



City of Lawrence



Lawrence: A Livable City 2007 Annual Report

A year of Work *A year of* Success

Dear Lawrence citizens,

On behalf of the employees of the City of Lawrence we thank you for your continued support and your interest in our community. This report highlights some – but not all – of the accomplishments and improvements to our community in 2007. But we don't rest with a year of accomplishments. City employees work every day to provide you with excellent municipal services. As you read through this report a dedicated city employee is working on your behalf:

A technician in the Utilities Department is collecting water samples for quality testing.

A police officer is responding to a call for service.

Street maintenance crews are filling potholes reported earlier on the pothole hotline.

A Parks and Recreation facilities crew is emptying trash bins in a neighborhood park.

A unit from Lawrence Douglas County Fire Medical is responding to a car fire.

An experienced city/county planner is talking with neighbors about use of undeveloped land.

This is only a sample of the 365/24/7 workings of your city. We are always striving to improve the work that we do on your behalf. Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns about our community (dcorliss@ci.lawrence.ks.us). Again, thank you for your support and interest in Lawrence.

Sincerely,



David L. Corliss
City Manager

Dear Lawrence Citizens;

Last Spring I had the opportunity to share a very proud moment in my role as Mayor of the City of Lawrence. The results of the citizen survey were released and we learned of the community's high level of satisfaction with city services.

The most basic city government provides fire protection, police services, and perhaps trash pick up and water and wastewater treatment. However, we desire more here in Lawrence and our city staff delivers. The citizen survey showed a high level of satisfaction with Lawrence services.

I am glad to deliver the 2007 annual report on city programs and services. I hope that you learn a bit more about your city while reading it.

Sincerely,



Sue Hack
Mayor



City of Lawrence



Citizens Survey

highlights progress

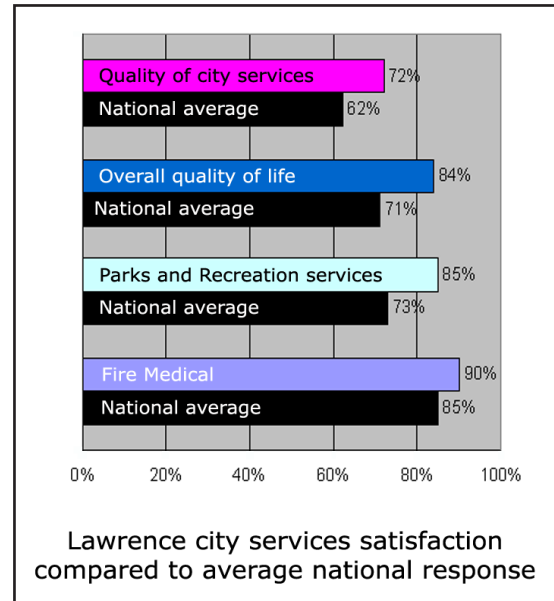
The first comprehensive survey of Lawrence citizens provided a snapshot of satisfaction with a range of city services. Lawrence scored better than the national average in several key areas.



Greensburg rescue and recovery operations turned to quickly restoring basic services.



Lawrence Division Chief Bill Stark (left) assumes command in Greensburg overseeing more than 1200 workers and volunteers.



Greensburg

cleanup

Lawrence is proud of our emergency responders. Efforts like the clean-ups in Greensburg and Coffeyville provide our emergency personnel with invaluable hands-on experience, helping make Lawrence better prepared.

~ David Corliss, City Manager

When an EF-5 tornado devastated Greensburg, Kansas in May, Lawrence responded. Fire Medical Chief Mark Bradford and later Division Chief Bill Stark assumed command of the recovery effort. They were joined by 15 Lawrence police officers and over 1,200

workers and volunteers from across the state. In July, seven Lawrence firefighters responded to severe flooding in Coffeyville to assist with clean-up. Lawrence emergency responders have trained extensively for just these sorts of emergencies.

Improving Basic Services

41.6 *lane miles of streets resurfaced*

72,703 *tons of solid waste collected for disposal*

3,418 *feet of storm sewer pipe cleaned or installed*

269,000 *lbs of crack sealant applied to streets*

1,759 *storm water structures inspected*

8 *watershed studies completed*

Your city government continues to improve in order to work smarter and serve our community better.

New programs like **24/7 Utility Billing** phone service or online billing available from a home or office computer help make services like bill paying and solid waste pickup requests more convenient for modern lifestyles.

New maintenance techniques like microsurfacing helped improve Lawrence streets in the areas where they were utilized. In the southeast quadrant where microsurfacing was a major part of the maintenance program, the city saw a 22 percent improvement in its pavement condition index for that area.

