ACCO COUNTY VOL. 16 Issue 3 October 3, 2022 CROSSROADS

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Fall Conference - November 2nd & 3rd, 2022 TENTATIVE 2022 ACCO FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA Pg. 25





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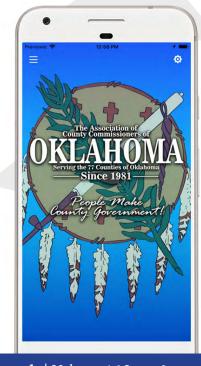


IN YOUR APP STORE

SEARCH FOR: COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OK







From the Desk of the President

Author: Russell Earls, Ottawa County Commissioner, ACCO President

As I reflect back on the journey through county government that began in 1998, the things that stand out to me the most are the wonderful people that work in county government. They truly become your second family, you get to know their children and their grandchildren, when they've been sick or hurt and when they're having birthdays.

The courthouses, the jails, the roads and the bridges, are all necessities that will come and go, but the friendships will last a lifetime. My first family is where my strength comes from, always cheering me on to serve in my county role, helping others and hopefully leaving the wood pile a little higher than I found it. I am honored and humbled to serve the citizens of Ottawa County and of the counties of this great state we call home, OKLAHOMA.





As I turn the page to the next chapter, my hope is that the men and women of county government will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them through county government, networking with colleagues across the state, utilizing the wonderfully talented men and women that work for them tirelessly at the Association of County Commissioners, (ACCO). In doing so, all things great and small are possible. I will not say goodbye, I WILL see you down the road.

Best regards Your Friend, Russell Earls







Change is Coming

Author: Chris Schroder, ACCO Executive Director

When talking about change, I could discuss a number of issues counties have faced the last couple of years. Some of these may ring a bell; CARES Act funding, ARPA funding, COVID, IIJA funding, legislative changes, and the list goes on.

But I want to discuss one of the biggest changes we will face as we approach 2023, elections and newly elected county commissioners. Following the primary and run-off primary, we will have 61 new county commissioners taking office in 2023 on top of 7 other commissioners that have been elected through special elections in the past year and a half. This does not include any new commissioners that may be elected in the November general election that could push this number north of 70. When looking through historical records, it appears this will be the largest class of new commissioners on record.

When we dig a little deeper, we find there will be in 21 counties in 2023 with two new commissioners. Of these 21 counties, 11 of them have a district two commissioner that was elected last election cycle which means they have less than two years' of experience.

A lot of people have asked why such the large turnover. First, we had a higher number of commissioners looking to retire than past years. Many because of their years of service to the county and others to the rigor of being a locally elected official. We also lost several commissioners to the realities of elections and the republic we live in.

Some of the new commissioners will enter the job with experience as a first deputy or

from another department within the county. Others will be new to county government and starting at ground zero. Regardless of their background, they have earned the public's trust in representing their needs.

As an association, it is important we start working with these new officers now to form a relationship and be a resource for their future needs. Following the general election, we will begin that process with our new commissioner training the first week of December. Our training will be extensive and cover many topics critical to their position including transportation, employment, safety and loss control, insurance, open meetings, emergency management, drug and alcohol testing, and much more.

As for our current commissioners, your role as mentors may be more important than any training we can provide. Many times, pier to pier conversations provide guidance that can't be taught in a classroom. We encourage the new commissioners to attend conferences, district meetings, and CED meetings to have these conversations with current commissioners. Experience is a valuable tool that does not change.



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School Bus Routes

Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

The media's attention was captured when the Oklahoma Department of Transportation sent out notifications earlier this year to all 547 school districts with bridges that are posted 18 tons or less. I was interviewed in September by two news outlets from Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Both asking about county bridges that school buses should avoid and not cross. Below are links to their articles.

- 1. <u>https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-unsafe-bridges-school-buses/41134466</u>
- 2. <u>https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/odot-warns-oklahoma-schools-districts-of-critical-weight-bridges</u>

Two of the most common school bus types are Type D and C. The 18-ton value would correspond to a fully loaded Type D, transit styled bus, while a Type C is school bus model that we typically see in Oklahoma, as a standard bus, weighing 15 tons fully loaded. The Type D is seen to be used more in suburban and urban school districts or as activity buses.

Type D



Type C



School bus type	Weight in pounds empty	Weight in pounds full	
Type A-1	10,000	14,500	
Type A-2	10,000	21,500	
Type B	10,000	21,500	
Type C	15,500	30,000	
Type D	25,000	36,000	

The link below shows ODOT's map with the bridge sites posted 18 tons or less that should not be crossed with a school bus.

https://okdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2ce3ef3920b8471f97968e027f4f0a9f

ODOT was prompted to send this information out to school districts by the Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency, LOFT, Report: 21-345-02, "Priority Evaluation: County Improvements for Roads and Bridges" published in June 2021. One of the report's ODOT recommendations stated, "The Oklahoma Department of Transportation should adopt policies for increased coordination with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and counties to improve communication and data sharing regarding school bus critical bridges."

Muskogee County Commissioner Ken Doke discussed a broader issue in the 2News report above. A bridge is defined by the Federal government as a structure 20' or longer. Federal funds are used to conduct routine bridge inspections once every two years and these funds are also used for repair and replacement costs. As of March 2022, the County Highway System consists of 13,141 bridge length structures with 1,538 deemed as deficient. Commissioner Doke stated that he is more concerned over structures less than 20', which are not inspected and where the majority of federal funds are not directed to. Statewide, we do not have a comprehensive number, load rating or condition of these structures. Vehicles over weight for the conditions damage county roads and bridges. These vehicle operators are less likely to be caught on the County Highway System by the Highway Patrol, due to the vast mileage OHP has to cover.

With 83,055 miles of county roads the task of collecting information will be daunting. We may be able to start with collecting information on counties' major and/or minor collectors, which comprise of 18,000 miles of the 83,000. ODOT will be providing a webpage titled "County Certification Dashboard", to include a total number of miles and map of a county's major and minor collector roads. With this information a county could begin looking at compiling information on these roads and structures less than 20.

https://okdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/df8468054ce343c1b98dbb94f736e284

We have developed a "Data Dictionary" and a data naming system; a county should use for consistent collection of information statewide. The difficulty will be in the cost to collect and maintain this information. It is imperative that we work towards this goal for the safety of the traveling public.



