

REPORT DATE	MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
4/16/25	4/21/25	M. Engels

[illegible]

## NOTES:

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### Administration:

We moved some reserve money into a higher yield CD. We can keep this money there as long as it is performing well or until Council decides we need it for equipment or project.

Staff has started working on 2026 Budget at the direction of our SME Council Member Claycamp. We've begun with the intent of continuing the direction of an expanded sales tax column and a contracted property tax column. This will allow us to not exceed the RNR rate again this year. I have included some bullet points for you as an attachment to this report. Our County valuation number to plug into our equation will arrive by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

A budget not exceeding the RNR rate will put us on this timeline:

Timeline if NOT Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate

June 15<sup>th</sup> – County Clerk shall provide valuations to taxing subdivisions including revenue neutral rate.

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day for Governing bodies to notify the County Clerk of intent to NOT exceed revenue neutral rate.

August 4<sup>th</sup> – Publish Notice of Budget Hearing in newspaper.

August 15<sup>th</sup> – Hold budget hearing at least 10 days after published Notice of Budget Hearing.

August 15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – Governing body formally adopts budget.

August 25<sup>th</sup> – Governing body electronically certifies signed budget to County Clerk.

I am working on a pond improvement grant through Kansas Wildlife and Parks that would improve fishing access through a fishing dock. Deadline for submission is June, awards announced in August, grants are for the 2026 fiscal year.

Last weeks conference in Lawrence focused on City/County partnerships, Legislative interaction, navigating a younger workforce, ADA digital compliance, and some good networking.

If you recall, about a week before I started, I asked you to have a zoom meeting in order to approve participation in an Opioid settlement through the State Attorney Generals office. Since then, the amount received is \$5314.88. This will continue to be an annual dispersment. I will be attending a class on Friday that will let us know of our options on how to use this settlement. This event will be reimbursed by the Attorney General.

Benton Day is approaching! Once again we are hoping for great weather and turnout. The City will continue to work on preparing and staffing for the day.

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## Maintenance:

I have attached a copy of our State Water System Audit. The crew did great.

Maintenance completed their spring training to update their water and sewer system operators certificates. These are necessary for us to operate our systems as well as we do.

We removed 40+ smaller Bradford Pears from the trail area and replaced them with some Arborvitaes and Pines. I should have planted more trees when I was younger.

The crew also redirected some drainage that was too close to the trail at the south trailhead at Olive street. This wasn't a small project and we have it ready for the T-bird Trot Race on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mowing season is upon us. Along with weed spraying and getting our grounds back in spring/summer conditions.

Street work has started. On our end, we are crack sealing when we can split the crew up and preparing to concrete a few radii on N Wichita and Ohio. Our contractor has finished some asphalt repair on Wichita Street and they have marked areas for slurry and the crew will schedule us in.

Sewer: This year we are scheduled for regular cleaning and an offset line repair north of Durley between Wichita and Ohio streets. This is our main collection line for everything south of the railroad tracks that feeds north to Litson. We will be able to get this work done within budgeted operational expenses.

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March 20, 2025

Matt Engels  
City Of Benton  
154 S Main  
Po Box 388  
Benton, KS 67017

Re: Public Water Supply - Sanitary Survey Inspection  
Federal ID No.: KS2001507

Dear Matt Engels:

The Department of Health and Environment would like to thank you and the site visit participants for the courtesy and assistance provided during the March 17, 2025 sanitary survey inspection of the public water supply system for City Of Benton. These inspections are part of our program to ensure compliance with Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.). This letter confirms and supplements items noted during the inspection. If applicable, violations occurring during the last 24 months are included as an attachment to this letter.

#### Parties Present

Name	Organization
Amanda Smyth	KDHE
Kylie Crane	BENTON, CITY OF

#### Deficiencies for Resolution

#### Recommendations

Although not deficiencies, the following observations made at the time of the inspection have the potential to result in deficiencies in the near future. KDHE strongly recommends that the following recommendations be addressed to maintain compliance with primary drinking water regulations.

- KDHE recommends that all systems check chlorine colorimeters for calibration regularly (at least annually, preferably quarterly). This can be accomplished by using secondary standards appropriate for the system's meter or by testing meters against each other - either comparing multiple meters owned by the system or by testing the system's meter against one owned by another system.

#### General Observations

#### Reminders

- K.A.R. 28-15a-33 requires the owner or operator of a public water supply system to retain on its premises, or at a convenient location near its premises, records regarding the compliance activities associated with operating and maintaining the water system. These records are required to be maintained for a specific period of time ranging from three to ten years. In order to ensure that all records are maintained on file for the required period of time, the KDHE recommends that **all** records

regarding your public water supply system be maintained for a minimum of ten years with the exception of K.A.R. 28-15a-91 which requires water systems to retain the records of lead and copper monitoring for no fewer than 12 years.

