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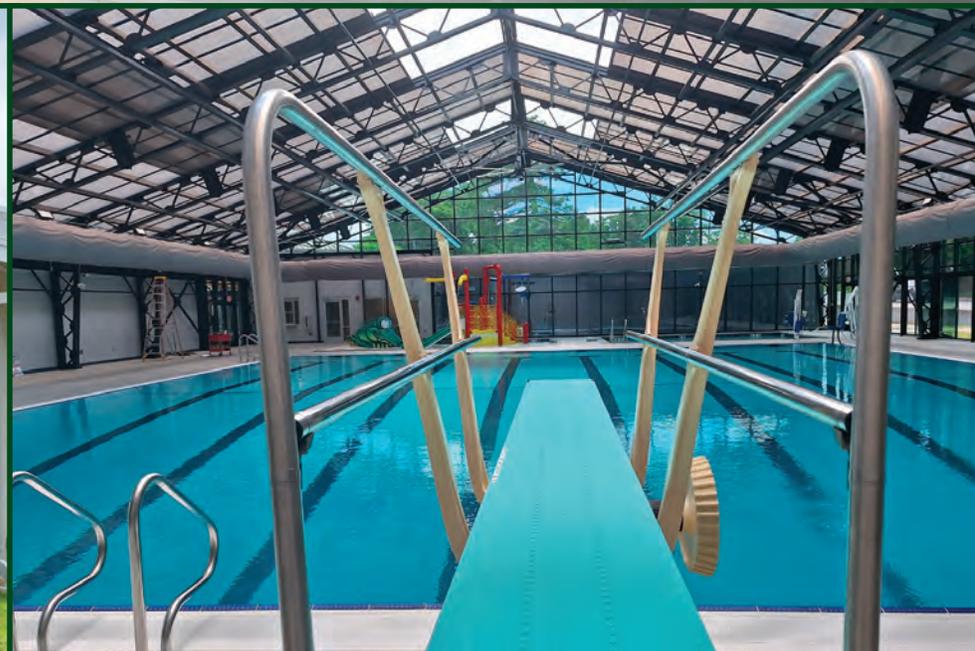
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ON THE COVER:

Downtown Booneville is back from the brink and ready to grow, thanks to partnerships between the city, local restaurants and shops, and a group of dedicated citizens. Read about their efforts inside on page 44.





CITY of GREENWOOD

Feels like home.

DOUG KINSLOW
Mayor

SHARLA DERRY
City Clerk / Treasurer



Greetings from Greenwood, Arkansas.

I hope this message finds you well and thriving! It's been an exciting quarter for the Arkansas Municipal League, and I'm thrilled to share the highlights of our recent Annual Planning Meeting. As always, our work continues to be both a serious and rewarding endeavor, but I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to add a bit of humor to our journey:

*City council wanted to demolish the local clown museum.
They couldn't because it's a "hysterical landmark."*

I'm pleased to report that the Annual Planning Meeting was not only a success, it was also a shining example of what can happen when you put the League staff, officers, executive committee, advisory council chairs, board members and a bunch of past presidents in one room with caffeine, snacks and an agenda. We gathered representatives from cities large and small across the state, and despite my lame attempt at humor we accomplished some serious work. We discussed key legislative priorities including local government autonomy and strategies for handling the unexpected joys of municipal budgeting. But in true Arkansas fashion, we also made sure to keep things light. After all, what is government without a bit of humor and comradery?

A big thank you to Mayor George McGill in Fort Smith for sharing his great city for the August meeting. I was informed the hotel accommodations were excellent, and we thoroughly enjoyed our two evening excursions to the U.S. Marshals Museum and dinner at StoneHouse at Chaffee Crossing. Back in Greenwood, I hope everyone enjoyed our visit to the historical district followed by a tour of the 12-time state champion Greenwood Bulldogs training facility, which was followed by an inspirational visit with Greenwood Schools Superintendent John Ciesla and Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Chris Young. Thank you to our dinner sponsors JTS Financial and VC3 along with entertainment sponsors *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and Farmers Bank. I hope all attendees enjoyed their time in our fair city and truly grasped the spirit of our slogan: "Feels like home."

I just wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank my executive assistant Danielle Smith for the tremendous effort you put into planning and preparing for our recent meeting. Your attention to detail, clear organization and thoughtful approach made a noticeable difference—and it truly showed.

Looking ahead, we are committed to ensuring that the fruits of our planning meeting translate into tangible action. We'll continue working closely with state legislators to advocate for the needs of Arkansas cities. And while we plan, we'll make sure that the humor doesn't fade, because as much as we love what we do, if we don't find joy in it, what's the point?

I encourage you to attend the next regional meeting on November 14 in Jonesboro! These gatherings are a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate and stay informed on the latest developments impacting our region. Please come and join the conversation. These meetings are your chance to share your input, hear from regional leaders and engage with peers who are passionate about sharing the future of our communities.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent meetings in Cave Springs, Russellville and Stuttgart. They were well attended and full of meaningful discussion, a great sign of the momentum we're building together. Let's keep that energy going in Jonesboro!

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever."—Amy Poehler

And speaking of future meetings, registration is now open for the Called to Serve '26, the League's 2026 Winter Conference, January 14-16 in Little Rock. Why you should attend:

- Inspiring speakers
- Professional development
- Networking opportunities
- Fresh perspectives

Please know that I am still in disbelief that I serve as your League president. I have already had the honor of visiting a few of our great cities. Recently on our way to a Destination Downtown Conference in El Dorado, we had the pleasure of visiting with Mayor John McAnally of Amity to hear of his city's progress and to offer any assistance and support I could. Mayor Paul Choate of El Dorado was so kind and offered his generous hospitality as well. My goal of visiting as many of you as possible in your communities is still my plan, even without the help of the "AML Helicopter!" And my promise of sharing your success stories is a priority of mine. So please feel free to reach out to me. I continue to remember you all in my prayers daily.

Until next time, stay strong, stay funny, stay connected and stay committed to making our communities even better.



Doug Kinslow
Mayor, Greenwood
President, Arkansas Municipal League



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Mea Culpa!¹ Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word². And forgiveness, too!

As always, it is strongly recommended that the reader read the column first and then the footnotes.

As many of you know I routinely speak of my Local Controller³ in my columns. Periodically I attribute quotes to her as well as various facial expressions, spontaneous utterances and more than a few grumbles and mumbles. Personally, I think most of what I've written has been worthy of a chuckle or two. Or as she might say, and this is an actual LC quote: "Audience of one." To be fair, however, my wife's an amazing human being. She's incredibly creative, a great mom and a true and worthy friend. In fact, she's my best friend. As a United States Congressman once told me upon meeting her for the first time: "Son you've outpunted your coverage!" Yep, I sure did.

In my last column I spoke about a family visit and spending time with a 7-year-old. Eye opening for sure and, as always, I attributed a variety of comments to LC that may have been somewhat exaggerated. Ok, really exaggerated. Fine, not true at all. Even the LC in Training⁴ noted that I may have been a little over the top in my attributions. Thus, a mea culpa to the Local Controller and the Littler General. Of course, they know it's all in good fun and that I love them immensely. So that I don't get in trouble with the boys, Colin and Franz, you two rock and I love you very much! Mother Hayes, I love you, too. And of course, the pets. I love them and their shedding ways. Oh boy, I almost forgot to mention the Pittsburgh family and, now that I'm thinking about it, the Hot Springs family. I fear this could go on forever! Time for a segue.

Intellectually I felt sure that there were many songs regarding apologies, a.k.a. mea culpas. Not surprisingly, Billboard has a list⁵ of the 25 best songs to say "sorry." I love music and have an enormous collection on my Apple account. I had several hundred CDs back in the day, and yes, back in the day before back in the day I had cassettes. I'm a child of the '60s and '70s, so let the age jokes commence. I definitely had loads of albums. Vinyl albums, not picture albums. Now that I think about it, I had loads of picture albums as well, but I digress. When I looked at the list I had not heard a great many of the songs or the artists. Here are a few of the top 25 in no particular order:

- Like everybody else in this world I know who John Lennon is, but it took me a moment to remember his song "Jealous Guy." It is number 1 on the Billboard list.
- Because the Local Controller in Training loves Justin Bieber, I will include his song, creatively titled "Sorry." I know who he is but I don't know the song or really any of his music. That will not surprise the Littler General although it may irk her a bit.
- At number 20 is The Decemberists' "Apology Song." Unlike many other songs on the list, it's not about romance. It's asking for forgiveness for losing his friend's bicycle. I'm not making that up.
- No song list today would be complete without mentioning mega popstar Taylor Swift. Coming in at number 10 is "Back to December." In typical TS fashion the song concerns a former boyfriend. However, this song has a little twist in that she did not treat the boyfriend well. Or as she says, she was "really careless with him."

1 According to Merriam-Webster, "mea culpa" means a formal acknowledgment of personal fault or error. Moreover, it comes from a Latin prayer of confession meaning "through my fault." Sort of like the first paragraph of this column!

2 Sir Elton John and Bernie Taupin created this song for the album *Blue Moves*. I think it's the most underrated album John ever produced and it's one of my favorites. armuni.org/48uHQR3

3 a.k.a.: LC/My Boss/The Little General/Alison

4 a.k.a.: The Daughter/Nug/Our Boss/The Littler General/Bliss

5 armuni.org/4nVY36k

- The previously referenced Elton John song, “Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word,” comes in at number 4 on the list. The lyric “what have I got to do to make you care” is gut wrenching from my perspective. With that said, however, I’m a hopeless romantic! I’m pretty sure LC was thinking to herself, yep you sure are now move along.^{6 7}

Going hand in glove with saying you’re sorry is the act of forgiveness. Given my love for movies, I cranked up the Google machine to see if there was a similar list of movies with the central theme being forgiveness. Lo and behold I found such a list on one of my go-to movie websites, IMDb. Not being one to stop with a single list, I also checked Rotten Tomatoes, where I found a list of movies about forgiveness or at least where forgiveness plays a part in the plot. Oddly enough, none of the movies on either list appears on the other list. Here’s a sampling from both:

- *Mass*: A story about the parents of the victims and the perpetrator of a mass shooting coming together and talking about the incident and their grief. It stars Jason Isaacs and Martha Plimpton.
- *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*: Obviously this is a much lighter story than *Mass*. It’s the final chapter of the series and its central theme is moving on after the devastating loss of a loved one. In a sense it’s about forgiving oneself. Starring Renee Zellweger, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Leo Woodall.
- *I Can Only Imagine*: This is one that I’ve never heard of. It’s billed as the inspiring and previously unknown true story behind MercyMe’s⁸ chart topping song. It reminds us of the power of true forgiveness. It stars John Michael Finley, Madeline Carroll and Dennis Quaid.
- *All About Eve*: This classic film starring Bette Davis and Anne Baxter is widely considered one of the best films ever produced. While it is not directly about forgiveness, it depicts deceit and envy within the film world of Hollywood. Essentially, Eve is absolutely about climbing the ladder of stardom and not caring about the people she hurts in the process. Margo is the character who takes the brunt of Eve’s terrible behavior but finds redemption and her own forgiveness by leaving the sordid world of filmmaking.
- *About Time*: Another movie regarding appreciating life and accepting loss with a bit of forgiveness thrown in. Essentially this is a romantic comedy with a twist about time travel. It stars Domhnall Gleason, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy.

Forgiveness is a trait that ensures a complete and non-bitter person. At least that’s how I see it. The times in my life when I’ve had to say I’m sorry, and there are plenty, made for better learning experiences when the person on the other end of the apology forgave me. I’ve done my best to forgive those who have hurt me or my family because I have felt better by doing so. Carrying a grudge can only cause anger and bitterness, and those are not things that I wish to be burdened with. I don’t mean to sound simplistic or overly dramatic. Forgiveness for me allows the completion of an emotional loop, and with it I gain some form of closure. While⁹ growing up, my parents—Mother Hayes and Father Hayes—made very clear to me and my brother two concepts that I live by today: responsibility and accountability. If you want a good laugh, ask Colin Hayes how many times I used those two words before the start of a weekend while he was a teenager. For that matter ask Franz and Bliss as well.¹⁰ Unfortunately, that advice occasionally fell on deaf ears. To be fair they were teenagers and, as one of the instructors at Catholic High¹¹ said, “If a teenage boy’s lips are moving, he’s lying.” It has taken me a great deal of time to fully understand the importance and power of forgiveness. I believe it goes hand in hand with responsibility and accountability. Now is probably time to move to the point of the column. At least I believe LC thinks that.

6 I’m about a month out from having rotator cuff surgery on my left shoulder so I’m not typing this, I’m dictating it via the microphone found in Word. Every time I say LC the name Elsie pops up, and she isn’t sure if it’s humorous or offensive.

7 Elsie was a real cow. She was a Jersey heifer selected to participate in the Borden Dairy’s 1939 New York World’s Fair “Rotolactor” exhibit. Again, I’m not making that up. The Rotolactor was an invention by the Borden company and it was part of a Rotary Milking Parlor. The Local Controller would prefer that I stop talking about the Rotolactor but I’m not going to. The Rotolactor was a rotating platform used to milk cows. It held 50 cows and could produce 26,000 quarts of milk. armuni.org/3KHfyaQ

8 MercyMe is an American contemporary Christian music band from Oklahoma. armuni.org/3W1FhhP

9 I originally used the word “whilst” but the Little General said that was too erudite. As a side note the word erudite was not in my spelling wheelhouse. Thankfully Word found the proper spelling.

10 As a side note, being an attorney and a parent has allowed for more than a few comical exchanges with my children. At least I found them humorous. I’m not so sure the kids did. One of my all-time favorites would be to listen intently to their story, grievance or excuse and then say in my most lawyerly of tones, interesting but irrelevant. There’s nothing more satisfying than watching teenagers squirm while being cross examined. Good times!

11 Franz, Colin and Wells all graduated from Catholic High School in Little Rock. The Nug is a proud graduate of Central High School. Both schools are excellent!

I don't think this will come as a surprise to anybody reading this, but we are living in tumultuous times. Very tumultuous. Name calling and side taking seems to be the norm rather than civil discourse and the exchange of ideas. Meaningful debate has always been one of the greatest attributes of the United States. Through those intellectual discussions we reason with each other and come to conclusions that bode well for the long term.