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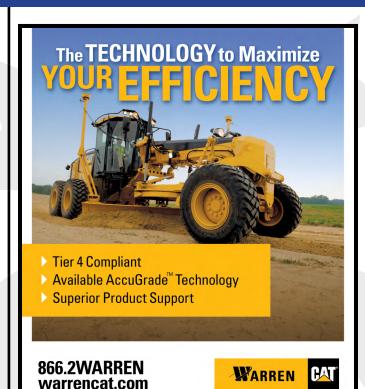
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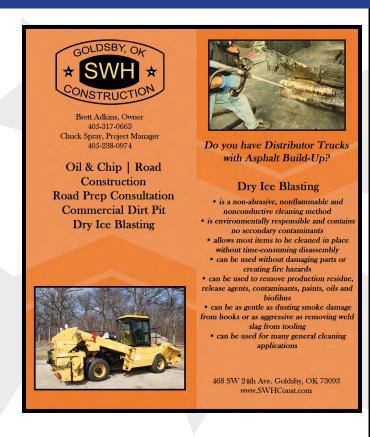
















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McClain County

Author: Barbara Manelski





McClain County is located in south central Oklahoma and the county seat is Purcell. The county was named for Charles M. McClain, an Oklahoma constitutional convention attendee.

The Chickasaw tribe began moving into this area in 1837, when the land had already been assigned to the Choctaws by the U.S. government. In 1855, the area became part of the Chickasaw Nation, after the two tribes officially separated. The present McClain County became part of Pontotoc County, Chickasaw Nation and remained such until Oklahoma attained statehood. Few Chickasaws lived here because of hostilities with western tribes (e.g., Kiowa). Major Richard Mason established Camp Holmes (also called Camp Mason) in 1835, near the present city of Lexington, while negotiating a treaty between the western tribes and the newly arrived Choctaws. Federal troops abandoned the camp in August 1835, after the Treaty of Camp Holmes was signed.

Auguste Pierre Chouteau built a trading post at the Camp Holmes site, but it closed after Chouteau died

in 1838. Randolph Marcy is credited with bringing the California Road through this area in 1849. The U.S. Army built Camp Arbuckle in 1850 to protect the road, but the troops were withdrawn to what is now Garvin County, Oklahoma in the following year.

Jesse Chisholm also operated a trading post in this area around 1850. A group of Delaware Indians occupied the former camp, then known as Beaversville, but left before the outbreak of the Civil War.

Montford T. Johnson, a rancher, moved to this area after the Civil War. He and Jesse Chisholm, who acted as the negotiator, obtained an agreement with the Chickasaw leaders to allow ranching on their land, provided no whites were employed. Thereafter, Johnson built a ranch and hired a Chickasaw freedman to operate it. He then established other ranches and hired another freedman to run those.



The Southern Kansas Railway built a line south from Kansas to present McClain County in 1886–7, and the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway (both of which were controlled by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, AT&SF) built a line north from Texas, meeting at and founding the town of Purcell. Eastern Oklahoma Railroad (later acquired by the AT&SF) laid tracks in 1900-04 from Newkirk to Pauls Valley, passing through eastern McClain County. In 1906 the Oklahoma Central Railway (sold to AT&SF in 1914) built a line that traversed McClain County from the southeast to the northwest. It ran through Byars and Purcell, and established Washington, Cole, and Blanchard.



Purcell was a starting point for the Land Run of 1889. It also was at the dividing line between Indian Territory, where alcohol could not be sold, and Oklahoma Territory, where alcohol sale was legal. The town of Lexington, across the river from Purcell, had numerous saloons. In 1899, the Purcell Bridge

Company built a toll bridge across the river, profiting from the alcohol trade.

The county economy has been based primarily on agriculture and cattle raising. Each town had its own cotton gin early in the 1900s. Purcell had a flour mill. Otherwise, there was little industrial activity. Many county residents commute to work in the Oklahoma City area. Mid-America Area Vo-Tech opened in 1971 to provide vocational education to students. Duke Energy North America built a power plant (which it sold to NRG Energy, Inc., that year) near Newcastle in 2001. The Chickasaw Nation operated a gaming casino at Newcastle.



Information provided in part by: https://en.wikipedia.org/wikiMcClain_County%2C_Oklahoma

Photos provided in part by Dinah Alizedah, City of Newcastle & Pam Beller, McClain County



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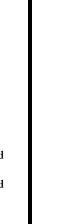
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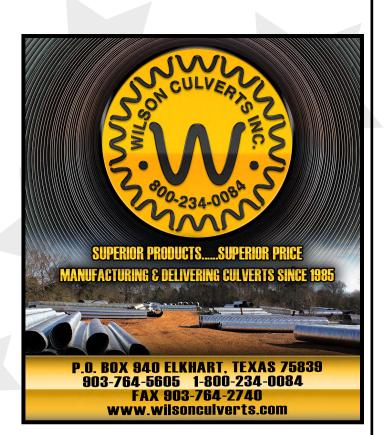
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Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse: New Requirement for CDL Holders & County

Author: Dale Frech

Effective January 6, 2020, there is a new requirement for Counties and all CDL holders. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has established a database of drug and alcohol testing violations for CDL holders. After January 6th, 2023, this will eliminate the requirement to do D&A testing background checks for CDL new hires with all previous employers for the past 3 years. The Clearinghouse will enforce the drug and alcohol testing requirements by not allowing a driver with a violation to get a clear report to start a new job or renew their CDL until the required process has been completed. This is a part of Congresses MAP-21. This has been developed to increase safety on our nation's roadways. It will provide real-time access to reported violation information, make it easier for employers to meet pre-employment investigations, make it more difficult for dishonest drivers to conceal drug and alcohol violations, and provide more insight by FMCSA into employer compliance with drug and alcohol testing rules.

The Clearinghouse will be a database for employers and medical review officers to report drug and alcohol testing violations such as a positive test, refusals, altered specimens, etc. Substance abuse professionals will also report on the return to duty process including counseling and the required follow up testing. The database will be secure and only select registered users can access the records. Drivers will be able to access their own records any time for free. Other enforcement agencies, such as state drivers licensing agencies or law enforcement will only receive a driver's eligibility status.

The parties that will be required to use the Clearinghouse will be:

- o Drivers that hold Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL's) or Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP's)
- o Employers of CDL and CLP drivers that operate commercial motor vehicles
- o Consortia/third-party administrations-TPA (those that provide testing and other services)
- o Medical Review Officers
- o Substance Abuse Professionals
- o Law enforcement officials stopping a commercial motor vehicle
- o State Drivers Licensing Agencies

These users will be required to either report drug and alcohol program violations or completions, provide (or refuse) consent for others to check the database records (query) for violations of that driver, or run the query on the driver(s).

When the county is registering, you are usually not required to have a federal DOT number. You will be required to identify your TPA or the firm managing your drug testing process. Many TPA's are adding this service to sign up the county and perform their requirements of the Clearinghouse. Employees must create an account under whatever name the county's account is under. The employee will be required to provide consent for the county or TPA to run an annual "limited" query of their record. This can be done by simply having all employees sign a consent form. For new hires and for a record that has come back with a suspected violation, there must be a "full query" conducted for that individual's records. The employee must log into their Clearinghouse account and provide the employer or TPA authorization to perform this query. If an employee refuses to provide either type of release, the employer cannot allow them to perform any safety sensitive duties relating to a commercial motor vehicle. Similar to failing a drug or alcohol test, the employee may also be subject to disciplinary action.