- According to K.A.R. 28-15-16, all plans for the future use of a source of supply, treatment, construction of new wells, water treatment plants, pumping stations, finished water storage facilities and distribution facilities including waterline extensions used in connection with the public water supply system must be approved by KDHE in our Topeka office prior to construction. A permit application must be submitted and approved by KDHE for any such improvements, except that while waterlines less than one mile in length do not require a permit application to accompany the submittal documents.
- K.A.R. 28-15-18(b) requires that you immediately notify the department and responsible local officials when a major breakdown or serious loss of water service occurs which presents or may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health.
- Ten hours of training are required during every two-year renewal period for Class I - IV water and wastewater operators. Five hours of training are required every two years for Small Systems operators. Failure to attain the required continuing education will result in non-renewal of an operator's certificate. Please contact the Technical Services Section - Operator Training office at (785) 296-5511 or my office if you need a list of training classes and dates.

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this letter please contact me by telephone at 316-337-6058 or by e-mail at [amanda.j.smyth@ks.gov](mailto:amanda.j.smyth@ks.gov).

Sincerely,



Amanda Smyth  
Envr Comp Reg Spec

pc: Crane, Kylie, Operator  
1.2 File  
eFile

## Attachments

### SAMPLING HISTORY and VIOLATIONS

#### Bacteriological Sampling History

Positive bacteriological sampling history for the past 2 years

There were no positive TCR samples for this water system for the past 2 years.

Samples that were rejected by the lab during the past 2 years

Sample Number	Sample Type	Collection Date	Location	Reject Reason
2880821	RT	Feb 11, 2025	2650 N ANDOVER RD	LA
2458252	RT	Apr 04, 2023	SAMPLE NOT PICKED UP	LM
2458253	RT	Apr 04, 2023	SAMPLE NOT PICKED UP	LM

#### Violation History

Monitoring Violations during the past 2 years

There were no Monitoring violations for this water system for the past 2 years.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Violations during the past 2 years

There were no MCL violations for this water system for the past 2 years.

Other Violations during the past 2 years

Violation ID	Violation Date	Violation Type
321	Feb 21, 2024	71 -CCR REPORT
322	Feb 21, 2024	72 -CCR ADEQUACY/AVAILABILITY/CONTENT

**2025 Benton Day**

# **CORNHOLE** *Tournament*

**Sponsored by the Benton Police Department**

**April 26, 2025**

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Getty Stock



**Prizes for 1st and 2nd Place**  
**Prizes based on entry fees collected**

**Registration \$20 per team double elimination**

Pre-registration required. Contact Chief Kichler to register.  
Onsite registration and fee payment begins at noon on day of event.  
Event limited to 25 teams.

**CALL 316-778-1818 | [kkichler@bentonks.org](mailto:kkichler@bentonks.org)**



2nd Annual

# KID'S FISHING DERBY

@ The Benton Pond



Reel in the  
Big One!

**Saturday  
May 31st**

**OPEN TO KIDS AGES 16 YEARS & YOUNGER**

**Prizes for Biggest and Most Fish Caught**

**Watch Facebook for Updates and More Information**

**Fishing Starts at 9 am**

**Our FB page Police Department Benton Kansas**

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# Councilman Claycamp

## Open Discussion

### Budget Points 2026

- Proposing workshop for Councilmembers between April and May meetings.
  - Line by line discussion of the budget as is being proposed.
- Revenue Neutral Rate resolution required by June 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Resolution is required if we intend to exceed the RNR for 2026.
  - At this time, there is no intention of exceeding the RNR for 2026.
- Current working proposal has the mill levy rate not to exceed 44.
  - 2023: 59.332 - 4<sup>th</sup> highest in Butler County out of 13 cities.
  - 2024: 51.891 - 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the County out of 13 cities.
  - 2025: 46.776 - 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the County out of 13 cities.
  - 2026: <44 - would put us at 9<sup>th</sup> highest in the County out of 13 cities.
    - The goal is to remain in the 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> spots to make our town more attractive for development.
    - Mill levy decrease of 25.07% is the best reduction in Butler County.
- Reduction in Property Tax Dollars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year.
  - 2024: \$826,736
  - 2025: \$711,917
  - 2026: \$680,000 (early goal without a valuation variable yet)
- General Fund expenses will remain the same as 2025. 0% increase.
- End of year transfers to increase from \$325,000 to \$455,000 due to better performance in our Water/Sewer department and sales tax collection. Shift to emphasis on Capital Reserve Fund as promised through the sales tax vote.
- Targeting July for public input workshop with an August meeting approval for the 2026 budget.

## Open Discussion

### Public Feedback

Questions to the community: What growth would you like to see within the community? What should our target population be? What is the number where you feel like Benton is no longer a small town?

#### 4 Primary Takeaways from CDP:

1. Lower Tax Rate
2. More amenities within the community
3. More businesses/restaurants within the community.
4. Additional housing options.

Also heard repeatedly:

I want Benton to remain a small town as that is why I moved/live here.

Question will be posted on City of Benton, KS Facebook page.

For those wishing to keep their opinions anonymous, please email Councilman Claycamp directly at [dclaycamp@bentonks.org](mailto:dclaycamp@bentonks.org).

## Executive Session motion

Moved:

That the governing body recess into executive session IAW K.S.A. 75-4319(b) to discuss non-elected personnel matters/attorney client privilege. Further, required to attend this session is the Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and the City Council. Further, that the governing body return to open session at \_\_\_\_\_PM