By the time you read this you'll be well into the budgeting season, and that of course means detailed and constructive conversations about where your city or town is headed financially. At the local governmental level, it is expected that the job gets done without a lot of drama, wasted energy, wasted time or wasted money. The residents of your city or town want each of you to put forth your best effort to make that city or town the best possible community it can be. When the tumult of the outside world crashes into your council meetings, public work is no longer being done. Rather, noise and distraction take over. Inevitably, tempers flare and the municipal mission is forgotten. That's simply not an option in your world. Spigots still must produce water. Police officers and firefighters must respond to emergencies. Potholes must be patched. Streets must be paved. City Hall must be open and functional. Would you have it any other way?

Finally, I wonder if we all couldn't use a little breather. Hopefully by taking a step back we can become more objective and better listeners. Your constituents deserve nothing less. Let's start with common ground, namely making your municipality a better place to live. I can't think of a single person who wouldn't agree with that simple statement. Hopefully those same people would also agree that none of us are right all the time. Let's acknowledge our humanity and our imperfections. By doing so we become more approachable and better leaders. I know that each of you strives for that every day. If mea culpas and forgiveness are owed, then let's hold out that olive branch.¹² At the end of the day, we all want the same thing, and that's to live in a place that is secure, engaging and pleasant.

Until next month, peace.



Mark R. Hayes
Executive Director
Arkansas Municipal League

¹² I do love an idiom. This particular idiom has its origins in ancient Greek and Roman times and the biblical story of Noah found in Genesis 8:11. armuni.org/4nF0nyF

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ARKANSAS
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PHOTO: ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF



League hosts 53rd Municipal Clerks Institute

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Clerks, recorders and treasurers from across the state gathered for five days of training as part of the 53rd Arkansas Municipal Clerks Institute, held September 14-18 at the Arkansas Municipal League's North Little Rock campus. The Institute featured both Certification Class and Advanced Academy courses, covering an array of essential topics including an overview of municipal government in Arkansas, introduction to municipal accounting and audits, and record retention best practices. Members of the League staff provided updates on federal and state grants and recent legislation affecting cities and towns, including the Freedom of Information Act.

The 53rd Institute, the first since moving to the

League's education department, was a success, Director Kim Jones said. "The 55 students of this four-day intensive training are returning to their cities and towns armed with new awareness of best practices, applicable laws and ways to better serve their citizens. Certification Class students attended 20 classes, for a total of 34 hours. The curriculum included topics directly related to their positions, led by experts from the League, state agencies and current practitioners. Advanced Academy students participated in 14 hours of leadership, succession planning and updates."

The next Municipal Clerks Institute workshop will be held October 23-24 in Brinkley. For more information, please visit armuni.org/MCI.

Volunteer Community of the Year Award nominations close October 22



Last call to nominate cities and towns for the 2025 Volunteer Community of the Year Awards! The deadline for the awards, which are co-sponsored by Engage Arkansas, the Arkansas Municipal League and the Governor's Advisory Commission on National Service and Volunteerism, is October 22. This year marks the 43rd anniversary of the annual award that recognizes Arkansas municipalities—rather than individual volunteers or nonprofits—that seek to address their community's greatest needs through the engagement of citizens.

Volunteer Community of the Year Awards recipients are selected by a panel of judges composed of distinguished citizens from across the state. The winning communities will be notified in December and celebrated at the League's Winter Conference in January 2026. Winners receive two street signs, donated by the Arkansas Highway Commission, that designate them as a Volunteer Community of the Year for the specified year. And new for 2025, Engage Arkansas is offering a civic engagement funding investment for the winners of the Best City and Best Town to contribute to the municipality's most-needed volunteer projects.

Visit engagearkansas.org to learn about the award criteria and to nominate a community.

Annexation reports due March 1

A.C.A. § 14-40-2201 provides that on March 1 “the mayor or city manager of a city or incorporated town shall file annually with the city clerk or recorder, town recorder, and county clerk a written notice describing any annexation elections that have become final in the previous eight years.” The written notice must include a “schedule of services to be provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portion of the city”

and “a statement as to whether the scheduled services have been provided to the inhabitants of the annexed portions of the city.”

If the scheduled services have not been provided to the new inhabitants within three years after the date the annexation becomes final, “the written notice reporting the status of the extension of scheduled services shall include a statement of the rights of inhabitants to seek detachment.”

Finally: “A city or incorporated town shall not proceed with annexation elections if there are pending scheduled services that have not been provided in three years as prescribed by law.”

Bridge-load posting certification deadline set for December 31

To promote safe travel over bridges on city streets and ensure eligibility for federal highway funding, cities and towns with bridge-length structures must submit a properly endorsed bridge-load posting certification by December 31.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Arkansas Department of Transportation administer the requirements of the National Bridge Inspection Standards, and the regulations implementing this federal law place the compliance responsibility on the official with jurisdiction over each bridge. In addition to identifying structural deficiencies during the inspection process, the official must also advise the traveling public of any weight restrictions if a bridge is found to not be capable of safely supporting legal-load vehicles. If the bridge is determined to not be capable of safely supporting a minimum of a 3-ton vehicle, it is the official's responsibility to close the bridge until it is adequately strengthened or replaced.

Arkansas law A.C.A. § 27-85-101, Conservation of Bridges, requires the “administrators of the various public highway, road and street systems shall make every effort to conserve the safe function of the bridges under their jurisdiction pursuant to the findings and recommendations of the bridge safety inspections by the bridge inspection teams of the Arkansas Department of Transportation in accord with the national bridge inspection standards published in the Federal Register.”

Copies of required documents, as well as the Local Government Procedures for Compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards manual, are available for download from ARDOT. For questions or additional assistance, contact Todd Russell, district construction engineer, at todd.russell@ardot.gov or 870-836-6401.

Certain municipal officials may opt out of APERS



The Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) provides cities with the ability to provide coverage for employees and officials (A.C.A. § 24-4-303). The law states generally that the mayor and clerk “shall become participating employees upon taking office.” However, the statute permits mayors and clerks of cities of the first class to opt out of APERS in order to participate in the local retirement plans provided for in A.C.A. § 24-12-121.

To opt out of APERS, the mayor or clerk must provide written notice to APERS within 90 calendar days of the date the official assumed office. Once made, this choice is irrevocable. Any employer contributions previously made on behalf of an official who elects not to participate will be refunded to the city and the official will forfeit service credit in the system. Newly elected city attorneys or city treasurers in cities of the first class who are otherwise covered by a local pension fund may also take advantage of these provisions.

To contact APERS, call 501-682-7800 or visit apers.org.

Time to levy property taxes

City and town councils may levy general property taxes of up to five mills on the dollar (Ark. Const. art. 12 § 4; A.C.A. §§ 26-25-102 and 103). In order

to implement this millage, the governing body of the city or town must certify the rate of taxation levied to the county clerk. (A.C.A. § 26-73-202). This must be done prior to the time fixed by law for the quorum court to levy county taxes. Id. A.C.A. § 14-14-904(b) establishes the November or December meeting of the quorum court as the time to levy those taxes. Accordingly, municipal officials should check with the quorum court to determine whether its levying meeting will be in November or December. It is important also to bear in mind that the city council must levy and certify its taxes annually, as failure to levy by the required date will result in a millage of zero for the following year (See Ark. Ops. Atty. Gen. No. 91-044 and 85-5).

The bottom line: If your city or town wishes to collect property taxes for the following year, make sure that council approval and certification to the county clerk occur prior to the meeting of the quorum court at which county taxes are levied.

Cave Springs' Hutcheson, Murfreesboro's Lamb achieve Master Municipal Clerk status

Cave Springs City Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Hutcheson and Murfreesboro Recorder/Treasurer Penny Lamb have earned the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the organization has announced.

To qualify for the MMC designation, clerks must first earn the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation and commit to lifelong learning by attending extensive advanced education programs and to making significant professional contributions to the municipality they serve. For more information, visit iimc.com.

Both officials are active members of the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association. At the League's Annual Convention in June, Lamb was named the organization's Clerk of the Year, and Hutcheson was elected ACCRTA vice president.

Time to pass the budget

Most cities and towns in Arkansas are legally obligated to pass their budget on or before February 1 of each year.

MAYOR-COUNCIL MUNICIPALITIES

A.C.A. § 14-58-201. Annual submission.

On or before December 1 of each year, mayors of all cities and incorporated towns having the mayor-council form of government shall submit to the governing body of the city or town, for its approval or disapproval, a proposed budget for operation of the city or town from January 1 to December 31 of the forthcoming year.

A.C.A. § 14-58-202. Adoption of budget.

Under this subchapter, the governing body of the municipality shall, on or before February 1 of each year, adopt a budget by ordinance or resolution for operation of the city or town (AML recommends using a written resolution).

A.C.A. § 14-58-203. Appropriations and changes.

(a) The approval by the municipal governing body of the budget under this subchapter shall, for the purposes of the budget from time to time amount to an appropriation of funds which are lawfully applicable to the items therein contained.

(b) The governing body may alter or revise the budget and unpledged funds appropriated by the governing body for any purpose may be subsequently, by action of the governing body, appropriated to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statutes or ordinances for specific purposes may not be diverted to another purpose;
- (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-DIRECTOR MUNICIPALITIES

A.C.A. § 14-48-117(6)

He or she [the city administrator] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption.

A.C.A. § 14-48-122

(a) The approval of the budget by the board of directors shall amount to an appropriation, for the purposes of the budget, of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.

(b) The board may alter or revise the budget from

time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board for any specific purpose may by subsequent action of the board be appropriated to another purpose subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
- (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

CITY MANAGER-DIRECTOR MUNICIPALITIES

A.C.A. § 14-47-120(6)

He or she [the city manager] shall prepare the municipal budget annually and submit it to the board for its approval or disapproval and be responsible for its administration after adoption.

A.C.A. § 14-47-140

(a)(1) Any municipality organized and operating under the city manager form of government may authorize the mayor of the municipality to have the following duties and powers if approved by the qualified electors of the municipality at an election called by the municipal board of directors by referendum or by the qualified electors of the municipality by initiative:

...

(E) The power to prepare and submit to the board of directors for its approval the annual municipal budget.

A.C.A. § 14-47-125

(a) The approval by the board of directors of the budget shall amount to an appropriation for the purposes of the budget of the funds which are lawfully applicable to the different items therein contained.

(b) The board may alter or revise the budget from time to time, and unpledged funds appropriated by the board for any specific purpose may be appropriated by subsequent action of the board to another purpose, subject to the following exceptions:

- (1) Funds resulting from taxes levied under statute or ordinance for a specific purpose may not be diverted to another purpose; and
- (2) Appropriated funds may not be diverted to another purpose where any creditor of the municipality would be prejudiced thereby.

Arkansas Drug Take Back Day set for October 25



Arkansans are encouraged to safely and anonymously dispose of expired, unused or unwanted prescriptions and medications during the annual Arkansas Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 25. The statewide effort empowers Arkansans to help prevent drug misuse, reduce accidental poisonings, protect the environment from contamination and keep communities safe by providing secure disposal.

Arkansans safely disposed of 28,764 pounds of medication during the spring 2025 Arkansas Drug Take Back Day, contributing to the disposal of more than 329 tons since the event's inception in 2010. The annual Arkansas Drug Take Back collection event is hosted and coordinated in local communities by the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP), the Arkansas State Drug Director's Office, the Arkansas Sheriff's Association, the Arkansas State Police and the Counterdrug Joint Task Force of the Arkansas National Guard.

Local law enforcement will host collection sites in their communities on October 25. There are also almost 300 permanent drop boxes statewide that are available year-round. Residents can find nearby locations by searching a zip code at [ARDrugTakeBack.org](https://www.ARDrugTakeBack.org) or through the ReviveAR app.

"Participation saves lives," ARORP Director Kirk Lane said. "Dropping off your medications on Arkansas Drug Take Back Day is a quick, simple way to protect the people around you from the harm that unused medications can bring."

For more information about Arkansas Drug Take Back, visit [ARDrugTakeBack.org](https://www.ARDrugTakeBack.org). For more information about ARORP or to download the ReviveAR app, visit [ARORP.org](https://www.ARORP.org).

District court funding in flux: Help is on the way!

The 2025 legislative session delivered a dynamic change in the way that district court funding is managed and how uniform court costs are collected and disbursed to municipal administration of justice funds. Adjusting to the new law has come with unique challenges as county, city and court clerks navigate this new and unfamiliar system.

Under the new law, the district court will send the city or town the funds stemming from uniform court costs and filing fees from the 1st and 3rd classes of court accounting records, which are city matters/tickets, to be deposited in the city's Administration of Justice Fund. By the 15th day of each month, the municipality will remit 50% of the funds that were collected from the previous month from filing fees and court costs to the State Administration of Justice Fund. The city or town will then need to make appropriations for how the other 50% of funds that the city will retain are used, in accordance with A.C.A. § 16-10-308. This will ultimately require interlocal common agreements between counties and municipalities.

The League is working with representatives from the Arkansas Association of Counties and the Administrative Office of the Courts to understand and assist with implementation. We also plan to hold an educational breakout session on Act 371 during the 2026 Winter Conference in January, which will be hosted by a panel of individuals familiar with the new law. We hope to see you there.

Monthly sales tax receipts

City & Town magazine is now printed quarterly, but you'll never have to miss a month of your latest local sales tax receipts. The latest reports for cities, towns and counties from the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration and each month's turnback estimates are available on the League's website. Go to [armuni.org/Publications](https://www.armuni.org/Publications) and click on "Local Option Sales and Use Tax in Arkansas" to access the information you need, when you need it.

State law governs first council meeting of the year

A.C.A. § 14-43-501 requires members of a governing body elected for each city or town assemble in January and organize the governing body.

A.C.A. § 14-43-501. Organization of governing body

(a)(1) The members of a governing body elected for each city or town shall annually in January assemble and organize the governing body.

(2)(A) A majority of the whole number of members of a governing body constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(B)(i) The governing body shall judge the election returns and the qualifications of its own members. (ii) These judgments are not subject to veto by the mayor.

(C)(i) The governing body shall determine the rules of its proceedings and keep a journal of its proceedings, which shall be open to the inspection and examination of any citizen.

(ii) The governing body may also compel the attendance of absent members in such a manner and under such penalties as it prescribes.