I have been asked if a commissioner that has a CDL is required to join the county and have an annual query with the employees. Every CDL holder is required to join the clearinghouse. If the commissioner chooses not to be part of the county drug testing program and participate in the clearinghouse, they, like all other independent drivers, must hire a TPA to manage their account. Independent drivers, not employed by a company, cannot manage their own account and annually run a query on themselves. In order to renew their CDL after 2024, everyone has to show their license is being checked in the clearinghouse or it will be downgraded to a class D license.

There is no cost for registering with the Clearinghouse for anyone or for the employee to log in and look at their record. Employees are encouraged to view their records to ensure their information is accurate. There is a cost of \$1.25 for each individual queried. This cost is the same for both a limited and a full query and if a limited query has been run and a full query is required because something is found, there is not an additional charge for the full query. A full query in this case, would still require the employer to request and the employee to log into their individual account and provide permission to run the full query.

Paying for the query, even though such a small amount, may pose a problem. There are only a few acceptable methods for payment. Basically, a county either must provide a bank transfer after a PO or pay with a credit card (P card). The auditor's office suggested another possible solution would be to see if the District Attorney would provide a written opinion to allow the county to reimburse the commissioner or their designee for payment on a personal credit card similar to travel expenses. The county can purchase a query plan that will pay for either new hire or annual checks for all CDL holders for the year or years to come. There is no price break, each query is still \$1.25 per employee if purchasing one or 10,000. If a plan is purchased, they do not expire. Each query will simply be charged to that account until all queries in the plan are used up.

When the county runs a query, if it is a limited query, the county simply needs to have a consent signed by all CDL holders on file. The results will either come back "Result: Driver not prohibited" or "Result: Record(s) found; full query needed". If a full query is needed for this or if checking for a new hire CDL holder, the county must send the driver an electronic consent request using the drivers CDL number. The driver will be sent a consent requested from the Clearinghouse and can either check "I consent" or "I do not consent" if they have an account. The driver cannot be allowed to perform any duties relating to driving, loading, servicing, etc. a commercial vehicle until consent is given and a "Result: Driver not prohibited" result is received.

If a CDL employee fails (including a positive, refusal, adulterated, or substituted test result) a drug or alcohol test or fails or completes the return to duty process under the county's drug and alcohol testing program, the results must be reported to the Clearinghouse within two business days. The county can designate their TPA to perform this service if that is the agreement but still has the responsibility to ensure it gets reported. Information required includes the county name and/or TPA; driver's information such as name, CDL number, date of birth; type of violation, reason for the test (random, post accident, etc.); and date of test. For an employee that has violated a drug and alcohol testing provision and the county gives them a second chance, the county must also report a positive or negative return to duty test result and the date the driver successfully completed all follow-up testing ordered by the substance abuse professional.

The requirement for the Clearinghouse ads some very important requirements to counties. Every employer that uses drivers for commercial motor vehicles are under the same requirements. As long as the county uses a reputable drug and alcohol testing company, they will help ensure our responsibilities are fulfilled or they could also face potential fines. This process is intended to provide FMCSA the tools to ensure commercial drivers are held to a reasonable standard. Congress felt this was necessary to better ensure the safety of our roadways shared by all. If we stop and think, it is a good thing for FMCSA to enforce the individuals that violate a drug or alcohol test rather than requiring the employer.

There is a lot of information on the Clearinghouse at: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/

I am planning regional training concerning this and a couple other issues. There has been an added section to the ACCO model Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy. Everyone should have updated their drug testing policy since this rule went into effect in 2020. Contact me if you have any questions.

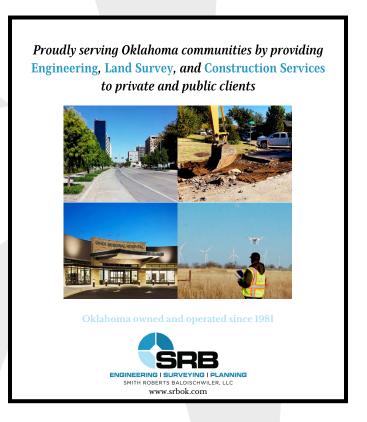


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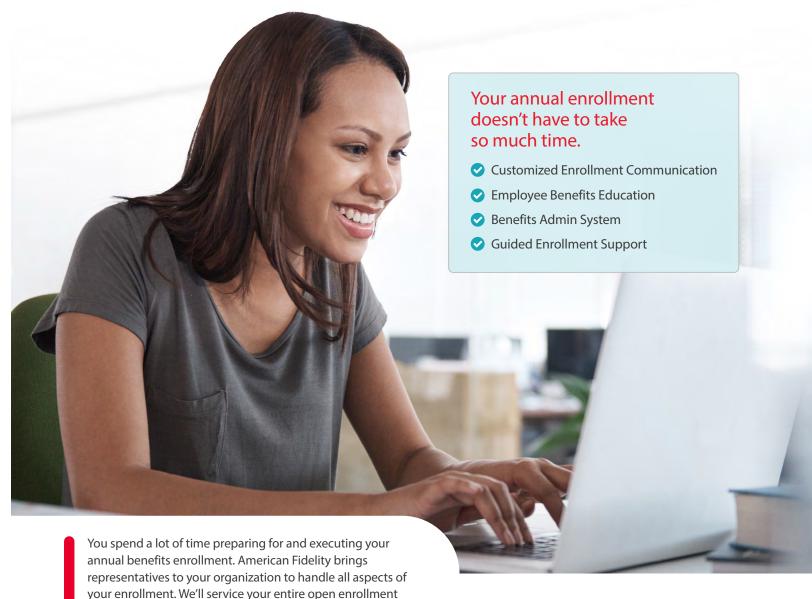








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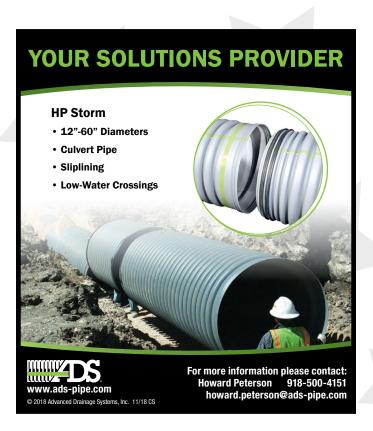
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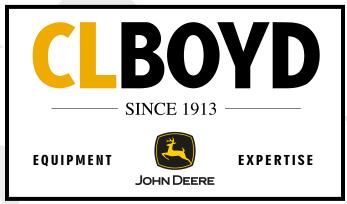
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Thousands of Oklahomans are missing an opportunity to lower their monthly internet bills. The federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program is available to help households pay for internet service, but few have signed up since the program's debut in December 2021.

