78.8% of our planned expenditures and received 86.8% of our expected revenues. Again...these numbers are skewed by receipt of insurance and grant funds. Because of the economic effects expected by the COVID-19 disease, further steps to cut costs will be required.

**Projects:** The water meter contractor has installed a fixed antenna and is completing the final configuration of our auto read water meters. The SCADA contractor has completed the freshwater system installation and working on the wastewater system. The library parking and driveway project is prepared for final compaction and asphalt when the weather is warm enough to install it. FEMA has funded \$43,801.68 which is portion of the total assistance expected for damages incurred during the Spring storm season. These funds will allow us to start repairing some of the damages incurred. The Pool Project is continuing to move forward.

**Parks:** Public Works has prepared the landscape equipment and has begun maintenance for the spring season. The playground equipment, stage, marketplace and pavilion are currently closed, but the rest of the parks and walking track are open to enjoy some time outdoors (maintaining social distance) during the stay-at-home order.

**Library:** Currently closed. The librarian has been assisting with folks who would like to join the free virtual services offered by our library on the Overdrive platform. If you enjoy reading or listening on your mobile device, please check out this free service. You may virtually check out many library resources including books and audio books for free.

-Ryan Wallace, City Manager