(iii) The governing body may consider the passage of rules on the following subjects, including without limitation:

- (a) The agenda for meetings;
- (b) The filing of resolutions and ordinances; and
- (c) Citizen commentary.

(b)(1)(A) In the mayor-council form of

government, the mayor shall be ex-officio president of the city council and shall preside at its meetings.

(B) The mayor shall have a vote to establish a quorum of the city council at any regular or special meeting of the city council and when his or her vote is needed to pass any ordinance, bylaw, resolution, order, or motion.

(2) In the absence of the mayor, the city council shall elect a president pro tempore to preside over council meetings.

(3) If the mayor is unable to perform the duties of office or cannot be located, one (1) of the following individuals may perform all functions of a mayor during the disability or absence of the mayor:

- (A) The city clerk;
- (B) Another elected official of the city if designated by the mayor; or
- (C) An unelected employee or resident of the city if designated by the mayor and approved by the city council.

(c) As used in this section, "governing body" means the city council in a mayor-council form of government, the board of directors in a city manager form of government, and the board of directors in a city administrator form of government.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 14: Regional Meeting, A-State, Jonesboro, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nov. 20-22: NLC City Summit, Salt Lake City

Dec. 3: Investment Committee Meeting, League Campus, 11 a.m.

Dec. 3: Executive Committee Meeting, League Campus, 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 14: Municipal Workers Comp Board of Trustees Meeting, Little Rock Marriott, 1 p.m.

Jan. 14-16: Called to Serve '26: Winter Conference 2026, Statehouse Convention Center

Jan. 16: Municipal Health Board of Trustees Meeting, Little Rock Marriott, 1 p.m.

2026 elections: Filing and election dates for candidates for municipal office

For many mayors, council members, city directors, recorders, treasurers and other local officials, 2026 is an election year and the deadlines for filing and other important dates are approaching.

Ahead of each election year, the State Board of Election Commissioners publishes *Running for Public Office: A "Plain English" Handbook for Candidates*. This comprehensive handbook provides candidates with everything they need to know about elections in Arkansas, including the state statutes that govern the process and sample filing forms candidates may use. The 2026 handbook is available as a free, downloadable PDF at sbec.arkansas.gov.

2026 ELECTION DATES

- Preferential primary election: March 3, 2026¹
- General primary election (runoff): March 31, 2026²
- General election: November 3, 2026³
- General election (runoff): December 1, 2026⁴

2026 FILING DATES FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

- An independent municipal candidate in a **mayor-council** form of government seeking election at the November 3, 2026, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility during the **one-week period starting at noon on July 29, 2026, and ending at noon on August 5, 2026**.⁵
 - The deadline for the city clerk to certify

names of candidates to the county board of election commissioners is August 20, 2026.⁶

- An independent municipal candidate in a **city manager** form of government seeking election at the November 3, 2026, General Election must file a petition, a political practices pledge and an affidavit of eligibility during the **one-week period starting at noon on July 29, 2026, and ending at noon on August 5, 2026**.⁷
 - The deadline for the city clerk to certify names of candidates for director to the county board of election commissioners is August 20, 2026.⁸
- An independent candidate in a **city administrator** form of government seeking election at the November 3, 2026, General Election must file a statement of candidacy and petition of nomination during the **one-week period starting at noon on July 29, 2026, and ending at noon on August 5, 2026**.⁹
 - The deadline for the city clerk to certify names of candidates for director to the county board of election commissioners is August 20, 2026.¹⁰

2025 FILING DATES FOR PARTISAN CANDIDATES

The party filing period for candidates seeking to run in the March 3, 2026, preferential primary election is from **noon on November 3, 2025, until noon on November 11, 2025**.¹¹

The preceding information has been reviewed by the Municipal Law staff and is accurate as of press time.

1. A.C.A. § 7-7-203(b), Act 405 of 2025
 2. A.C.A. § 7-7-203(a)
 3. A.C.A. § 7-5-102
 4. A.C.A. § 7-5-106
 5. A.C.A. § 7-6-102(a)(3); A.C.A. § 14-42-206(b)(1)
 6. A.C.A. § 14-47-110(a)(3)(D)(i)
 7. A.C.A. § 14-47-110(a)(2)
 8. A.C.A. § 14-47-110(a)(3)(D)(i)
 9. A.C.A. 14-48-109(a)(4)
 10. A.C.A. § 14-48-109(6)(C)
 11. A.C.A. § 7-7-203(c)(1), Act 405 of 2025

Attorney General opinions

A quarterly discussion of recent opinions that affect municipal government in Arkansas.

BY BLAKE GARY

OP: 2025-015

Questions: (1) What is the legal meaning and intent of Act 1018 of 2013? (2) How does this Act apply to the voting procedures for turning a dry defunct township wet? (3) Given the dissolution of townships, what is the appropriate procedure for conducting a local option election in a previously dry area? (4) Are there two possible paths for a local option election: (1) reinstating an old township solely for the purpose of holding and election, or (2) conducting a local option election within the municipality that encompasses the defunct township? (5) How does the concept of a “defunct voting district” apply in this context? (6) If a dry vote was previously conducted in an area that is now considered defunct, does that dry designation remain in effect unless there is a superseding vote? (7) What constitutes a “superseding vote” in this context? (8) What are the procedural requirements for initiating such a vote under the current statutory framework? (9) Does Act 1018 of 2013 provide a means for municipalities within defunct townships to conduct a local option election independently or would a county-wide vote be required?

To quickly explain “defunct voting districts” in the context of local option elections, counties are generally either considered “wet” or they are “dry.” Within wet counties, cities and townships have always been able to vote to stay dry (but, they could never have a separate vote to go wet if they had voted previously to stay dry). As townships began to dissolve over the years, many cities were left with parts of their cities dry when the rest of the city was wet, or the city may have annexed territory in the county that had voted to stay dry long ago—again, leading to some areas of wet cities remaining dry. These dissolved townships are referred to as “defunct voting districts.”

Act 1018 of 2013 (as amended by Act 564 of 2015 and Act 144 of 2017) authorized a local option election for areas within the boundaries of a defunct voting district. A.C.A. § 3-8-602 authorizes an area within a defunct voting

district to “conduct an election to permit the sale of ... beer, malt beverages, vinous beverages, and spiritous liquor for on-premises consumption.” Upon request by either (1) those who are registered voters and who reside in the county that contains the defunct voting district in question, or (2) the city council of a city of the first class that includes a defunct voting district, the applicable county board of election commissioners must issue a resolution that identifies the “boundaries of a territorial subdivision located in a defunct voting district in which qualified voters may reside.” Once the county board of election commissioners receives a proper request for a resolution, it has 30 days to issue a resolution.

The Attorney General opines that per A.C.A. § 3-8-602(b), the petition procedure for a local option election in a defunct voting district must be conducted under A.C.A. § 3-8-201 *et seq*, which requires those seeking to place the option to vote wet on the ballot must obtain signatures equal to 15% of the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the defunct voting district, as identified by the resolution and corresponding map. Further, a city of the first class may adopt an ordinance to hold a local option election if the city has a defunct voting district within the city limits.

Ultimately, the Attorney General opines that a city may utilize the process under A.C.A. § 3-8-602 as a means to conduct a local option election independently for a defunct township instead of having a countywide vote on the issue.

OP: 2025-027

Questions: (1) Pursuant to Amendment 55 to the Arkansas Constitution, can a county judge execute a contractual agreement without the approval of the county quorum court? (2) Are there any limitations or restrictions, financial or otherwise, to contractual agreements executed solely by the county judge?

The Attorney General opines that while the quorum court determines what goods and services may be needed by the county and appro-

priates county funds for those needs, it is the county judge who executes the contract after choosing a specific vendor to provide the goods or a person to do the work. The quorum court's "consent to such contracts is not required."

The Attorney General further opines that there are some limitations to the county judge's contracting authority. For example, the county judge cannot execute contracts "for any purpose whatsoever in excess of the revenue from all sources for the fiscal year in which said contract ... is made." Further, the county judge can only execute contracts if the funds for such contracts have been previously appropriated by the quorum court. Finally, the county judge must follow county procurement laws for contracts.

OP: 2025-028

Questions: (1) Is the Ward Fire Department considered a "Volunteer Fire Department" under Act 673 [of 2025]? (2) If the answer to Question 1 is "no," under what status would the Ward Fire Department be allowed to levy dues similar to those in Act 673? If none, how do such fire departments levy dues and/or collect "fire dues," or do they just send invoices as allowed in A.C.A. § 14-53-102?

The crux of the question here is whether the term "volunteer fire department" includes municipal fire departments of cities of the first class. The Attorney General opines that A.C.A. § 24-20-108 (amended by Act 673 of 2025) specifically authorizes county quorum courts to levy on behalf of volunteer fire departments and designate a county official to collect the dues charged by the volunteer fire department in consideration for providing fire protection to unincorporated areas in the county. Further, the statute also authorizes cities of second class and incorporated towns to levy volunteer fire department dues. As such, cities of the first class are not granted the authority to levy volunteer fire department dues per A.C.A. § 14-20-108.

The Attorney General further opines that the Ward Fire Department (and thus all municipal fire departments so long as they were not "volunteer fire departments" under the statute) would not be able to levy volunteer fire department dues under A.C.A. 14-20-108. However, the city could enact an ordinance to authorize its fire department to operate outside the city limits and the city could "invoice" or "obtain compensation or reimbursement" for services provided pursuant to A.C.A. § 14-53-102. Further, cities may enact

ordinances to "enter into a contract or interlocal agreement for city fire protection with an existing fire department."

OP: 2025-038

Questions: (1) Is A.C.A. § 5-71-213(a)(3) constitutional? (2) Are law enforcement officers acting within their legal authority under A.C.A. § 5-71-213 when they ticket individuals who are present and remain on a sidewalk, in a roadway, or on a public right-of-way?

Attorney General opinion 2025-038 is centered around A.C.A. § 5-71-213(a)(3), which reads as follows:

Lingers or remains on a sidewalk, roadway, or public right-of-way, in a public parking lot or public transportation vehicle or facility, or on private property;
In a harassing or threatening manner;
In a way likely to cause alarm to another person;
or Under circumstances that create a traffic hazard or impediment.

The Attorney General opines that statutes such as A.C.A. § 5-71-213 are presumed to be constitutional, and the burden of proving a statute unconstitutional rests on its challengers. Anti-loitering statutes such as this one often face two constitutional challenges: (1) whether they violate the First Amendment by restricting speech or expressive conduct, and (2) whether they may be unconstitutionally vague under the Fourteenth Amendment by failing to clearly define prohibited behavior or enforcement standards.

The Attorney General makes important notice of previous constitutional challenges to this particular statute, and amendments from the General Assembly seeking to clear up portions of the statute that had previously been deemed unconstitutional.

Through a First Amendment analysis, the Attorney General opines that the government has a compelling interest in prohibiting loitering that is either harassing or alarming, as well as any form that obstructs traffic, and that the statute is narrowly tailored because it only applies to loitering that is harmful (unlike previous versions of the statute that covered broader categories). Turning to the Fourteenth Amendment analysis, the Attorney General opines that in the current version of A.C.A. § 5-71-213, the words used in the statute are not fundamentally vague and

resemble language found in Arkansas' disorderly conduct statute.

On Question 2, the Attorney General opines that law enforcement has the legal authority to ticket individuals for violating A.C.A. § 5-71-213, a Class C misdemeanor. Arkansas Rule of Criminal Procedure 5.2 authorizes law enforcement officers who have reasonable cause to believe that a person has committed a misdemeanor to issue a citation and further confirms the authority of certified law enforcement officers to issue citations for misdemeanors and violations. As such, if a certified law enforcement officer has reasonable cause to believe a person has violated A.C.A. § 5-71-213(a)(3), the officer may issue a citation.

OP: 2025-085

Question: Does Act 505 of 2025 apply to the city council, the mayor, or both?

Act 505 of 2025 defines the term "governing body" to mean "the governing body of a public entity." The Attorney General's office clarifies that although neither the statutes nor courts have expressly defined the phrase "governing body," the Attorney General's office has consistently

opined that such a body is one with decision-making authority. Therefore, whether something is a governing body depends on the nature and degree of its decision-making authority.

The Attorney General opines that a classic example of a governing body is a city council, and to the extent that the mayor is a member of the city council—even if serving in an ex officio capacity—they are a member of that particular governing body under the Freedom of Information Act.

TO READ FULL ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS, VISIT THE "OPINIONS" PAGE AT ARKANSASAG.GOV OR EMAIL OAG@ARKANSAS.GOV.



Workplace Hazards

Understand how to identify and prevent workplace hazards to create a safer environment.

Heavy Machinery

Learn safe and efficient practices for handling heavy machinery in municipal work.

Harassment Training

Gain practical insights into fostering a respectful and harassment-free workplace.

Policy

Stay informed on workplace policies and compliance essentials for smoother operations.

Register for SafeTrack

To Register for the SafeTrack Certification, learners can scan this QR code.

Questions? Contact Tricia Zello at tzello@arml.org.



The ACE SafeTrack Certification is part of the broader Arkansas Civic Education (ACE) Program, a cornerstone of AML's training and certification initiatives. Launched just after the one-year anniversary of the ACE Program, ACE SafeTrack ensures that essential safety training is always accessible, empowering municipal employees to learn anytime, anywhere.

- ✓ Training is available exclusively through the ACE Hub at any time.
- ✓ The Safetrack program currently offers 75 courses, with plans to expand the catalog further.

Course Variety

The ACE SafeTrack Certification program offers a comprehensive range of safety training courses tailored to meet the needs of municipal employees. From mastering the safe operation of heavy machinery to recognizing and addressing workplace hazards, these courses provide essential skills to foster a secure and efficient work environment.



ACE SafeTrack

Civilpedia Certification

Civilpedia is the first level of the ACE Program, offering essential knowledge of municipal government in Arkansas. With 25 credits required, it's the perfect starting point for civic education, accessible online for a \$50 fee.

Municipal Government

Section One covers how municipalities are formed, roles, ordinances, elections, vacancies, wards, annexation, and record management.

Municipal Finance

Section Two covers municipal finance, including budgeting, purchasing, procurement, revenue sources, auditing, and more.