The \$14.2 billion Affordable Connectivity Program is a continuation of the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit, which launched in April 2020 to help millions afford internet access during the pandemic.

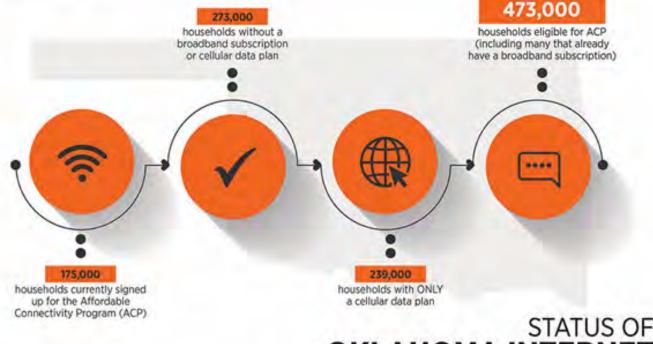
"We were a top five participant in the precursor program, but now Oklahoma ranks about 20th in Affordable Connectivity Program registrations," said Brian Whitacre, Oklahoma State University

Extension rural development specialist and recently elected chair of the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Council. "Other states have put more effort and money into the digital equity movement, and we're behind."

Discount details and who qualifies

Whitacre's research shows that of the total 1.5 million households in Oklahoma, only 175,000 are currently participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program. More than 400,000 additional households are eligible for the discount, including 273,000 with no active broadband subscription or cellular data plan. This translates to only a 35% participation rate among eligible households. Other states like Ohio, Louisiana and Kentucky have closer to 50% participation.

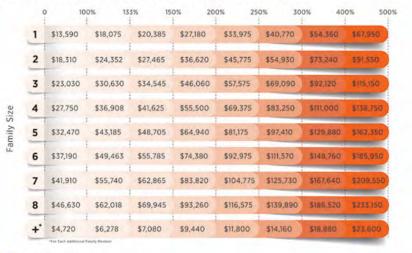
AGRICULTURE



OKLAHOMA INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

In the precursor program, residents were eligible if they made just barely over the poverty line, he said. Now, they can qualify if they make twice over the poverty line.

PERCENTAGES OVER 2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES



Residents can reference this chart to determine if their household income qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

"With inflation the way it is right now, every cost matters," Whitacre said. "If you've got a \$50 or \$80 internet bill, this program can really help."

Eligible households receive:

- Up to \$30 per month on internet service.
- Up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands (nearly all of Oklahoma qualifies for this larger amount, even if the household is not tribal).
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet (with a copayment of more than \$10 but less than \$50).

Most internet and broadband service providers participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

AGRICULTURE

Whitacre's rural development work in OSU Extension involves advocating for rural broadband access. He often speaks to community organizations across the state and provides information on the Affordable Connectivity Program. His target audiences include:

- Rural libraries and the Public Library Association.
- 4-H and Extension.
- Kiwanis Club and other community groups.
- Religious organizations.
- Public schools.

Eligible households must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC or Lifeline.
- Participates in tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF or Food Distribution Program on
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year.
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

For those personally registering for the program or helping others complete the process, please note the following required steps and personal information.

- Visit acpbenefit.org.
- Scroll down the page and click Apply Now.
- Provide legal name as well as a social security, tribal ID or driver's license/military ID, passport, taxpayer or other government ID number.
- Provide address and indicate if you qualify through a dependent or on your own
- Create an account and apply for ACP.
- Confirm personal information and provide a digital signature.
- Contact a service provider and indicate participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program for a discount.

Whitacre's rural connectivity research shows signing up for broadband internet access increases business activity, reduces unemployment levels and boosts entrepreneurship in rural areas. By 2026, the goal is for 90% of all Oklahomans to have in-home access compared to today's rate of about 80%.

"The amount of federal money behind broadband internet right now should connect most of the country with good, quality internet within the next five to 10 years everywhere," Whitacre said. "An internet connection is important, but it's only effective if people take advantage of it."

In August of 2022, the Federal Communications Commission established the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program to promote the nation's largest ever broadband affordability effort. Grants will support governmental and non-governmental partners in conducting outreach activities to raise awareness of ACP and increase enrollment among eligible households.

Whitacre can answer additional questions about rural internet service and the Affordable Connectivity Program at brian.whitacre@okstate.edu







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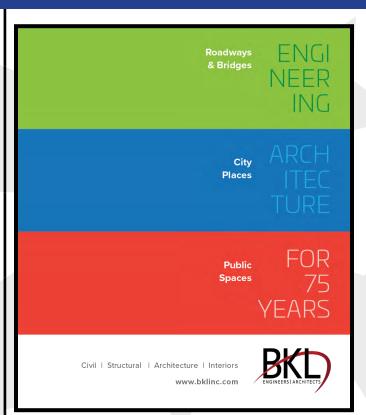
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	IENIALIVE	AUENWA	UPWIIE9	IU FULLUW		
Wed	nesday November 2nd	, 2022	Wedı	nesday November 2 ⁿ	^{1d} , 2022	
6:30am 7:30am	Exhibit Hall Early Set Up Registration Opens	OK "F- J" East Lobby	3:30pm	District Meetings District #1 District #2	Oklahoma "E' Oklahoma "A"	
7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"		District #3 District #4	University "A" University "B"	
8:30am	ODOT CAB Meeting	Sooner A & B		District #5 District #6	Oklahoma "C" Northpark	
9:30am	County Engineers Meeting	Boomer A & B		District #7 District #8	Noble Oklahoma "B"	
10:00am	ACCO Ladies	PDR-1	4.00	District Director Elections for District	ts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	
10:00am	<u>The Future of</u> Transportation Funding	Oklahoma "E"	4:00pm 5:30pm	Registration Closes Exhibit Hall Closes		
	<i>Tim Gatz</i> , Secretary of Transportation		5:45pm	Evening Meal	N. Conference Hallway	
	Russell Hulin,	Arrigan	7:30pm - 11:30pm	n Backwood County Band	ОК "А,В,С"	
	Road User Charge Program A	auvisor	Thu	Thursday November 3 rd , 2022		
11:30am	Visit With Your Vendors Lunch on Your Own		7:30am	Registration Opens	East Lobby	
1:30pm	General Session	Oklahoma "E"	7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"	
	Welcome ACCO President Commissioner Russell Earls, (Ottawa Co.	7:30am	VISIT WITH YOUR VENDORS	OK "F-J"	
	Invocation		9:30am	Educational Session	OK "A, B, C"	
	National Anthem Commissioner Jack Strain, Te	rvas Co		State Auditor & Inspec	tor Update	
	,	.aus Co.		<i>Cindy Byrd</i> , State Auditor		
	Speakers: Governor Kevin Stitt, Gubernatorial Candidate			Cheryl Wilson, County Management Service	res	
	State Superintendent of Publi Instruction Joy Hofmeister,	c	11:30am	Lunch on Your Own		
	Gubernatorial Candidate		2:00pm	Educational Session	OK "A, B, C"	
		Congressman Markwayne Mullin,		Understanding Your Re	<u>etirement</u>	
US Senate Candidate		1 11		Oklahoma Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS		
	Former Congresswoman Kend US Senate Candidate	uru Horn,	3:00pm	Exhibit Hall Closes/Teardov		
	Notie Lansford, OSU CTP		3:00pm	Registration Closes		
	Chris Schroder, ACCO Executive Director		4:30pm	STARS & STRIPES BINGO & BUFFET		
		_	Day	MUST BE PAID ATTENDEE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO W		