Smart management like consolidating Fire Medical vehicle maintenance with city garage operations can generate future operational savings.

A sample of city services available online at www.lawrenceks.org

Apply for building permits
Apply for T-Lift services for individuals with disabilities
Calculate your estimated property tax
City Jobs: view openings and apply
Enroll for Parks and Recreation activities
File a nuisance, blight, or environmental complaint
Pay parking and traffic fines
Pay water bill
Register a domestic partnership
Report a pothole
Schedule a building inspection
View bus routes and times
View City Commission meeting agendas and minutes
View Planning Commission meeting agendas and minutes
View complete A-Z listing of city services
View contractors licensed with the City of Lawrence

Now Available **24/7 Utility Billing**

Make a payment
Check account information
Check billing history
Determine disconnect date
Request waste pick up
Report water quality problems
(785) 832-7878

Tomorrow's Lawrence Today

Transportation 2030

Transportation issues remain a top concern for Lawrence residents. The **T2030** long-range transportation plan coordinates goals and priorities for the region and identifies future investments for vehicles, bikes, pedestrians and public transit. Incorporating Intelligent Transportation System design, new technologies like cameras, dynamic message signs and vehicle location systems will improve safety and traffic flow.



www.lawrenceplanning.org

20,000 *public contacts*

539 *acres annexed*

586 *applications reviewed*

4.1 *billion gallons of drinking water treated*

51% *fewer blockages in city sewer mains over the last 5 years*

3 *pump stations replaced, 1 new station built, 1 station expanded*

In order to better serve businesses and homeowners, the City of Lawrence merged two departments (Planning and Neighborhood Resources). The new Planning and Development Services Department provides access to a full spectrum of development services.

A multi-year effort to modernize city codes was completed when the City Commission approved the amended International Family of Building Codes in September 2007.

A multi-year project to replace the 100-year-old water lines serving downtown Lawrence was successfully completed.

Property for the future Wakarusa Water Reclamation Facility was acquired, while expansion and modernization at the Clinton water treatment plant will increase treatment capacity by 15 million gallons of drinking water each day.



Wastewater technician inspects water quality on a daily schedule.

Making Lawrence Home

340 citations issued for neighborhood noise complaints
 2,125 safety helmets distributed to young bikers and skaters
 \$19,500 in youth scholarships for Parks & Recreation programs
 67,000 trips on K-10 connector bus service between college campuses

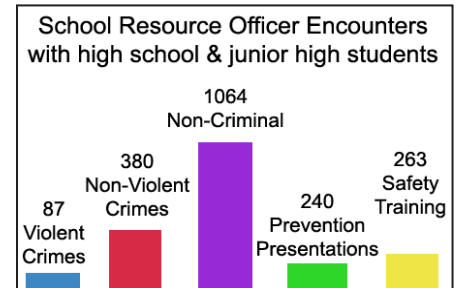


Crossing guard helps kids and families at 18th Street and Vermont.



Chief Ron Olin helps host 2007 Police Camp for children age 8 to 12 years.

Working Together



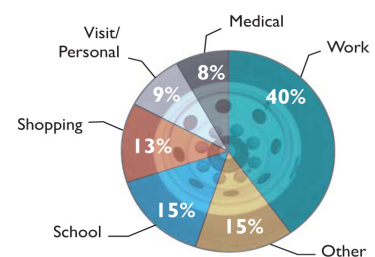
Family friendly kid Safe

In 2007, Lawrence offered a wide range of family-friendly activities from our aquatic centers to a nationally recognized **Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit**. Programs like **Police Camp**, **7th Grade Football**, **School Resource Officers**, and **School Crossing Guards** helped provide safe environments for kids while instilling valuable life skills. Class participation in field trips to the Prairie Park Nature Center increased by 150%, while

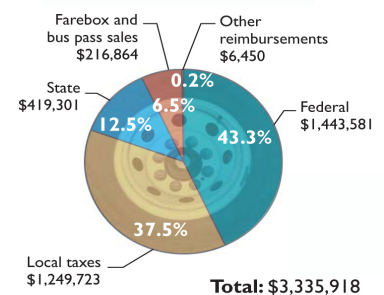
discounted student transit fares and partnerships like **Wednesdays at Liberty Hall** helped provide safe alternatives for young adults after school.

The city assisted the University of Kansas in acquiring five transit vehicles using federal funding to serve a park and ride facility located on West Campus. The service, available to the public, provided a total of 261,380 trips in 2007.