Human Resources

Section Three focuses on employment laws, covering employee handbooks, EEOC issues, drug testing, and investigations.

Planning and Zoning

Section Four covers planning authority, commissions, comprehensive planning and GIS mapping.

FOIA Laws

Section Five addresses the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, including records, meetings, rules, exceptions, costs, and more.

Register for ACE



To Register for the ACE Program, learners can scan this QR code. Questions? Contact Tricia Zello at tzello@arml.org.



ACE Program

The Arkansas Civic Education (ACE) Program is the cornerstone of AML's training and certification initiative. Beginning with the foundational Civilpedia module and extending through a variety of flexible on-demand and live learning opportunities, the program offers comprehensive training in topics that matter most to local leadership.

Participants can customize their learning journey, earn certifications, and build expertise to better serve their communities while fostering growth, innovation, and excellence in municipal governance.

ACE Certification

Civilpedia serves as the "general education" of the ACE Program, providing a solid foundation in municipal governance.

Afterward, participants can deepen their knowledge through on-demand and live training opportunities, exploring diverse topics and earning credits toward advanced certification levels.

Each on-demand class is available for \$20 and live training is included in the registration fee for conferences and conventions.



MUNICIPAL NOTES

**TO: OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COUNCILS,
MAYORS, CITY ADMINISTRATORS, CITY MANAGERS, CITY CLERKS,
RECORDERS, TREASURERS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS**

FROM: MARK R. HAYES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026 BUDGET INFORMATION

The new League governing bodies, which were elected at the Convention or appointed by President and Greenwood Mayor Doug Kinslow, met, and considered several items that will affect your budget preparations for 2026.

League Service Charge. The Executive Committee retained the current service charge formula for 2026. The base charge is \$40 plus 35¢ per capita with 7¢ per capita credits, determined on October 1st, for participation in each of the following programs:

- Municipal Legal Defense Program
- Municipal Health Benefit Program
- Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program
- Municipal Vehicle Program
- Municipal Property Program

Please visit www.arml.org for more information about the League and its programs and services. Also included in the League service charge is membership in the National League of Cities for all our members.

Municipal Legal Defense Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Legal Defense Program approved 2026 charging rates that will range from \$1.45 to \$7.35 per capita depending upon your municipality's loss experience. *(2025 rates ranged from \$1.35 to \$7.00 per capita.)* Rating reserves remain at a \$300,000 reserve for active catastrophic cases and a \$50,000 reserve for active pro se cases. Participation in this Program can save your city or town money and potential legal liability. The program for CDL drivers will continue to be provided under the MLDP. Information about the MLDP is accessible online at [Municipal Law – Arkansas Municipal League](#).

Municipal Health Benefit Program. The Board of Trustees made some minor changes which will be effective January 1st. The 2026 Bylaws will be accessible online at [Municipal Health – Arkansas Municipal League](#). The Board will review rates in October. If you are not currently participating in Municipal Health and would like to receive a proposal for comparative purposes, please advise.

MUNICIPAL NOTES

Municipal League Workers' Compensation Program. The Board of Trustees adopted the minimum Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission (AWC) 2025 rates for all codes for 2026 with the application of state mandated experience modifications (NCCI) except where the AWC rates for 2026 were higher (applying only to 4511, 7420 & 7502.) The deadline to submit 2026 estimated payroll is October 10, 2025. If estimated payroll is reported by September 30, 2025, the Board approved a 1.5% discount for early reporting. The Board also approved a 2% front-end discount for participating members who pay their premium in full by February 2, 2026. Please note that the deadline to submit premium is March 31, 2026. Information about Municipal Workers Comp is accessible online at [Municipal Workers Comp – Arkansas Municipal League](#).

Municipal Vehicle Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Vehicle Program did not make any changes to the Program Bylaws that were amended September 1, 2022. The Board retained the current rates for 2026 and the surcharge application for high-risk groups. The Bylaws and Program Summary will be accessible online at [Municipal Vehicle & Property – Arkansas Municipal League](#).

Municipal Property Program. The Board of Trustees for the Municipal Property Program did not make any changes to the Program Bylaws that were amended September 1, 2022. The Board approved maintaining the per occurrence deductible, but rates will increase effective December 1, 2025 based on your municipality's ISO rating due to increased renewal costs from our outside reinsurance carrier. Rates will increase from .0031 to .0033 for ISO rates 1-3. Rates will increase from .0034 to .0036 for ISO rates 4-6. Rates increase from .0035 to .0037 for ISO rates 7-9. Rates will increase from .0036 to .0038 for ISO rate 10 (and LSM members.) A graduated surcharge will apply for high-risk groups with cumulative loss ratios greater than 100% and a 5-year loss ratio greater than 100% to greater than 300%. The optional deductible buy-downs for entities in Class 1 and Class 2 will remain the same. The flood deductibles will continue to be \$500,000 for ALL flood zones. We encourage our MPP members to consider the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to cover this deductible. NFIP can provide flood coverage up to \$500,000 with multiple deductible options. MPP would cover losses of over \$500,000. The Bylaws and MPP Program Summary will be accessible online at [Municipal Vehicle & Property – Arkansas Municipal League](#).

Turnback Estimates. Estimates for general turnback are as follows. The street turnback estimate includes proceeds from the highway ½ cent sales tax and the wholesale fuel tax.

	2025	2026
Street Turnback -	\$82.00 per capita	\$82.00 per capita
General Turnback -	<u>\$14.50</u> per capita	<u>\$14.50</u> per capita
Total Turnback -	\$96.50 per capita	\$96.50 per capita

APERS. For those municipalities participating in the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), the employer contribution will remain at 15.32% through June 2026 and the employee rate will increase from 6.0% to 6.25% effective July 1, 2026.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you as you prepare your 2026 budget.



Municipal Property Program Summary 2025-2026

Effective 12/1/25

Program Coverages, Limits and Deductibles

Property: Includes Buildings, Personal Property, Boiler & Machine Breakdown	\$502,000.00	Per Occurrence: All Perils, Coverages (subject to policy exclusions).
Unscheduled Animals	\$2,500,000	Not to exceed \$50,000 per Animal, per Occurrence - \$1,000 Deductible.
Tax Revenue Interruption	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000 per Occurrence, per Location Deductible: 2.5% of Annual Tax Revenue Value; if unscheduled, limit is \$500,000 per member with an aggregate of \$2,500,000.
Cyber Liability Coverage	\$55,000,000	Subject to a sublimit of \$2,000,000 per member, with a \$55,000,000 Annual Aggregate for Program.
Flood Zone X	\$52,500,000	Per Occurrence and in the Annual Aggregate.
Flood Zones A	\$50,500,000	Subject to a sublimit of \$7,500,000 \$5,000,000 Per Occurrence with a \$10,000,000 Annual Aggregate for all locations in Flood Zones A (inclusive of all 100 year exposures).
Earthquake Shock	\$50,500,000	Per Occurrence.
Deductibles	All Perils Flood Earthquake Cyber Liability	See Rate Classes Below* \$500,000 \$500,000 \$50,000 or \$100,000 (depending on total insured value)

Class Ratings, Deductibles and Surcharge

Rate is determined by the member's ISO Rating

ISO Rating of 1 – 3 = Class 101 = .0033 - \$10,000 Deductible

ISO Rating of 4 – 6 = Class 102 = .0036 - \$7,500 Deductible

ISO Rating of 7 – 9 = Class 103 = .0037 - \$5,000 Deductible

ISO Rating of 10 = Class 104 (and LSM Members) = .0038 - \$5,000 Deductible

Premium is calculated by multiplying total TIV by Class Rate

Note: Class 101 and 102 members have an option of buying down to a \$5,000 deductible. Class 101 rate would increase .0004 and Class 102 would be .0003

Note: Graduated Surcharge will apply if cumulative loss ratio greater than 100% and 5 year loss ratio:

Greater than 100% to 200%	.0001
201% to 300%	.0003
Greater than 300%	.0005

MUNICIPAL VEHICLE & PROPERTY



MUNICIPAL VEHICLE PROGRAM

Rating Tables 2025-2026 Effective 12/1/25

Part I Class Table

Class	All Standard & Non-Standard Vehicles	15+ Pass Van, Ambulances & LSM's	Buses
1	\$100	\$200	\$800
2	\$200	\$400	\$1,000

Part II Cumulative Loss Experience

Class		Standard Vehicle	Non-Standard
21	Under 100%	0.0055	0.0077
22	100-120%	0.0066	0.0093
23	121-140%	0.0077	0.0108
24	141-170%	0.0088	0.0124
25	171-220%	0.0099	0.0139
26	Over 220%	0.011	0.0154

Part II Definitions of Standard and Non-Standard

Standard Vehicle Rate

Vehicles that qualify for the **Standard Vehicle Rate** are:

- a) Motorized passenger vehicles available to the general public but purposed for use by municipalities, that are designed for use on a paved surface, that require a license by the State of Arkansas. This would include coupes, sedans, pick-up, SUV's used by police, city utilities, etc.
- b) Motorized vehicles designed for off-road use such as backhoes, excavation equipment, ATV's, etc.

Non-Standard Rate

We define **Non-Standard Vehicle** as a motorized vehicle not available for purchase to the general public as transportation, and whose design is for use by emergency personnel, or by personnel in the course and scope of municipal use. This would include, but not limited to, fire trucks, dump trucks, trash trucks, ambulances, buses designed to carry passengers.

NOTE: Deductible \$1,000 per vehicle.

SURCHARGE

Members with a current loss ratio over 100% for the last two years and a 100% Cumulative Loss Ratio, with an aggregate loss to the pool of \$750,000 or higher, will be surcharged and the maximum Class 2 Rates would apply for Part I and a 10% surcharge on Part II premium would apply.

Please contact John Wells at 501-978-6123, if you have any questions regarding the Municipal Vehicle Program rates.



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Features

CITY & TOWN | AUTUMN 2025



PHOTOS: ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

The pavilion at Bell Park provided a lovely setting for this year's annual planning meeting.

League leadership sets plans in motion

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Each year following the Annual Convention, the League's executive committee, officers, past presidents, advisory council chairs and optional program board members meet to implement our organization's policies and goals and strategize for the coming year during the annual planning meeting, held August 21 at the Sen. Ed Wilkinson Pavilion at Bell Park in Greenwood, home of new League President Doug Kinslow.

After the approval of the minutes from the May 7 meeting of the executive committee and the 2024 general audit report, League Executive Director Mark Hayes presented his annual report and provided an overview of the organization's activities and programs in place to serve the membership. "I want to ensure you have a complete picture of what your League does, what the structure is, where the money is, and the kind of efforts put forward by the staff members," he said.

Following the executive director's recommendation, the executive committee voted to retain the existing service charge formula for member cities and towns. The base charge will remain \$40 plus 35 cents per capita. Members receive a 7-cent per capita reduction

for participation in each of the League's optional benefit programs.

The League also has 132 limited-service members, which include counties, housing authorities, water associations, solid waste districts and other entities. The executive committee voted to retain their existing rates. The membership rate for counties is \$1,000 and the rate for other municipal entities is \$500.

For detailed information on the League service charge, fees associated with the optional programs, turnback estimates and the latest APERS multiplier, please refer to the executive director's budget memo in this issue on page 28.

For the updated summary of Municipal Property Program coverages, limits and deductibles, see page 30. There are no proposed changes for the Municipal Vehicle Program's rating tables for the next year. See details of the rates on page 31.

One important agenda item before the committee was to review the package of resolutions passed by the membership during the convention's annual business meeting. The issue that inspired the most discussion



The League's general operating fund, capital reserve fund and general reserve fund all received clean audits for 2024, reported Pattie Davidson of Landmark Certified Public Accountants (above left). Greenwood Mayor and 2025-2026 League President Doug Kinslow welcomes the executive committee to his hometown (above right).

was ballot measure SJR15, which will go before voters in next year's general election. If passed it would provide cities and towns with more options to invest in economic development—including retail development—through the creation of special economic development districts.

The League will be working on this issue closely between now and the 2026 general election, Hayes said. "We think this is going to be a gamechanger in many communities. If this passes, the key will be to get legislation put together that has appropriate curbs and guidelines so we don't have cities and towns being taken advantage of by developers and retail folks who are just looking to make a quick buck."

Protecting cities and towns from bad actors is a major concern, and the enabling legislation will be crucial in adding guardrails, said League General Counsel and Legislative Director John Wilkerson. "By adding 'retail' to the constitution we were saying hey, can you turn on the



League Executive Director Mark Hayes presents his annual report to the executive committee.

garden hose and let us have a little drink? SJR15 puts us right in front of the fire hydrant. It is a mammoth amount of ability to incentivize economic development if this passes. With that kind of water coming at your face, you need to have a way to protect yourselves and create these guardrails."

Annual planning meetings aren't all work, of course. They give the president the opportunity to show off their hometown. Mayor Kinslow took the group on a trolley tour of Greenwood highlights, including the Old Jail Museum, Vineyard Cabin, Ole Barn and Redwine Pioneer Schoolhouse.

The tour wrapped up with a stop at Greenwood High School, home of the Bulldogs, who have won an incredible 12 state football championships between 2000 and 2024. Winning is nice, Head Coach Chris Young said, but it's about much more than that.

"If you can build your schools up, you're going to build your community up," Young said. "If you go hire great leadership, then your schools are going to develop great leaders that one day work in your community and lead your community."



League General Counsel and Legislative Director John Wilkerson discusses SJR15, which, if passed by the state's voters, would expand cities' and towns' ability to invest in economic development projects.

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**Greenwood Mayor & League President
Doug Kinslow**



**Beebe Clerk/Treasurer & League First Vice President
Carol Westergren**



**Gassville Mayor & League District 1 Vice President
Jeff Braim**



**Heber Springs Mayor & League District 2 Vice President
Kasey Griffin**



**Pea Ridge Mayor & League District 3 Vice President
Nathan See**



**El Dorado Mayor & League District 4 Vice President
Paul Choate**

MEET THE 2025-2026 LEAGUE OFFICERS

From their inspirations to serve their communities, their biggest challenges, to pending retirement plans and new grandchildren, get to know this year's dedicated slate of League officers.