Registration & Namebadges are
Required For All Conference Attendees







26



Saving Counties Money through Efficiencies

Author: Terry Simonson, Director of Governmental Affairs, Tulsa County, tsimonson@tulsacounty.org

When we think about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) most believe it's funding just for road, bridges, ports, airports, and rail. While it is true 60% of the BIL funding is for traditional infrastructure, the other 40% is primarily for public and nonprofit facilities to fund energy efficient improvements.

It would be easy to overlook that counties are eligible, either by direct allocation or competitive grant, for funding under the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant (EECGB) program in the BIL.

There is \$550,000,000 in the EECBG program with 60% set aside for local governments. Importantly, the top ten (10) most populated counties in a state and the cities with populations over 35,000 will get a formula based direct allocation requiring no competition. The Department of Energy's (DOE) formula will determine the amount received. The remaining counties and cities would apply to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce which will also receive EECBG funds and will stand up a grant making process.

With the DOE expected to announce in the last quarter of 2022 the distribution of these EECBG funds, counties need to start preparing now with how and where they would spend these funds.

If you start with just the courthouse, consider the possible energy efficient needs with HVAC, windows, lighting, elevators, water systems, and the use of solar panels and heat pumps. Or consider other county facilities like jails, election boards, fairgrounds, highway district buildings, traffic signals, and lighting at athletic fields.

Similar to the traditional funding for capital projects where there is a "shovel ready' preference, with the energy efficient improvements there is a requirement that an energy assessment or audit has been done which demonstrates the need and the savings which would be realized.

This is what counties can begin to do now.....get started with their strategic energy efficiency plans.

To pull together an energy efficient strategy that will address the eligible improvements which can be funded will take several important steps. They are:

- (1) Secure the professional services of those with expertise in conducting energy audits and assessments;
- (2) For small counties who will have to apply to the Department of Commerce for funding, secure the services of a professional grant writer; and
- (3) Retain the services of project management professionals that will represent the county in all phases of developing the energy plan and who find the best value, services, and equipment for the county's energy efficient budget and the timeline for implementation.

Funding provided under the EECBG would allow counties to be reimbursed for technical and consulting professional services and the cost of an energy audit.

The EECBG funding is a once in a life time opportunity for counties to address improving their management of energy consumption which cost thousands of taxpayer dollars annually.

There are two (2) things for certain about county energy consumption:

#1 energy rates being charged counties will continue to increase

and

#2 there is nothing you can do about #1.

Preparing to take advantage of the funding under the EECBG program by retaining a professional energy management team is an opportunity county leaders should not miss or wait to do.

New ACCO Members Since the Summer 2022 Newsletter

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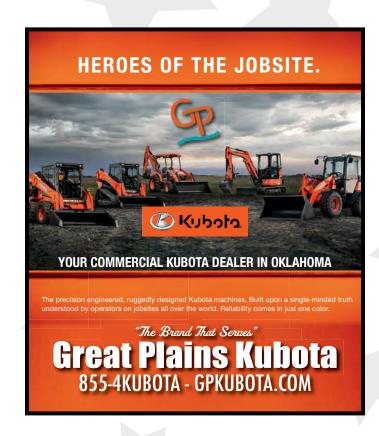
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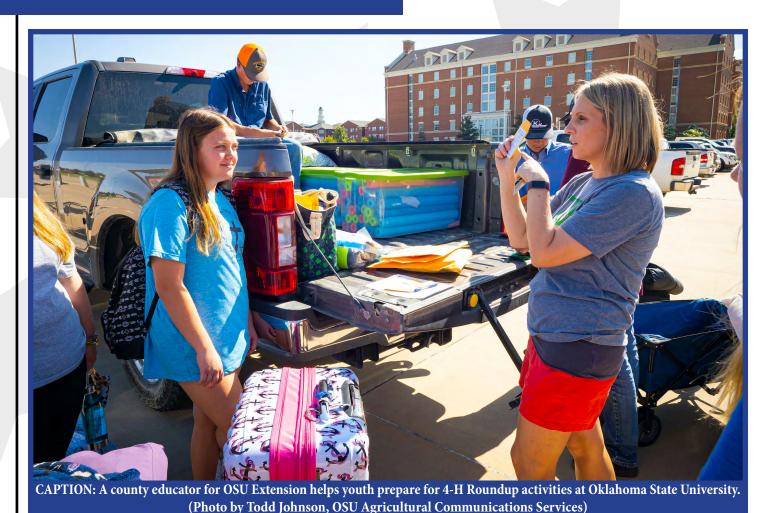












Career opportunities available in OSU Extension

MEDIA CONTACT: Gail Ellis | Agricultural Communications Services | 405-744-9152 | gail.ellis@okstate.edu

STILLWATER, Okla. - Oklahoma State University Extension encourages people to begin a rewarding career in the Extension field. Positions are currently available in Stillwater on the OSU campus and in county offices across the state.

As a land-grant university, OSU serves local communities through Extension offices in each of Oklahoma's 77 counties. Simply put, Extension educators, specialists and program assistants extend information in their areas of expertise via educational programming and consultation backed by research.

The role of an Extension educator involves planning, delivering and evaluating programs for clientele in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community and rural development. Extension educators are familiar faces in the community committed to assisting both individuals and businesses in reaching their potential.