Trip purpose when riding the T *



Transit: total revenue sources



* Source: 2007 on-board passenger survey

Improving our Quality of Life

A fond Farewell

Long-time Lawrence Parks and Recreation Director Fred DeVictor retired in 2007 after 37 years of public service. DeVictor helped the Lawrence park system grow from 12 to 52 parks and open spaces. He helped develop numerous recreation programs and special events including slow-pitch softball leagues, summer concert series, the fall arts and crafts festival and summer youth theatre. He oversaw the development of Holcom Park Recreation Center and Sports Complex, Clinton Lake Softball Complex, Eagle Bend Golf Course and Golf Learning Center, Prairie Park Nature Center and the Indoor Aquatic Center.



Fred and Karen DeVictor with neighborhood children cut the ribbon officially opening the newly named DeVictor Park at 1100 George Williams Way.

Access to neighborhood Green Space

Lawrence offers a wide range of resources and programs for active lifestyles. Our Park system provides convenient access to green space throughout our growing community.

2007 saw several new parks join our system. DeVictor Park and Sesquicentennial

Point will provide expanded access to hiking trails and outdoor picnic facilities. Six acres were dedicated for the future Oregon Trail Park while planning began on the Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park and Clinton Park received a new shelter and restrooms.



Mini-Munchkin Campers play hopscotch during a summer session at East Lawrence Recreation Center.

33,745 *flowers planted city-wide*

635,765 *visits to a park or recreation facility*

21,300 *enrollments in Parks & Recreation programs*

49,242 *times aquatic passes were used at aquatic centers*

Public Safety

126,874 *calls for police service*

6,932 *speeding tickets issued*

431 *DUI arrests*

2,838 *calls for animal control service*

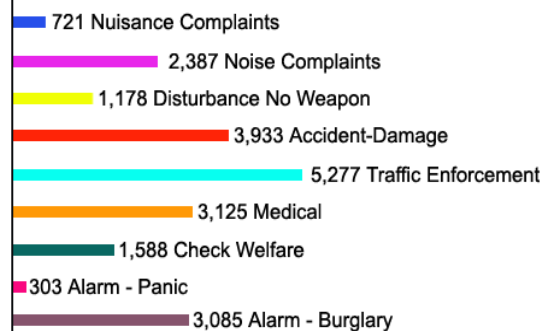
Lawrence Police

In 2007, software was installed to allow the Lawrence Police Department to improve efficiency and to manage citations from mobile data terminals.

Legal Services Municipal Court

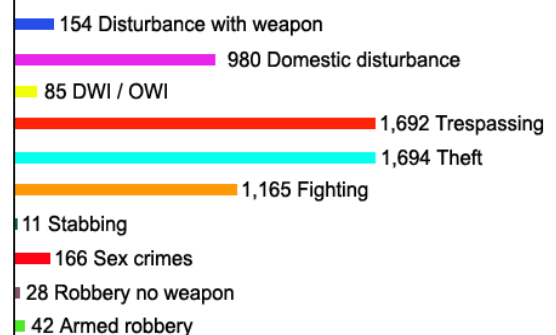
Consisting of four divisions - Municipal Court, City Prosecutor's Office, Legal Services and Human Relations (the City's human rights enforcement agency) - Legal Services served as principal researcher and drafter of nearly every city ordinance and resolution. Legal Services successfully represented the city Public and Workplace Smoking Ordinance. The case reinforced that the Lawrence smoking prohibition is about public health and the successful use of the city's home rule powers to regulate smoking. City legal staff also assisted with annexation of more than 535 acres of land for the new Wakarusa Water Reclamation Facility, property for a new Pump Station, and the land planned for Sesquicentennial Point.

Calls for Police Service - Public Service



Police Officers focus on safety during training exercise.

Calls for Police Service - Criminal



Fire *Medical*



Firefighters respond to fire at a Lawrence home.

First *on the scene* Prepared *to help*

In 2007 Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical achieved the remarkable benchmark of 92% of operations-level firefighters having achieved medical certification training. Over 61% have been certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, and 38% have achieved paramedic certification.

Better *Equipped*

Working with the City Commission, Fire-Medical helped adopt new International Fire Code standards, strengthening the city's fire prevention ordinances.

The **Downtown Lawrence Fire Protection Sprinkler System Incentive Program** attracted its first participants using cost sharing and

reimbursement to help install or upgrade fire sprinkler systems in downtown buildings.

In 2007, Fire Medical operated **Operation Kindergarten**, where crews visited kindergarten classes and distributed 1600 free, high quality bicycle helmets to children.



Fire Medical brought online Mass Casualty Trailer able to treat up to 150 casualties and 150 fatalities and respond to regional emergencies using FEMA funding.