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Greenwood Mayor & League President Doug Kinslow

Greenwood's population has nearly tripled since 1990. What has been the biggest challenge in meeting the needs of a rapidly growing community? Infrastructure is always an important issue and concern with a growing and vibrant community. Planning for the future is sometimes difficult. The rising cost of all things related to municipalities is overwhelming at best. Ensuring citizens are receiving quality water, sewer, fire, police protection and all other essentials is imperative. Finding ways to fund these essentials is sometimes daunting.

Before being elected mayor, you were the city's first ever director of its new parks department, and greenspace and recreation amenities remain a priority for you. What's on the horizon for Greenwood's parks and rec?

Yes, after serving the city as parks director for nearly nine years, the future of our parks system is very important to me. I'm encouraged by the progress and completion of our splash pad in Bell Park, along with plans for a new all-inclusive park near Westwood Elementary. There are also plans for trail extensions within the city that I am very excited about. As we all know, parks, trails and outdoor recreation are very important to young families when looking for a place to live. Our future in that is very bright.

As a former restaurateur, what are some of your favorite places to grab a bite in Greenwood?

We are blessed to have some fine eating establishments within the city of Greenwood, all of which offer great food and service. I'm partial to Mexican food due to my 35-some years' experience in owning and operating Juan's Mexican Restaurant in Fort Smith and Abuela's in Greenwood. Pizza Barn is of course a mainstay, having been open in Greenwood for well over 40 years. You can find me at all of our eating establishments at one time or another. I love to eat!

You've been active in the Arkansas Municipal League since first taking office. Why is League participation important to you? I have been active in the Arkansas Municipal League even before becoming mayor in my parks director days, but even more so since becoming mayor almost 12 years ago. The League offers training that is invaluable along with the ability to network with cities from around the state, not to mention the superb Municipal Health and Municipal Vehicle and Property programs. And let's not forget the best legal aid in the country, in my opinion. Serving on the executive committee and now serving as the League president, I can tell you

we are represented exceptionally well with Mark Hayes and his amazing staff. Staying connected with AML is imperative to your city's success.

You've become well known for your quick wit. You love Elvis and Captain America. There's a sign in your office that reads "You're only young once but you can be immature forever."

How do you manage to keep a sense of humor even when the going gets tough? As I pondered running for mayor, I asked my wife, Pam, what she thought of the idea, to which she replied, "Why in the world?!" I also asked her if I ran and somehow won should I continue to "dress up" as my favorite characters like Captain America, Elvis, Thanksgiving Turkey, Santa Claus, Elf and even Batman. Yes, I in fact have all those

costumes and more! Her response was, "You have to be you no matter what position you hold." The rest is history, as they say. I love to see people smile and if I can make that happen, then I'm happy. Not every day as mayor is full of joy and happiness, but these things help me through the not-so-fun times along with my faith in God.



Beebe Clerk/Treasurer & League First Vice President Carol Westergren

After being raised in the St. Louis area and then working in retail and banking there and in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, you moved to Beebe for a fresh start. What about the city let you know that you had found your new hometown? In 1997, I was ready to move my boys to a small town where life revolved around family. I loved Beebe because my children went to school with the same children they went to church with. I loved Friday nights, because we all went to the football and basketball games at the school. We laughed and cheered as a whole family, and there were always a lot of aunts, uncles and cousins. All the more reason to make Arkansas home. And of course, Arkansas is such a beautiful state to live in.

You've served your adopted hometown in many capacities, both in community organizations like the VFW and Kiwanis, as well as serving on the city planning commission, the city council and now as clerk/treasurer.

What continues to inspire you to serve? I am also very involved in The American Legion Auxiliary—taking care of veterans, active-duty military and their families is my passion. But back to your question, I feel like if you are going to live in a community, you should do your best to work in that community to make it better. For me, even though I had lots of family here, getting involved helped me to meet citizens in the community who have become some of my closest friends. Making Beebe the best “Dream Hometown” to live in and for my sons and now granddaughter to live in is what I enjoy doing and what I want to do. What inspires me to serve? That is a great question. I love to know what is happening in my community; being involved not only keeps me current but puts me in the company of other like-minded individuals. Getting involved is getting to know your town. I am also inspired by those in this community who worked hard to put Beebe on the map, and a lot of them are gone now. I want to continue the tradition of moving Beebe forward. Serving the community and our citizens inspires me to be a better person.



The clerk profession is one of the most essential and demanding positions in local government. What advice would you give to someone following in your footsteps? Another great question! I would say first you need to love your community and all it holds—if you are just in it for a paycheck, this role is not for you. You have to be willing to help everyone, even if they voted against you or you do not agree with them. You must be a person who inspires citizens to be better and do better!

How has your involvement in the League and the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association helped you in your career in local government? I would not have been in office as long as

I have without the knowledge I gained from being involved in ACCRTA and the League. Taking advantage of all the offered education opportunities has kept me on top of the business of managing a city and is a primary reason why I have not had a challenger in the past several election cycles. I believe the citizens of Beebe see how much I want to learn and grow so that I can help grow our city in the right

direction. The mayor and the council members have a lot of faith in me and listen to my advice because they know it's based on experience gained through this training. They know I will not steer them in the wrong direction. I am blessed by having a mayor, council members and my family who support me. They all encourage me to keep learning and be involved in the both the ACCRTA and the League.

Beebe has been called “The Flea Market Capital of the World.” Do you like to go picking, and if so, what's your most fabulous find? I am not much on going to flea markets; I go with my sister and cousins once in a while. There are two items I always enjoy looking for. One is antique jewelry, especially pins and broaches. My mother and I love to wear these. Years ago, I received some snowman dishes which I love, and when I go picking, I am always looking for more dishes to add to my set. Beebe is the perfect confluence of pickers' heaven and hometown kindness. I encourage everyone to come and hunt and pick and shop!

GASSVILLE MAYOR & LEAGUE DISTRICT 1 VICE PRESIDENT JEFF BRAIM



With four terms as the mayor of Gassville under your belt, what has been the key to maintaining the citizens' faith in your leadership over the years? Just as I believe all who enter public service want to make a difference daily for all the people we serve and for the betterment of the cities we serve, I have been blessed to work with a great group of leaders and staff at Gassville who strive to do the same.

Located in north central Arkansas with easy access to the White River and Bull Shoals and Norfolk lakes just a short drive away, Gassville is in one of the most beautiful parts of our state. What is something unique about your city that people may not know about? Many people may not know this, but Gassville was home to

the first hospital in Baxter County. The Rollins Hospital building still stands today on Main Street.

You have made the announcement that, after 16 years of service, you will not seek reelection next year. What have been a few of the most satisfying accomplishments you and the city have achieved during your tenure as mayor? Improvements to our two city parks, the wastewater expansion project that brought new economic development, new housing developments and city facilities.

What plans do you and your wife have for the post-mayoral chapter of your lives? First, I want to say it has been a privilege to serve the city of Gassville for 23 years, 16 as mayor and seven as a council member. My wife and I intend to build a new home on family property in Fulton County and spend time with our grandchildren. Our sixth was born just a few weeks ago!

HEBER SPRINGS MAYOR & LEAGUE DISTRICT 2 VICE PRESIDENT KASEY GRIFFIN

You're a lifelong resident of Heber Springs. You've owned and operated your own business, Cuts and Colors Salon, since 2003. What about your hometown has inspired you to stay and create your life there? Heber Springs has always been home. My family is here and there is just something about small town charm. I had the opportunity to sell the salon last year to two stylists who have worked beside me for many years.

Before being appointed and then elected mayor, you first won a seat on the city council in 2014. What initially inspired you to run for public office? I wanted to be a part of something bigger. I saw areas that could use improvement and wanted to be involved in the process of making the community better.

You also began coming to League meetings around that time. Has participation in the League helped better prepare you to serve your city? Absolutely! Classes are a must when you are elected to a new position. The League staff is always there to help with any questions. They truly are the best resource.

This question may involve just a bit of projection: What is the public's perception of your job versus the reality of being the mayor of a small city? The general public doesn't get to see all of the moving parts. When I get asked questions, I feel most of my answers include educating them on how those parts work together and the process of getting tasks accomplished. The reality is that mayors have a lot going on. There is a law for everything we do. We work with many state and federal entities and endure the stress from every department. It's a lot!



PEA RIDGE MAYOR & LEAGUE DISTRICT 3 VICE PRESIDENT NATHAN SEE



You are in your first term as mayor, but you’ve served the citizens of Pea Ridge for more than 20 years, starting with mowing city greenspaces as a 21-year-old. You later served as street superintendent under former Mayor (and former League president) Jackie Crabtree. How has your background with the city shaped your approach to leadership as mayor? My background has helped in my position by having resources, contacts and trust in the community, which led to a lot of collaboration efforts in the region. I want to always be accessible to people. If they have an issue or concern, I would like to know about it so we can address the need. I have learned through the years that we as a city must be transparent with our residents. I really just wanted to serve my city and help with the growth we all knew

was coming. I want to make Pea Ridge the best Pea Ridge we can for our residents and region. I am not a politician; I am PASSIONATE about Pea Ridge.

Nestled in the hills just north of Bentonville and Rogers, Pea Ridge hasn’t been immune to the incredible growth in northwest Arkansas. Has the city been able to maintain its hometown feel while tapping into the opportunities growth provides? I look at “hometown feel” more as an individual aspect. We as people create the feel, by attending events, creating opportunities for community engagement. So, we have really been intentional about creating those opportunities. Every month we have an event that in some way brings the community together. As long as we keep doing that, we will keep the hometown feel. We have to get individuals out of their homes and give them a place they can meet their neighbors, new friends, etc.

What is the biggest challenge the rapid regional growth has presented? Our biggest challenge is infrastructure improvements, and it’s a regional issue. We have started to collaborate with others to really think about regionalism for our area. This can be from water/sewer and transportation to solid waste.

With your diverse background of service, you’ve developed many skills over the years. What’s one talent or skill you have that people may not know about? I don’t know that I have any skills or talents. I am just a regular, everyday individual serving my city. I will say that I have learned over the years that people want to be heard and seen.

EL DORADO MAYOR & LEAGUE DISTRICT 4 VICE PRESIDENT PAUL CHOATE

You have an extensive background in the insurance industry. How has that experience served you as a city official? Having made a career in the insurance industry in many ways prepared me for my work as mayor. The first is operating a business, and equally important to me is the service aspect. City government first and foremost is serving the people of our community.

Through public-private partnerships with groups like the Murphy Foundation, arts and cultural events have once again made El Dorado a south Arkansas hub and a true destination. What are some of the must-visit events and places in the city? El Dorado was a community dependent on agriculture and timber until 1921 when oil was discovered. Then we became a booming “oil town.” Men like Charles Murphy, Sr., set up shop and built a bustling community. Murphy USA still has its headquarters in the downtown area. Over the years the Murphy family has supported everything from festivals to the symphony, the arts center and the historic district. The entertainment district even carries the name Murphy Arts District.



What advice would you offer to other small cities seeking to replicate some of that success? Partnership. Civic, corporate and individuals. Find those in your community who care as much as you do and you’ll have a good starting point. My belief is that good, caring people will find their way.

What is your favorite place to relax in El Dorado? PJ’s Coffee Shop on the square. I can always find a friend there.

Why is it important to you to be an active participant in the Arkansas Municipal League? It’s information central, a true support group. You are dealing with the people who understand what you need and they are able to deliver.



Anthonyville celebrates 25 years of commUNITY

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF



PHOTOS: ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Anthonyville Fire Chief Charles Eason (left) and Mayor Leroy C. Wright, Sr., show off t-shirts made for the town's 25th anniversary.

In 1946, Luke Sears Anthony, Sr., and his sons established the Anthony Funeral Home along U.S. Highway 79, now Highway 147 South, in Crittenden County to serve the residents in that region of the Delta. The family-run business became an institution and would go on to anchor a community that became known as Anthony Quarters.

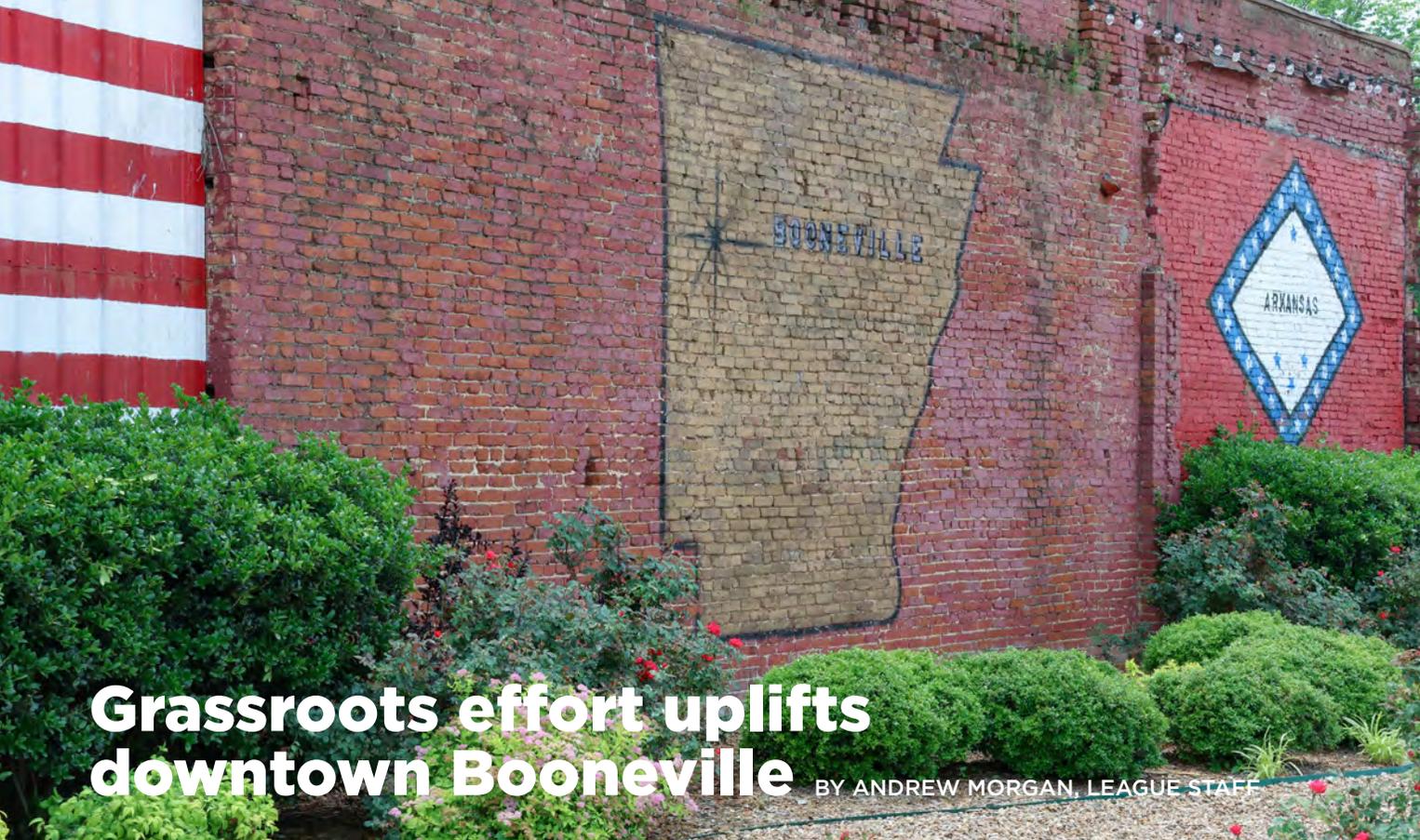
In 1989 the Anthony Quarters Volunteer Fire Department was established, and in 1992 the community joined the local Rural Improvement District (RID). Community leaders, who met regularly at Anthony Funeral Home, worked with the county and the state health department over the next several years to install a sewer system and expand fire protection services.