OSU Extension agricultural educators serve Oklahomans by sharing research-based, reliable information and strategies in:

- Agribusiness
- Crops
- Environment and natural resources
- Horticulture
- Livestock

Employees hired in the field of family and consumer sciences address topics such as:

- Finance and job readiness
- Family resilience
- Health and hunger
- Environment and safety

4-H educators incorporate positive youth development through activities and programming related to:

- Agriculture
- Civic engagement and leadership
- Environmental education
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Healthy living, consumer science and safety

Extension employees contribute to community and rural development by helping communities thrive with resources to:

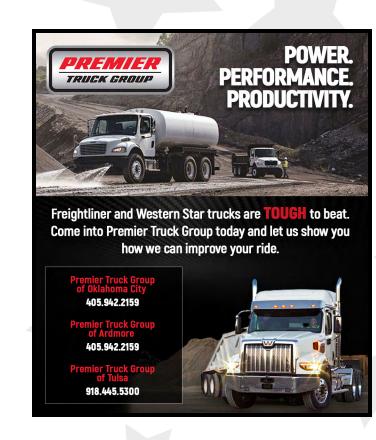
- Build leadership
- Cultivate entrepreneurship
- Improve local food systems
- Boost agritourism
- Improve access to critical services such as rural broadband

While OSU Extension employees typically hold college degrees in agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, education, communications or leadership, other related degrees will be considered. OSU values employees who take initiative and demonstrate a strong work ethic, and Extension employees are effective communicators with the ability to respond quickly to address community needs.

Learn more about current OSU Extension opportunities and watch for upcoming roles in growing fields such as STEM education. Apply today!

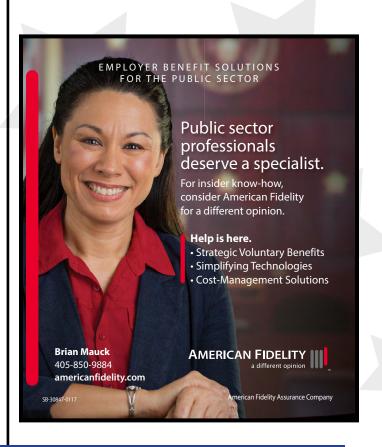
OSU Extension uses research-based information to help all Oklahomans solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely throughout the state's 77 counties. Most information is available at little to no cost.

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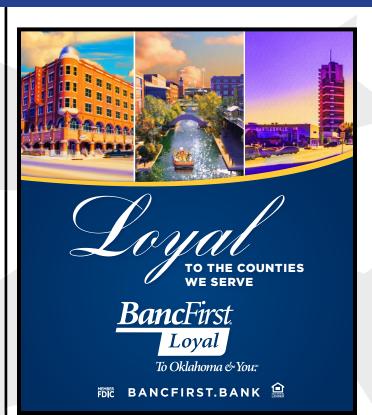
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ACCO Crossroads | Volume 16 Issue 2











For Your Economic Development Strategies, Take Advantage of Oklahoma Arts Council Resources

Author: Joel Gavin, Director of Marketing and Communications, Oklahoma Arts Council

When it comes to creating an economic development plan for your county—one that will increase property values, lure businesses, fill vacant real estate, and appeal to current and potential residents—the Oklahoma Arts Council should be on your list of resources.

The state agency for the support and development of the arts has fueled the growth of the arts industry across the state since 1965. It was a time when leaders recognized that people living in rural areas, in heartland states—not just large cities in coastal states—should have opportunities to benefit from the arts. Oklahoma Governor Henry Bellmon helped establish the Oklahoma Arts Council. A fiddler from Billings, Bellmon understood how the state would benefit from giving all Oklahomans access to the arts.

More than 50 years after Bellmon's actions, the arts benefit all parts of Oklahoma. Their impact has been studied and found to strengthen local economies and workforce development, increase property values, boost educational outcomes, improve people's health and well-being, and more.

Likely, your county has strategic goals and programming that can be supported by Oklahoma Arts Council resources. Nonprofit organizations, public libraries, schools, colleges and universities, tribal nations, and local governments throughout Oklahoma are beneficiaries of millions of dollars in grant funding awarded by the agency annually. Counties, too, are eligible.

Music performances, art festivals, visual art exhibitions, youth and adult workshops, and professional development opportunities are often supported by Oklahoma Arts Council grants. If your county currently offers, or is considering offering, programming that includes these types of art experiences, connecting with the Oklahoma Arts Council should be a priority. Their **Small Grant Support** program offers counties up to \$2,500 twice per year for arts programming. If your county is eligible for their **Rural Arts Opportunity Grants**, you and organizations within the county could receive \$5,000.

Beyond these familiar art experiences, it is common for counties to have operations related to health and wellness, veteran services, transportation, and economic development. In each, the arts offer advantages, and the Oklahoma Arts Council has resources in the forms of grant funding, technical assistance and expertise, and a strategic network of partners in the arts sector and beyond for helping counties make full use of these advantages.

For an example of using the arts to meet important needs, look no further than the U.S. Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, which partners with the National Endowment for the Arts on programs that serve veterans exposed to trauma. Counties with similar goals of serving Oklahoma's military population should learn about **Oklahoma Arts and the Military Grants**, through which the Oklahoma Arts Council offers up to \$5,000 for arts programs serving military-connected individuals and their families.

Most U.S. states and hundreds of local governments have public art programs, which are growing in popularity as a means of economic development that allows a locality to brand itself and convey vibrancy. Public art is a draw for travelers and has been shown to increase property values. The Oklahoma Arts Council has **public art staff** that can be a resource as you plan public art projects.

Does your county have programs for older adults? Consider having someone from your office connect with the Oklahoma Arts Council to learn about their Creative Aging Initiative. Learning opportunities available through the initiative could equip your staff to meet needs within the growing demographic.

Have county staff who are ready to incorporate the arts in their work? **Leadership Arts** is the Oklahoma Arts Council's professional development program for equipping Oklahomans with knowledge, tools, and a network to use the arts to advance economic development, education, and quality of life. Applications will be open in fall 2022.

One of the best opportunities to get acquainted with Oklahoma Arts Council resources and the broader arts and cultural sector in the state is to attend the biennial **Oklahoma Arts Conference**. The convening brings together hundreds of people working in the arts across the state for professional development and networking. The next conference is slated for fall 2023.

Soon, state leaders will decide how to invest \$1.87 billion of ARPA funding. The Oklahoma Arts Council has submitted a proposal designed to include city and county partnerships as a strategy for leveraging the arts in economic development statewide.

Now is the ideal time for your county to connect with the Oklahoma Arts Council. Though the Oklahoma Arts Council has been around for a long time, your county may not be taking full advantage of what they offer. Learn more about their resources at arts.ok.gov.

FY 2023 - Solid Waste Program

Author: Melinda Anoatubby, OCCEDB

During the August 31, 2022, OCCEDB Board Meeting, the board approved the 2023 Solid Waste Management Grant totaling \$655,000.00. The total amount of \$620,000.08 will be reimbursed and disbursed back to the awarded counties for one of the following programs; the trash cop program, chipper, chainsaw and or dump roll offs/illegal dump sites. The remaining \$34,999.92 is administration fees. A total of \$13,500.00 was awarded to 3 counties for the Trash Cop program; a total of \$270,000.00 was awarded to 9 counties for the Chipper Program; a total of \$76,800.08 was awarded to 47 counties and or districts for the Chainsaw Program and a total

How to submit for reimbursement:

Trash Cop - Person must be CLEET Certified (1) Must be hired by the Sheriff's Department or Board of County Commissioners (2) \$2,500 will be sent upfront to start the program and the remaining awarded amount will be disbursed after (3) months of reports has been submitted (4) photos and reports are required.