6,858 *calls for medical service*

2,005 *calls for fire service*

168 *coroner scene investigations*



Investigation Center now located in the refitted Fire Station No. 2, 1839 Massachusetts Street, houses a dedicated unit.

Green community living Responsibly

848 *new trees planted*

388,325 *one-way trips on the "T"*

4,250 *gallons of oil, 430 gallons of antifreeze, and*

86 *air filters recycled from city vehicles*

6,660 *tons of biosolids generated for area farms*

1,900 *people registered for Carpool connections*

16,000 *tons of solid waste collected for recycling and composting*

Lawrence joined the **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives** - an association of more than 650 local governments working on sustainable development and climate protection - becoming eligible for the technical assistance and emissions analysis software necessary to complete a baseline inventory of green house gas emissions.

The City purchased 184 green tags for the partial calendar year of 2006 and 685 green tags for the calendar year 2007.

In recognition of the combined success of our city wide **Master Street Tree Program** and Lawrence Parks and Recreation tree planting initiatives, the city was designated a **Tree City** for the 29th consecutive year by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The city's annual Earth Day celebration continues to generate city-wide participation with parades, free rides on the "T" and educational activities for the whole family.

With over 40 exhibitors and a quality line-up of presenters, the 7th annual **Home Energy Conservation Fair and Sustainable Homes Tour** allowed attendees to learn ways to reduce home energy consumption and lower their utility bills.

By partnering with volunteers to weed flower beds and shrubs in some parks, Lawrence is able to offer 34 pesticide free green spaces. Remaining parks manage control issues through the least toxic option available.



725 vehicles picked up 1,500 tons of compost during the city's distribution event.



7th Annual Home Energy Conservation Fair drew over 500 information seekers.



City employees built a rain garden at a city facility.

Preserving *our heritage*

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Steps were taken in 2007 to ensure that Lawrence will take an active roll in the **Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area**.

The historic designation, established in 2006 by Congress, includes Lawrence, Douglas County, and 40 Kansas and Missouri counties. The designation will help market the region based on the strengths of its Civil War-era history. Specific sites such as the Black Jack Battlefield near Baldwin City could benefit.



936-938 Kentucky Street is a contributing structure to the new Oread Historic District.

In 2007, Lawrence added three properties to its register of Historic Places including 169 buildings and structures in the Oread Historic District.

Five grants were administered, including a *Save America's Treasure Grant* for the Carnegie Library.

This year's winners have really raised the bar for cities.

~ Cathilea Robinett

Center for Digital Government

Taking Note: Awards & Recognitions

FEATURES

U.S. News & World Report names Lawrence one of America's Best Places to Retire

All American City - Finalist

Public Management Magazine features the Lawrence Indoor Aquatic Center

AWARDS

Top Digital City Award - Center for Digital Government

Nathan Jamison, Fireman of the Year - VFW Post 852

Brain Saver Award - American Heart Association

Inclusive Communities Award - InterHab Kansas

Excellent Designation
HUD annual FHAP agency review

Environmental Pollution Prevention Award
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Membership: National Environmental Performance Track Program - United States Environmental Protection Agency

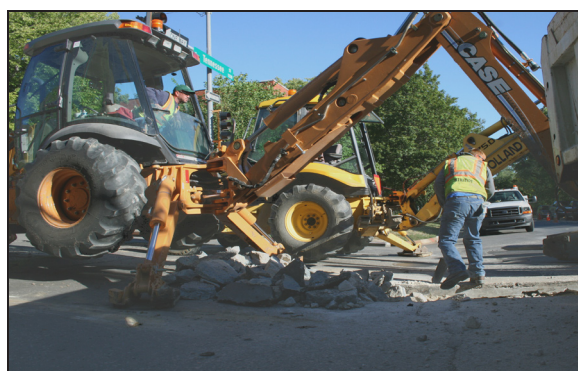
In 2007, the Lawrence Utility Department became one of only two agencies in the nation to earn three widely respected certifications recognizing sound policies and procedures for environment, health and safety, including: the ISO 14001, the OHSAS 18001, and a certification from the National Biosolids Partnership .



Technician removes lid to clean West Lawrence sewer line with high-tech forced water equipment.



Twenty-four hour monitoring at the Clinton Water Plant keeps our drinking water safe.



Workers make repairs to a waterline at 10th Street and Tennessee.



City of Lawrence

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www.lawrenceks.org



Chaplain Paul Taylor helps dedicate Ben Victor sculpture, "Monument to Firefighters" at Fire Medical Station No. 5.



Solid Waste loaders empty yard waste into compactor helping keep our neighborhoods clean.