As Anthony Quarters grew, so did its need for infrastructure improvements, and in 1999 residents submitted their petition to incorporate to Crittenden County and to the state. On January 1, 2000, the town of Anthonyville was officially incorporated, its name chosen to honor the Anthony family, whose funeral home still operates today.

On September 27, the town marked its 25th anniversary, with residents past and present gathering to celebrate at Barton Wright Community Park. The day included a 5K walk/run, musical performances, a BBQ contest, and vendors selling crafts and food. The day was also a tribute to the fire department and its dedicated volunteer firefighters.

Unity and faith have brought Anthonyville this far, Mayor Leroy C. Wright, Sr., said as he welcomed everyone to the celebration. "I thank God for what he's doing, what he has done, and what he's going to do," he proclaimed to the amens of the celebrants. Wright served as president of the community committee and the RID before being named mayor upon the town's incorporation and, with the exception of one term, he has served as mayor since. Wright, who is also the pastor of Anthonyville's Bright Star Missionary Baptist Church, plans to run for one more term next year. "We've never had a city hall," he said. "I want to see that happen. Then I can retire."





PHOTOS: ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Grassroots effort uplifts downtown Booneville

BY ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

Located in Logan County, Booneville has had its share of ups and downs over the years. The formation of the Booneville Downtown Beautification Group by city leaders and citizens alike has helped put the city on a vibrant new path.

As is the case for far too many of our cities and towns, the last several decades have not been kind to the Logan County city of Booneville’s downtown. Businesses left and buildings stood vacant and deteriorating. In 2016 city leaders and concerned citizens, like lifelong resident Edgar Baker, who is now the mayor, decided to put in the work to turn things around and help their community live up to its motto: “A Good Hometown.”

Baker and his brother-in-law formed the Booneville Downtown Beautification Group under the auspices of the Petit Jean Regional Foundation. From there they partnered with the city, the Booneville Rotary Club, First Western Bank and other civic-minded entities and began revitalizing the downtown area by improving landscaping, adding benches, flower boxes and decorative signage, and painting murals. According to Mayor Baker, from 2017 to 2023 the Booneville Downtown Beautification Group completed 25 building improvement projects, including painting buildings and replacing awnings. Downtown property owners joined the effort as well, completing 22 additional projects. Of downtown’s 65 buildings, 47 have seen improvements since the project began.

To anchor the revitalization project, the partners worked together to raise the funds to build a performance stage and park on a 30,000-square foot vacant gravel lot. The Broadway Memorial Park was completed in 2023 at

a cost of about \$225,000. In addition to being an inviting place for residents and visitors to relax, it has hosted the city’s annual October Daze Festival, Christmas in the Park Night, movie nights, concerts and car shows. In April 2024, the park was the gathering place for the city’s Downtown Solar Eclipse Festival.

It’s a testament to what a community can do when you get the right group of people together, Baker said. “I knew we could make progress, and honestly we got way more done than I ever thought we’d get done.”

The success of this grassroots project has helped create a sense of place, he said. “When you build something nice, people are drawn to that. Having a green space in the middle of downtown with an area where you can sit and eat in the shade—and we’ve got three different restaurants down there—brings people downtown and they want to be outside. It brings more traffic downtown.”





The view from the stage at Broadway Memorial Park, which has provided an anchor for downtown Booneville's resurgence.



Fresh coats of paints and repaired awnings can go a long way in a beautification project. Booneville is at the intersection of Highways 23 and 10, which feature some of Arkansas' most scenic drives, and downtown restaurants like Reid's Hometown BBQ, El Penjamo and Black Dog Meat Co. are popular destinations for locals and travelers.



While some storefronts remain vacant, like the historic Savage Theater, the city is working with owners to improve the properties and find tenants.

CALLED TO SERVE '26 WINTER CONFERENCE

STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
JANUARY 14–16, 2026

REGISTRATION

Registration now open at [REGISTER.ARML.ORG](https://register.arml.org).

- \$350 Member registration October 1 through January 13.
- \$150 spouses and significant others.
- \$600 Nonmember registration through December 31.
- No refunds will be available after December 31.
- On-site registration increases by \$50 January 14.
- Registrations made via telephone will not be accepted. All registrations must be processed online with a credit card.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ACCRTA will hold a **New Clerk Orientation** in the Arkansas ballroom of the Marriott at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14 and a silent auction in the Exhibition Hall.

Plan to join us at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, for the **Joint City, County and Local Affairs Committee** meeting in the Marriott.

Opening Night Dinner will be a serve-yourself sit-down buffet dinner in the Wally Allen Ballroom with live music entertainment.

On Thursday, January 15, municipal IT directors and IT staff have been invited to a special **Information Technology training**. Email jmelton@arml.org for additional details.

General Wesley Clark will address us at the Inspire Breakfast on Friday, January 16 in the Marriott Ballrooms.

EXHIBITION HALL

Wednesday's Happy Hour, Thursday morning breakfast as well as popcorn and refreshments will all be served in the Exhibition Hall along with live content and podcast recordings.

As our Exhibition Hall continues to grow in popularity, sponsoring is the best way to secure a preferred booth location.

Sponsor & Exhibitor information is available at [REGISTER.ARML.ORG](https://register.arml.org).

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Celebrate your city's achievements at the **Arkansas Business Trendsetter City** and the **EngageAR Volunteer Community of the Year Awards** luncheon at 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 15 in the **Wally Allen Ballroom**.

Tickets are included in Member & Nonmember registration but can be purchased separately for those not attending the conference by emailing events@arml.org.

COME PREPARED

Take advantage of the **ACE Program**, a self-paced learning platform that currently offers over 50 on-demand credits. Level 1 Civilpedia covers the essentials of municipal government, municipal finance, human resources, planning and zoning and FOIA. You can find past convention and conference breakouts, grant writing certification, disaster preparedness course and many more certification credit opportunities available. With over 1,000 users already engaged, the ACE Hub is an ideal supplement for continued training and certification. Create your account on the ACE Hub at acehub.learningmanager.com.

[REGISTER.ARML.ORG](https://register.arml.org) | [EVENTS@ARML.ORG](mailto:events@arml.org)

Not getting our emails? Be sure to "Whitelist" events@arml.org.

GENERAL SESSIONS

In addition to the Wednesday afternoon **Joint CCLA Committee Meeting**, the conference will feature three General Sessions highlighting major legislative and civic developments.

- Thursday Morning: **John Wilkerson** will lead a session exploring the evolving role of building and land use codes in shaping housing supply and affordability. With the 2025 Arkansas Legislative Session placing significant emphasis on land use policy, this session will highlight recent and anticipated changes, signaling a "Regulatory Renaissance" aimed at modernizing local and state regulatory frameworks to support economic growth and community development.
- Thursday Afternoon: Following the passage of SJR 15, Arkansas cities are poised for transformative change. **Mark Hayes** and **Senator Jonathan Dismang** will discuss the impact of the upcoming constitutional amendment and how the creation of Economic Development Districts could reshape local economies. Drawing on successful models from Texas, this session will explore how these districts can drive growth, attract investment and foster regional collaboration.
- Friday Morning: After "Know Before You Go" reminders from **Mark Hayes**, **General Wesley Clark** will lead a compelling conversation on restoring civility and common ground in American public life. Through his work with Renew America Together General Clark promotes civic education, respectful dialogue, and informed leadership. Attendees will be introduced to key initiatives including SERVE (a framework for civility), TRUST (addressing disinformation) and the Civility Leadership Institute which offers practical tools to strengthen civic engagement and build bridges across communities.

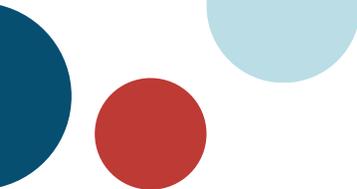
BREAKOUT SESSIONS

working list

- Building inspectors are a critical line of defense in protecting both property and lives. **John Wilkerson** will explore how code enforcement and structural integrity directly impact firefighter safety. Learn how proactive inspections and interagency collaboration can reduce fire risks and improve emergency response outcomes in your community.
- MLDP's partnership with Benchmark Analytics is helping Arkansas cities identify the most effective, evidence-based practices in law enforcement. **Brie Gibson** will discuss how data is being used to guide officer training, reduce liability, and build safer, more trusting relationships between police and the communities they serve.
- Act 371 has reshaped how Arkansas municipalities manage district court funding, requiring new procedures for collecting and disbursing uniform court costs and filing fees. **Caleb Alexander-McKinzie**, **Taylor Handford** (AAC) and **Kristin Clark** (AOC) will explain the law's impact on city and county operations and offer guidance on navigating the transition from legacy systems to this new funding model.
- The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) has allocated \$125 million for water and sewer treatment facility grants. **Caran Curry** and **Debby Dickson** (ANRC) will discuss what qualifies as shovel-ready, how to prepare for the one-year construction start requirement, and what to expect as rules and definitions are finalized in early 2026. This session is essential for municipalities looking to secure funding and move quickly on critical infrastructure improvements.
- The Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) continues to guide municipalities through the implementation of national settlement funds. **Mark Hayes** and **Kirk Lane** will provide updates on form submissions, funding timelines and how cities can access resources to support prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. Learn how to align your local strategy with ARORP's mission to combat the opioid crisis.
- In addition to the topics listed above, finance training will be available designed for treasurers, finance directors, mayors, and council members, providing practical tools and insights to strengthen your city's financial leadership.

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WORKING AGENDA

at a glance

Times and locations are a work in progress and may change prior to the event. Stay tuned for updates made to REGISTER.ARML.ORG as we get closer to the event.

Wednesday, January 14

10 a.m.-12 p.m. ACCRTA New Clerk Orientation, Arkansas Ballroom

1-5 p.m. Check-In & Exhibition Hall Open

2 p.m. Exhibition Hall Stage

3 p.m. Joint City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Marriott Ballroom

5 p.m. Delta Dental Happy Hour, Exhibition Hall

6-7:30 p.m. JTS Opening Buffet Night Dinner, Wally Allen Ballroom

7:45 p.m. Stephens Dessert Reception, Capital Hotel

Thursday, January 15

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Check-In & Exhibition Hall Open

7:30-8:45 a.m. Breakfast

8 a.m.-5 p.m. ACAA CLE, Drew Room

9-10:15 a.m. General Session: Regulatory Renaissance, Governor's Hall 4

10:30-11:50 a.m. Breakout Sessions

12-1:30 p.m. Wyndham Hotel ABPG Trendsetter and EngageAR's VCOY Awards Luncheon, Wally Allen Ballroom

2-3:50 p.m. Breakout Sessions

4-5 p.m. General Session: Issue 3, Governor's Hall 4

Dinner on your own

Friday, January 16

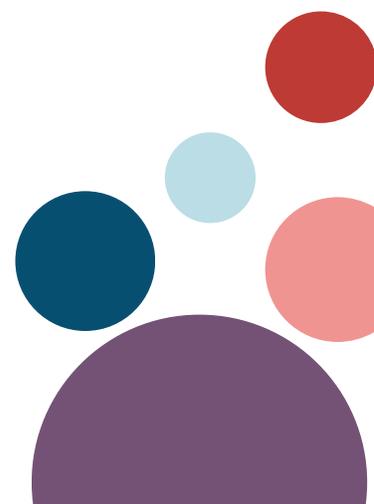
8 a.m.-3 p.m. ACAA CLE, Drew Room

8-10 a.m. Inspire Breakfast featuring General Wesley Clark and Know Before You Go from Mark Hayes, Marriott Ballrooms

Attendees on the road by 10:30 a.m.

[REGISTER.ARML.ORG](https://register.arml.org) | EVENTS@ARML.ORG

Not getting our emails? Be sure to "Whitelist" events@arml.org.



Arkansas Municipal League Winter Conference Scholarship Application

The executive committee of the Arkansas Municipal League (AML) voted in 2012 to award two scholarships for registration to the AML Winter Conference. A scholarship will be awarded to one mayor or council member, and to one city clerk, recorder or treasurer, which will enable city officials to further their educational training in municipal government.

The Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders, and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA) agreed to manage applications and the selection process.

Completed scholarship applications should be returned to the ACCRTA Scholarship Committee chair:

Johnessa Boze
Chief Deputy Clerk
City of Lamar
437 W. Main St.
Lamar, AR 72846

Direct questions to johnessa.boze@gmail.com

479-885-3865 work

WINTER 2026 APPLICATION FOR ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE TO APPLY: NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Name: _____ Title: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____
 Municipality: _____ Date you assumed your present position: _____
 Education: H.S. Graduate _____ College Graduate (or years) _____ Degree _____

Other related experience:

Title	Municipality	Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

How much does your municipality budget annually for your department for education? _____

Does your municipality pay or reimburse travel and meal expense? yes no

What is your approximate cost to attend the AML Winter Conference (including tuition, lodging, meals and transportation):

\$ _____

What is your reason for applying for this scholarship? _____

I, _____, am a member of the Arkansas Municipal League, and do hereby apply for registration assistance from AML (applicant's city or town must be a member of AML at the time of application.) I understand that if a scholarship is awarded to me, it must be used for registration at the AML Winter Conference to be held January 14-16, 2026, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock and that I must attend all sessions. If my attendance must be approved by the chief executive officer or legislative body of my city or town, I will be given time to attend the conference. I do hereby attest that the information submitted with this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer: ACCRTA is not responsible for applications that do not reach the chairperson by the deadline. Please feel free to call or email for verification of receipt.