Chipper/Chainsaw - Itemized receipt from the vendor that include: county and district, date of purchase, the description of the item(s) and the total amount spent. Signed purchase order from the county clerk/treasurer and the board of county commissioners OR if the BOCC no longer signs the PO: a copy of the board signed cover letter approving payments for warrants and the corresponding expense report OR a copy of the marked "paid" PO showing its warrant number. Photos are

If awarded Chipper or Chainsaw: Equipment is only eligible for reimbursement when it is ordered AND received within the contract dates.

***We highly recommend ordering Chipper/Chainsaw ASAP due to the supply and demand delays in the supply chain.

\$259,700.00 was awarded to 75 counties and or districts for the Dump Roll Offs/ Illegal Dump Program.

The Solid Waste Program is on a reimbursement basis. The awarded amounts are on a not-to-exceed basis. Expenses incurred prior to July 18, 2022 cannot be reimbursed. All purchase orders and invoices must be submitted to OCCEDB/Melinda Anoatubby by May 31, 2023 to avoid forfeiture.

Dump Roll Off's/Illegal Dump - Itemized receipt from the vendor that include the following: county and district, date(s), location that the dump site/dump roll offs are placed, tonnage (if vendor can provide), size of dumpster (yards, square foot, or etc.). If hosting a clean-up event, provide a copy of any newspaper articles, social media, or any type of advertisement used. Photos are required for all dump roll offs and illegal dump sites. Before-and-after photos for dump sites. Signed purchase order from the county clerk/treasurer and the board of county commissioners OR if the BOCC no longer signs the PO: a copy of the board signed cover letter approving payments for warrants and the corresponding expense report OR a copy of the marked "paid" PO showing its warrant number.

*The "more" detailed information that can be provided, could potentially help future funding. For example, tires (how many tires, locations, and etc.) dump sites, over fills, weight/tonnage, specific items, trends/patterns and etc.

2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:	Board Approved 8/31/22
Trash Cop	
Creek 2	\$4,500.00
Leflore 3	\$4,500.00
Okmulgee 3	\$4,500.00
Total Awardada	\$12,500,00

2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:	Board Approved 8/31/22
Chipper	
Cherokee 3	\$30,000.00
Latimer 1	\$30,000.00
Lincoln 2	\$30,000.00
Nowata 1	\$30,000.00
Okmulgee 2	\$30,000.00
Ottawa 2	\$30,000.00
Pawnee 2	\$30,000.00
Pittsburgh 1	\$30,000.00
Seminole 3	\$30,000.00
Total Awarded:	\$270,000.00

2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:	Board Approved 8/31/22	2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:
Chainsaw		Chainsaw
Atoka 1	\$1,500.00	Major 1
Atoka 2	\$1,500.00	Major 2
Atoka 3	\$1,500.00	Marshall 1
Bryan 1	\$1,500.00	Marshall 2
Caddo 3	\$1,500.00	McClain 2
Carter 1	\$2,000.00	Murray 1
Cherokee 1	\$1,500.00	Murray 2
Cherokee 2	\$1,500.00	Muskogee 3
Cherokee 3	\$1,500.00	Okfuskee 1
Choctaw 1	\$1,500.00	Okfuskee 3
Choctaw 2	\$1,500.00	Okmulgee 3
Choctaw 3	\$1,500.00	Ottawa 3
Delaware 3	\$1,500.00	Pawnee 2
Garvin 1	\$1,500.00	Rogers 2
Greer 2	\$2,000.00	Roger Mills 3
Haskell 2	\$2,000.00	Seminole 1
Hughes 1	\$1,500.00	Seminole 2
Hughes 3	\$1,500.00	Seminole 3
Jackson 2	\$1,500.00	Sequoyah 1
Jackson 3	\$1,500.00	Stephens 3
Kay 1	\$2,000.00	Tulsa 2
Leflore 3	\$1,500.00	Wagoner 3
Linclon 3	\$1,500.00	Washita 1
Love 3	\$2,000.00	Total Awarded:

Chainsaw		
Major 1	\$1,500.00	
Major 2	\$1,500.00	
Marshall 1	\$1,500.00	
Marshall 2	\$1,500.00	
McClain 2	\$1,500.00	
Murray 1	\$2,000.00	
Murray 2	\$2,000.00	
Muskogee 3	\$1,500.00	
Okfuskee 1	\$2,000.00	
Okfuskee 3	\$2,000.00	
Okmulgee 3	\$2,000.00	
Ottawa 3	\$2,000.00	
Pawnee 2	\$1,500.00	
Rogers 2	\$1,500.00	
Roger Mills 3	\$1,500.00	
Seminole 1	\$1,500.00	
Seminole 2	\$1,500.00	
Seminole 3	\$1,500.00	
Sequoyah 1	\$2,000.00	
Stephens 3	\$1,800.00	
Tulsa 2	\$1,500.00	
Wagoner 3	\$1,500.00	
Washita 1	\$1,500.08	
Total Awarded:	\$ 76,800.08	