**ARKANSAS
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE**

Grant Writing & Grant Management CERTIFICATION



The Arkansas Municipal League invites you to take advantage of our Grant Writing Certification Series available on the ACE Hub, acehub.learningmanager.com. This series is a practical, step-by-step guide for municipal officials and employees who want to strengthen their grant writing skills and secure funding with confidence.

- Introduction to Grants
- Allowable & Unallowable Costs
- Federal Grant Budgets
- Writing the Program Narrative
- Goals & Objectives
- Foundations & Corporations
- Misc Matters Related to Grant Writing
- Insights from Arkansas Professionals

By the end of the certification, you will be fluent in basic grant-writing language and best practices. The ACE Hub provides the tools to develop a successful proposal for your community.

Make sure you're keeping up on the Grants Community through amlcommunity.arml.org for webinars and special trainings

**SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THE ANNUAL IN-PERSON GRANTS
GANG AT THE AML CAMPUS IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK
MARCH 5, 2026**

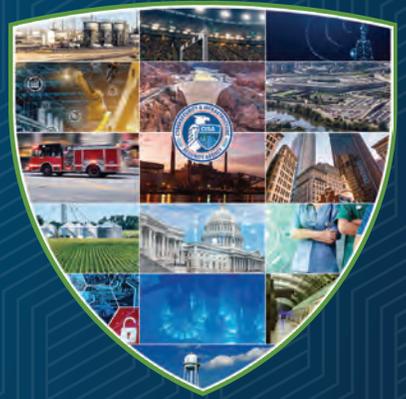
Caran Curry, Senior Grants Counsel

📞 501.517.0416

✉️ ccurry@arml.org



PRACTICE THESE FOUR ESSENTIALS TO STAY SAFER ONLINE



1 | UPDATE SOFTWARE



Updating software and devices is the easiest way to stay protected from security threats. Perform updates as soon as they become available or set automatic updates.

2 | USE STRONG PASSWORDS



All passwords should be:

- LONG:** At least 16 characters
- RANDOM:** Use a random string of mixed-case letters, numbers and symbols, like: Yuc8\$RikA34%ZoPPao98t
- UNIQUE:** Never reuse passwords

Keep your passwords safe by using a **PASSWORD MANAGER!**

3 | TURN ON MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION



Multifactor authentication provides an extra layer of security for your accounts. Choose the most secure MFA method available. A physical security key provides the best protection and is easy to use.

4 | RECOGNIZE AND REPORT PHISHING SCAMS



Keep an eye out for phishing and other scam attempts in your emails, texts, direct messages or phone calls. Always verify the sender before clicking links or downloading attachments. If you spot a scam, report it!

BUILDING A
**CYBER
STRONG
AMERICA**

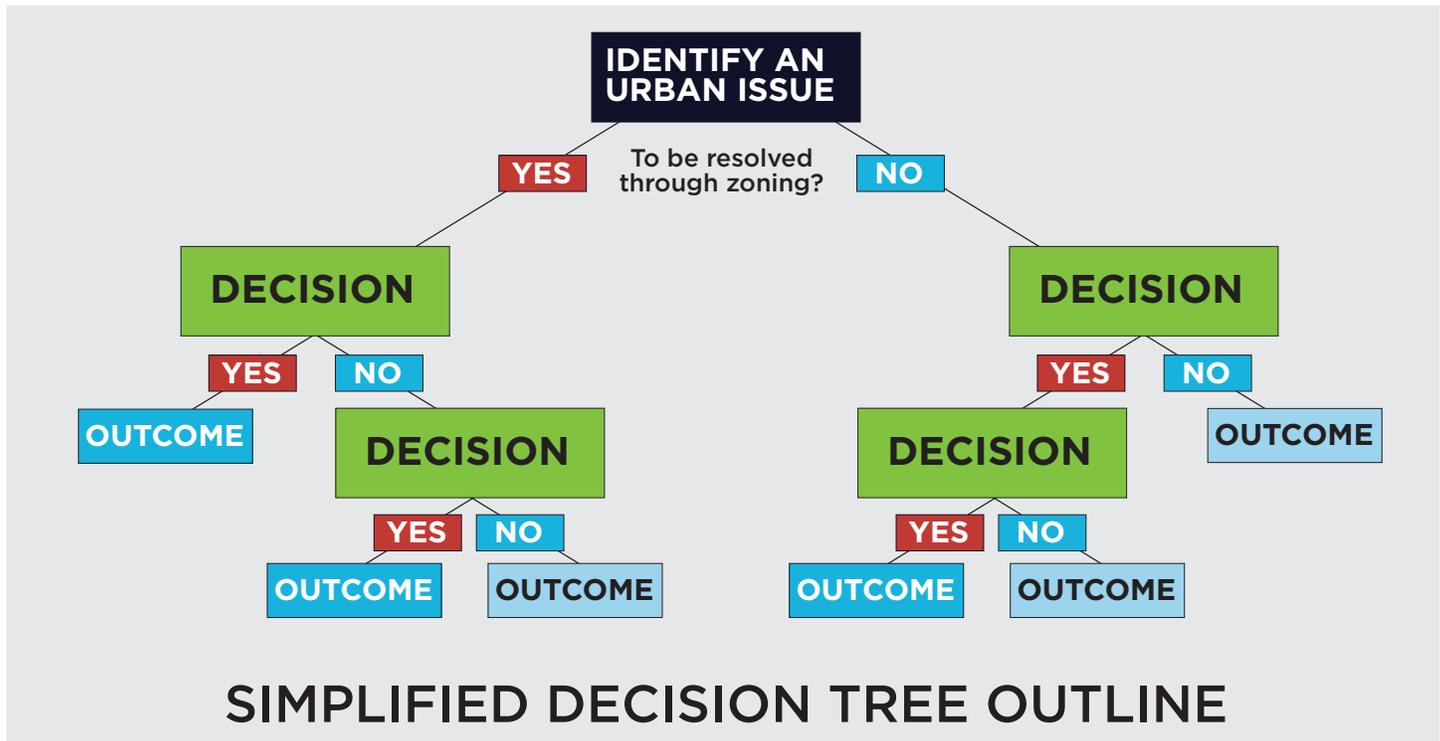


**CYBERSECURITY
AWARENESS
MONTH**

OCTOBER 2025

cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month

Planning to Succeed



A “decision tree” evaluates different courses of action based on possible outcomes and their associated risks.

Decisions: Who needs them?

BY JIM VON TUNGLN

Plaintiff’s attorney to expert witness: “Would you not agree that the city should consider the views of neighbors when making a land-use decision?”

Expert witness: “To the extent that those views result from a rational consideration of actual facts, yes.”

Plaintiff’s attorney: “Uh ... well ... that’s not exactly what I meant.”

And so it goes. In the case of making a vital decision about planning and land-use matters, planning commissions and elected officials can face a situation in which that decision will please and infuriate in equal measures. In other words, it is neither easy nor pleasurable.

Consider decision making. There has not been a

better time in recent years to pay close attention to the urban planning function of public administration. Legislative attention at the state level has made it particularly important. This justifies a close look.

A “decision tree” provides one method of making decisions. This tool evaluates different courses of action based on possible outcomes and their associated risks. It includes a visual tool: a tree with nodes and branches. A benefit is that it allows small or incremental decisions in making a larger one.

Let’s look at two examples, one for small cities and one for the larger ones.

At the small city level, one might ask, after analysis, do we have a major issue in our community, say the random location of unregulated factory-built housing?

A “yes” answer would lead to another branch in which a second question is asked: Is this an issue that land-use regulations could address?

Again, a “yes” answer would lead to another branch with another question: Does our city have an active and responsible planning commission with up-to-date plans and regulatory documents?

At this point, the branches may split. If the answer is “no,” then does our city have the capacity to form a planning commission composed of at least five members who would meet at least quarterly and address complicated land-use decisions, including the one in question?

Here, for small communities, a “yes” answer would lead to another branch. A “no” might lead to the question, is our city council willing to take on this responsibility?

Consistently negative answers could end this tree. The city needs to examine another method of dealing with the issue.

For larger cities, the tree is more complicated but equally useful. Let's take a shortage of workforce housing as an example. After the issue is identified, a first question should be, was this issue identified and documented in an adopted plan?

A "yes" leads us further. A "no" returns us to the planning process.

Proceeding, we then ask, is this an issue that land-use regulations might address?

Here is where it gets scary.

Assuming the answer is "yes," the next question might be, do we have a possible solution that is legally permissible?

It is seductive to assume that a "yes" would end the tree. An experienced decision maker would, however, insert another question: Will our citizens allow us to implement that solution?

Here is where making valid decisions affecting our community seems similar to walking through a minefield. Inexperienced observers and "out-of-state consultants" operate under the underlying and unsupported assumption that the public officials who develop and implement regulations can always make rational decisions.

It is pleasant to think so. It is also unrealistic. Few decisions can develop on a completely rational basis.

American scholar Herbert A. Simon, in a classic work on decision making, formed the term "bounded rationality." This concept states that "objective rationality" is not always realistic due to limits existing in the real world. These limits can include the following:

There is limited knowledge of workable alternatives. As Zhoudan Xie, a senior policy analyst at George Washington University, pointed out in her 2019 article "Bounded rationality in the rulemaking process," "[Regulators] may have greater expertise, experience, and data than many other people, but they are still humans rather than robots." One workable alternative often eludes decision makers in their analysis. That is the "do-nothing" choice. At the other end of the spectrum are complicated decisions that require massive expenditures of money and staff time for enforcement.

There is an incomplete knowledge of possible consequences. The pervasive "law of unintended consequences" has soured the public on many heralded decisions. For example, one of the most often stated issues for a community is, "Our town needs a bypass for the automobile traffic." The next issue often stated is, "The older parts of town are deteriorating since all the businesses have moved to the bypass."

There are limits to assessing the costs versus the benefits of alternative solutions. Unrealistic assumptions and unreliable data loom like medieval harpies over seemingly wondrous decisions. Just ask an urban planner who remembers downtown malls or urban renewal, aka "urban removal."

What are we to do? Let us return to Simon's works. He also developed another term once popular in public administration: the concept of "satisficing" behavior. This simply means achieving acceptable objectives while minimizing complications and risks. In other words, "Don't overthink it." As with the old analogy of dipping beans from a barrel, the last few steps of any job may cost more effort and time than all the previous steps combined.

Or, as a famous mayor in the lower half of our state (LA) once observed, "We fall into the mistaken belief that if a little bit will do good, then a whole lot will cure. And it ain't always so."

With that in mind, let's return to the decision tree. Assuming we have an idea the general public will allow, can it be addressed without regulations? If no, we turn to regulation. Then, is a proposed idea the least intrusive one possible? If so, are there potential backlashes, i.e., unintended consequences, looming?

See where this leads us? Now let us think of our community. Let's zero in on one of the most pleasant and popular areas of our city. Then let us answer, truthfully, one simple question: Was this pleasant place achieved through intensive regulations or did it develop because of no, or few, regulatory restraints?

In one of the author's several adopted hometowns, Little Rock, the Hillcrest neighborhood answers that question quite eloquently.

In meetings where experiences in urban planning lead the discussion, we often hear statements like "What we did was..." or "We were able to get the following passed" or "We talked the board or council into..."

Another common comment was, "It was consistent with the plan, there were no apparent problems, and the staff recommended approval without exceptions. What happened? Some neighbors shouted it down with vague references to the type people it might attract."

What if a planning proposal is not presented as a victory regarding an issue but as a rational approach to achieving positive community development? Second, what if the approach was so consistent with adopted plans and engineering analysis, and sound urban planning principles that it should create "by-right" land uses? Third, what if regulations provide that such land uses will avoid veto by a group of neighbors who did not employ a rational consideration of actual facts?

In reality, public administration is not a win/lose affair. It is a process of using governance to promote the health, safety and welfare of the community. Tools like decision-tree analysis could help.

Overtime exemptions under the Fair Labor Standards Act

BY TRACEY L. CLINE-PEW & CALEB ALEXANDER-MCKINZIE, LEAGUE STAFF



In 2024, when the U.S. Department of Labor announced a proposed increase to the salary threshold for exempt employees, the League emphasized the importance of correctly classifying employees as exempt or non-exempt. Although the proposed 2025 increase was ultimately blocked by a federal court, giving the entire HR world whiplash, the issue remains critical for municipal employers.

First and foremost, whether an employee qualifies as overtime-exempt is governed by criteria established in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The FLSA exempts several categories of employee, including executive, administrative and professional employees. An employee may be exempt from overtime if they meet specific criteria for their job category and are paid a statutorily set minimum. It's important to note that being paid on a salary basis alone does not automatically render an employee exempt from overtime. The employee must meet the salary basis test and fit into one of the categories. Beyond these well-known categories, the FLSA outlines additional exemptions that municipal employers should understand.

Elected officials and appointees

Elected municipal officials and individuals appointed by elected officials to serve in policymaking or legal advisory roles are exempt from FLSA overtime provisions (29 C.F.R. § 551.104).

Volunteers

Volunteers are not considered employees and are therefore not entitled to overtime compensation. However, employees may not volunteer to perform the same duties for the same public agency that employs them. For instance, a police officer cannot volunteer to provide security at a city-sponsored event—they must be compensated for any hours worked beyond 40 in a defined workweek (29 C.F.R. §§ 553.100, 553.102). How do you know if an employee is a “volunteer?” The FLSA states that “the term ‘employee’ does not include any individual who volunteers to perform services for a public agency which is a...political subdivision of a state ...if (i) the individual receives no compensation or is paid expenses, reasonable benefits, or a nominal fee to perform the services for which the individual volunteered; and (ii) such services are not the same type of services which the individual is employed to perform for such public agency.” 29 U.S.C. § 203(e)(4)(A).