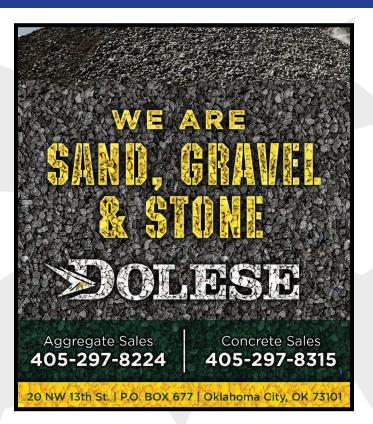
Board Approved 8/31/22

023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:	Board Approved 8/31/22	2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:		2023 DEQ Solid Waste Awardees:	Board Approved 8/31/22
llegal Dump/ Roll Offs	3	Illegal Dump/ Roll Of	fs	Illegal Dump/ Roll Of	fs
ryan 2	\$3,000.00	Lincoln 3	\$3,000.00	Payne 1	\$4,200.00
addo 1	\$4,200.00	Logan 2	\$4,200.00	Payne 2	\$4,200.00
Caddo 3	\$4,200.00	Logan 3	\$4,200.00	Payne 3	\$4,200.00
Choctaw 1	\$4,200.00	Mayes 1	\$4,200.00	Rogers 1	\$4,200.00
Choctaw 2	\$4,200.00	Mayes 2	\$4,200.00	Rogers 2	\$4,200.00
Choctaw 3	\$4,200.00	Mayes 3	\$4,200.00	Rogers 3	\$4,200.00
Coal 1	\$4,200.00	McClain 1	\$2,500.00	Seminole 1	\$4,200.00
Coal 2	\$4,200.00	McIntosh 2	\$4,200.00	Seminole 2	\$4,200.00
Coal 3	\$4,200.00	Murray 1	\$2,000.00	Seminole 3	\$4,200.00
Cotton 1	\$2,000.00	Murray 2	\$4,200.00	Sequoyah 2	\$4,200.00
Cotton 2	\$2,000.00	Murray 3	\$2,000.00	Stephens 1	\$4,200.00
Cotton 3	\$2,000.00	Muskogee 1	\$3,200.00	Tillman 1	\$4,200.00
Creek 2	\$4,200.00	Muskogee 3	\$3,200.00	Tillman 2	\$4,200.00
Sarvin 2	\$3,000.00	Noble 1	\$2,000.00	Tillman 3	\$4,200.00
Frant 2	\$2,000.00	Noble 2	\$2,000.00	Tulsa 2	\$4,200.00
Frant 3	\$2,000.00	Noble 3	\$2,000.00	Tulsa 3	\$4,200.00
Iughes 1	\$4,200.00	Okfuskee 1	\$2,500.00	Wagoner 1	\$4,200.00
Tughes 2	\$2,000.00	Okmulgee 3	\$2,500.00	Wagoner 2	\$4,200.00
Tughes 3	\$4,200.00	Osage 1	\$2,000.00	Wagoner 3	\$4,200.00
ohnston 1	\$3,000.00	Osage 2	\$2,000.00	Washita 1	\$4,200.00
ohnston 2	\$3,000.00	Osage 3	\$2,000.00	Washita 2	\$4,200.00
atimer 1	\$3,000.00	Ottawa 1	\$2,000.00	Woods 2	\$4,200.00
atimer 2	\$3,000.00	Ottawa 3	\$2,000.00	Woods 3	\$4,200.00
atimer 3	\$3,000.00	Pawnee 1	\$4,200.00	Total Awarded:	\$259,700.00
incoln 1	\$3,000.00	Pawnee 2	\$4,200.00		
incoln 2	\$2,000.00	Pawnee 3	\$4,200.00		
	·	1 4 11100 5	ψ4,200.00		

FY 23 - Total for Trash Cop, Chipper, Chainsaw & Dump Roll Offs	\$620,000.08
Total Admin Fees	\$34,999.92
Total DEQ Contract	\$655,000.00







ACCO Crossroads Newsletter









THANK YOU TO OUR **2022 BOARDS!**

President	Russell Earls, Ottawa County	Di
Vice-President	Jack Strain, Texas County	
Sec/Treasurer	Jim Rogers, Sequoyah County	Di
Past President	Jimmy Westbrook, McCurtain County	
		Di
District 1	Dan Delozier, Rogers County	
District 2	Kenny Payne, Muskogee County	Di
District 3	Tony Simmons, Bryan County	
District 4	Gary Starns, Pontotoc County	Di
District 5	Zach Cavett, Payne County	
District 6	Jerry Alvord, Carter County	Di
District 7	Wade Anders, Custer County	
District 8	Marc Bolz, Garfield Couny	Di
CICICIE	Doord of Divertons	Di

SIG/SIF Board of Director

District 1	Mike Dunlap, Washington County **
District 2	Ray Watts, Sequoyah County
District 3	Ross Selman, Pittsburg County
District 4	Marlon Miller, Lincoln County
District 5	Wilson Lyles, McClain County
District 6	Linda Hyman, Love County
District 7	Kent Smith, Tillman County *
District 8	Heath Dobrovolny, Kingfisher County
Member at Large	Tim Kelley, Wagoner County ***

County Advisory Board (CAB)

	•	•	
District 1		Ryan Ball, Mayes Cour	nty*
District 2		Michael Burns, McInto	osh County
District 3		Josh Cantrell, Marshall	County
District 4		Lee Doolen, Lincoln C	ounty
District 5		Darry Stacy, Cleveland	County**
District 6		Ty Phillips, Jefferson C	County
District 7		Carl Don Campbell, Be	eckham Coun

Max Hess, Grant County District 8 Member at Large Wilson Lyles, McClain County

Vice - Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer

,	1100	J Legislative Commi.
	District 1	Mike Bouvier, Washington County
		David Poindexter, Delaware County
	District 2	Ken Doke, Muskogee County
у		Clif Hall, Cherokee County
	District 3	Jeremy Bullard, Latimer County
		Josh Cantrell, Marshall County
	District 4	Lee Doolen, Lincoln County
		Eddie Stackhouse, Pottawatomie County
	District 5	Rod Cleveland, Cleveland County
		Zach Cavett, Payne County
	District 6	Jerry Alvord, Carter County
		Bryce Bohot, Jefferson County
	District 7	Kirk Butler, Jackson County
		Tate Finnell, Beckham County
rs	District 8	Jason Kienholz, Noble County

Oklahoma Cooperative Circuit Engineering Districts Board

CLD I	Duli Deloziei, Rogers County
CED 2	Sam Chandler, Adair County
CED 3	Chris White, McCurtain County
CED 4	Randy Thomas, Pottawatomie County
CED 5	Darry Stacy, Cleveland County
CED 6	Ty Phillips, Jefferson County
CED 7	Kirk Butler, Jackson County
CED 8	Max Hess, Grant County

Marc Bolz, Garfield County

Dan Delozier, Rogers County

ACCO IS STEPPING UP WITH NEW WAYS TO COMMUNICATE!

COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY OFFICIALS, COUNTY STAFF, ODOT, PARTNERS, OKLAHOMA NATIVE TRIBES AND ACCO VENDOR MEMBERS!

WE ARE EXCITED TO BRING TO YOU OUR NEW "TEXT" ALERT INFORMATION UPDATES TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL OUR COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS IN A QUICKER, MORE EFFICIENT WAY!



COUNTY OFFICIALS
TEXT THE WORD "COUNTYOFFICIAL"
TO 95577

COMMISSIONERS
TEXT THE WORD "COMMISSIONER"
TO 95577

ACCO VENDOR MEMBERS
TEXT THE WORD "ACCOV"
TO 95577

COUNTY EMPLOYEES
TEXT THE WORD "COUNTYSTAFF"
TO 95577

ODOT
TEXT THE WORD "ODOT"
TO 95577

ACCO PARTNERS
TEXT THE WORD "ACCOPARTNER"
TO 95577

OKLAHOMA NATIVE TRIBES
TEXT THE WORD "TRIBEOK"
TO 95577