Small law enforcement agencies

Law enforcement officers in municipalities with fewer than five officers (including the chief) are exempt from overtime requirements (29 U.S.C. § 213(b)(20); 29 C.F.R. §§ 553.200, 553.211). A police officer is defined as a person who is legally authorized to enforce laws and maintain public order, has the power to arrest, and is undergoing or has completed training in law enforcement techniques, legal principles, physical defense, ethics, etc. (29 C.F.R. § 553.211).

Small fire departments

Municipalities with fewer than five paid firefighters (including the chief) are exempt from paying overtime to those employees. A firefighter is defined as a person who is trained and legally authorized to engage in fire suppression; employed by a municipal, county, fire district or state fire department; and is actively involved in fire prevention, control and emergency response (29 U.S.C. § 203(y)).

Partial overtime exemption for police officers and firefighters

For police and fire departments with five or more paid officers and firefighters, the FLSA allows the municipality to establish a “work period” for law enforcement officers and firefighters ranging from seven to 28 days. If a city fails to formally establish such a period, the standard 40-hour workweek applies, and overtime must be paid accordingly (29 C.F.R. § 553.230).

For the maximum allowable hours before overtime applies based on the length of the work period, see the chart below. Note: Only actual hours worked count toward overtime eligibility. Time missed due to illness, vacation or personal leave is not compensable for overtime purposes (29 C.F.R. §§ 553.201, 553.230).

One additional and critical point about adopting the work period: The city must actually adopt the work period. The best practice is to do so either by ordinance or by adopting the work period as part of an employee handbook that is applicable to the police department or the fire department. If the city has five or more officers but has not established a work period as discussed above, then both state law and the FLSA’s default overtime rules apply and the employees must be paid overtime after working 40 hours in a single work week, so it is important to establish a work period. Bonus tip: This and so many other important topics are explained in the HR section of the Civilpedia, which can be accessed from the Publications page of the League’s website, www.arml.org.

Understanding the nuances of overtime exemptions under the FLSA is essential for municipal employers to ensure compliance and avoid costly penalties. While salary status and job title are important, they are not the sole determinants of exemption. Cities must pay close attention to employee roles, agency size and work period designations to properly apply FLSA rules. By staying informed and proactive, municipalities can maintain fair labor practices while protecting their operational integrity—and hopefully avoid costly litigation.

EST. WORK PERIOD	FIRE PROTECTION	LAW ENFORCEMENT
28	212	171
27	204	165
26	197	159
25	189	153
24	182	147
23	174	141
22	167	134
21	159	128
20	151	122
19	144	116
18	136	110
17	129	104
16	121	98
15	114	92
14	106	86
13	98	79
12	91	73
11	83	67
10	76	61
9	68	55
8	61	49
7	53	43

This chart shows the maximum allowable hours before overtime applies, based on the length of the work period.

Good stewardship vital for future of life-saving antibiotics

BY RYAN K. DARE, M.D.

The discovery of penicillin nearly a century ago marked a breakthrough in the research and production of antibiotics that have gone on to save countless lives. Each year, health care providers in the United States write over 250 million antibiotic prescriptions to fight or prevent bacterial infections.

We've come a long way from the days when even minor infections could be fatal because doctors lacked the tools to treat them. But while antibiotics have now become a routine remedy, they're also a resource we can't afford to take for granted. Bacteria are constantly evolving, and if they are overexposed to antibiotics, there's an increased risk that they'll develop traits that make them resistant to treatment.

We all need to be aware of the significant public health threat posed by antibiotic resistance. Even the healthiest person can develop an infection, and it's vital that we conserve these treatments, so they remain effective when we need them the most.

How antibiotics work

Antibiotics comprise a wide variety of medications that kill bacteria or interfere with their ability to reproduce. Each class of antibiotic has a different chemical composition, and most of them target specific types of bacteria. Health professionals are trained to diagnose patients and determine which antibiotic—and what dosage—is best suited to treat them.

Most people will take several types of antibiotics in their lifetime, whether to treat conditions such as strep throat and staph infections or as a prophylactic measure to reduce the risk of infection after a surgical procedure.

It's important to know that there are limits to what antibiotics can do. They only treat bacterial infections, so they offer no protection against viruses such as colds, flu or COVID-19. They also carry the possibility of side effects such as diarrhea, nausea and allergic reactions.

In some cases, antibiotics aren't needed to clear up an infection. Many ear infections don't require the use of antibiotics because the immune system can handle them on its own.

Antibiotic resistance

While antibiotics are usually highly effective in fighting infections, bacteria are resilient organisms that will continue to find ways to ensure their survival. The more they're exposed to antibiotics, the higher the likelihood that they'll develop defense mechanisms that allow them to mitigate the drugs' effects.

Drug-resistant infections are extremely difficult to treat, often resulting in longer and costlier hospital stays. When an antibiotic is no longer effective, it leaves clinicians with one less option and forces them to find a new course of treatment. In the meantime, the bacteria continue to multiply, increasing the risk that the patient will face severe illness or life-threatening complications.



Doing our part

Bacterial evolution is a natural process, but we all have a role in preventing these adaptations from outpacing our ability to combat them. Take antibiotics only when prescribed by a health professional and finish your course of treatment as prescribed. Cutting off a round of antibiotics too soon, before it has completely resolved the infection, gives the bacteria an opportunity to become more resistant to treatment.

Another way to avoid the overuse of antibiotics is to reduce your risk of developing infections. Practice good hygiene by washing your hands frequently and thoroughly to prevent harmful bacteria from entering your body or spreading to others. Open wounds are another common source of infection, so keep any cuts or bad scrapes clean and covered with bandages. Stay up to date on appropriate vaccinations to prevent either development or complications of preventable infections.

Lastly, rather than ask your providers for an antibiotic, ask whether an antibiotic is even necessary. Better and more in-depth discussions of the risks and benefits of antibiotic exposure are much needed in clinic settings.

For our part, health professionals across the country have worked to implement stewardship programs that optimize the use of antibiotics. By reducing instances of overprescribing and misuse, we can improve patient outcomes today while ensuring we continue to see the benefits of antibiotics in the future.



wrinst.org/credential



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Pedaling progress: Designing bikeable communities in northwest Arkansas

BY ERIC BARTELS



PHOTO: ANDREW MORGAN, LEAGUE STAFF

In northwest Arkansas, bicycles are more than a pastime—they are a part of everyday life. From Bentonville, now known as the “mountain biking capital of the world,” to the Razorback Greenway, which stretches over 40 miles through the region, cycling is reshaping how residents move, connect, and think about community. As our region grows, the importance of bicycle infrastructure and the culture it fosters has never been clearer.

Why bikeable and walkable communities matter

The benefits of building bikeable and walkable communities go well beyond reducing traffic. Studies consistently show that active transportation has profound impacts on both mental and physical health. Researchers often highlight five mental health benefits of regular cycling: reduced anxiety, increased happiness, sharper cognitive function, improved sleep and greater resilience to stress. Add to that the environmental benefits—cleaner air, fewer emissions and greener communities—and the argument for prioritizing active commuting over cars becomes compelling.

But there’s also something deeply human about experiencing the world at a slower pace. Walking or riding a bike through your neighborhood invites

connection: a wave to a neighbor, a pause at a local coffee shop, a closer relationship with place. Designing for this kind of movement keeps communities at a human scale, rather than one dictated by automobile speed.

Arkansas: A natural backdrop for outdoor life

If there’s a perfect setting for this type of lifestyle, it’s northwest Arkansas. The region’s rolling hills, forested trails and expanding urban centers provide a unique mix of natural beauty and growing infrastructure. There are hundreds of miles of singletrack trails and trailheads from Bella Vista to Fayetteville that have gained worldwide recognition, and they start right in town. Fayetteville hosted the UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) Cyclo-cross World Championships in 2022, and places like Airship Coffee in Coler Mountain Bike Preserve, a café accessible only by trail, demonstrate how cycling is both recreational and part of daily culture.

For those living in northwest Arkansas’ growing cities, cycling isn’t limited to weekend rides. The Razorback Greenway threads through town centers, neighborhoods and schools, making it possible to commute, run errands or meet friends without ever starting the car. For many, biking a few miles to work or riding to a park becomes an easy way to incorporate movement into everyday routines.

What makes a community bikeable?

Building bikeable communities doesn't always mean major construction projects. Small-scale improvements like better signage, separated bike paths and on-road traffic calming devices can immediately make riding easier and safer. Education and encouragement programs, such as community bike rides or safety workshops, help normalize cycling and grow ridership.

On a larger scale, investments in protected bike lanes, rural greenways and safe streets programs ensure safety and connectivity for all ages and skill levels. Importantly, every piece of infrastructure should be designed with people in mind, not just as an afterthought squeezed next to high-speed traffic. A pedestrian-first approach is a huge mindset change we are seeing in many municipalities as our communities grow.

Northwest Arkansas is already experimenting with these ideas. The Razorback Greenway links destinations along its corridor: downtown districts, cultural landmarks, parks and neighborhoods. Every spur trail and bike-friendly street that branches off expands this network, bringing more people within reach of safe, comfortable biking. The increasing number of neighborhoods that connect to this bicycle network create more opportunities to ride instead of drive.

A personal perspective

I recently met a rider on the Greenway who said she'd started biking as a way to manage stress. What began as a weekend activity turned into a daily commute to Springdale. She laughed when she said her coworkers could tell if she hadn't biked to work: "I'm calmer, more focused and honestly just happier when I arrive on two wheels."

Her story mirrors thousands of others in the region. Whether it's families pedaling to school, mountain bikers heading to trailheads, or retirees enjoying morning rides to coffee shops, cycling here is more than exercise—it's a lifestyle shift.

Looking ahead

As the area continues to grow, keeping design focused on people, not just cars, will be a challenge and an opportunity. Countries like Denmark have proven that when infrastructure makes cycling safe, efficient and enjoyable, people naturally choose it. By combining our unique landscape with smart design and community investment, we can create a model for mid-sized American cities.

Northwest Arkansas is just the beginning. In every region of the state where the effort is made to allow people to commute confidently, kids and families to ride safely, and athletes to practice their sport, we can build more vibrant and connected communities that improve our health and overall quality of life.



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1. Publication Title City & Town		2. Publication Number 031-420		3. Filing Date 09/30/2025	
4. Issue Frequency Quarterly		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4		6. Annual Subscription Price 20.00	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038				Contact Person Andrew Morgan Telephone (include area code) (501) 374-3484	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Arkansas Municipal League, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038					
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Mark R. Hayes, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038					
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Andrew Morgan, P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038					
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)					
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)					

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Arkansas Municipal League	P.O. Box 38, North Little Rock, AR 72115-0038

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
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(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

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a. Paid Electronic Copies	▶	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	▶ 7254	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	▶ 7254	7264
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	▶	

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/10/25 issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
 Andrew Morgan
 Date: 10/01/2025

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	6817	6828
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	437	436
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	n/a	n/a
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	n/a	n/a
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		7254	7264
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f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		7254	7264
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		200	200
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		7454	7464
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

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2024/2025 State Turnback Funds

Actual Totals Per Capita						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
January	\$6.71	\$7.15	\$0.12	\$0.10	\$2.02	\$2.02
February	\$7.18	\$6.98	\$0.15	\$0.08	\$1.024	\$1.019
March	\$6.064	\$5.793	\$0.121	\$0.165	\$1.024	\$1.018
April	\$6.567	\$6.815	\$0.117	\$0.183	\$1.024	\$1.017
May	\$7.139	\$6.987	\$0.087	\$0.155	\$1.019	\$1.017
June	\$7.037	\$7.166	\$0.028	\$0.191	\$1.023	\$1.021
July	\$7.047	\$7.077	\$0.022	\$0.169	\$2.797	\$2.797
August	\$7.017	\$6.936	\$0.00	\$0.077	\$0.826	\$0.806
September	\$7.107	\$7.264	\$1.024	\$0.124	\$1.019	\$1.003
October	\$5.745	\$6.763	\$1.023	\$0.129	\$1.019	\$1.006
November	\$6.626		\$1.020		\$1.02	
December	\$6.43		\$1.020		\$1.02	
Total Year	\$80.67	\$68.94	\$15.185	\$1.37	\$14.83	\$12.72

Actual Totals Per Month						
	STREET		SEVERANCE TAX		GENERAL	
MONTH	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
January	\$13,454,740.53	\$14,344,529.55	\$240,989.05	\$195,553.15	*\$4,053,953.86	*\$4,043,691.60
February	\$14,401,299.45	\$14,012,520.67	\$291,821.41	\$157,738.04	\$2,053,698.28	\$2,045,108.83
March	\$12,165,510.80	\$11,622,645.85	\$243,039.99	\$330,048.09	\$2,053,791.22	\$2,043,178.51
April	\$13,174,735.35	\$13,676,758.28	\$235,152.80	\$367,688.47	\$2,053,791.22	\$2,041,110.91
May	\$14,323,397.61	\$14,028,095.73	\$173,692.76	\$311,468.00	\$2,045,124.02	\$2,040,998.66
June	\$14,117,409.82	\$14,386,450.95	\$56,190.94	\$383,577.72	\$2,051,666.16	\$2,049,591.83
July	\$14,138,631.04	\$14,207,602.29	\$43,727.20	\$340,095.19	** \$5,612,132.59	*** \$5,616,357.28
August	\$14,079,298.02	\$13,924,877.49	\$0.00	\$154,039.67	\$1,657,294.23	\$1,618,232.06
September	\$14,258,812.79	\$14,584,356.29	\$130,337.65	\$248,165.66	\$2,044,036.89	\$2,014,413.20
October	\$11,526,560.92	\$13,578,890.40	\$194,177.09	\$258,053.09	\$2,043,691.60	\$2,019,837.38
November	\$13,294,518.33		\$93,515.72		\$2,043,524.94	
December	\$12,903,890.83		\$102,506.36		\$2,043,691.60	
Total Year	\$161,838,805.49	\$138,366,727.50	\$1,805,150.97	\$2,746,427.08	\$29,756,396.61	\$25,532,520.26

* Includes \$2 million appropriation from the Property Tax Relief Fund

**Includes \$3,514,392.30 supplemental for July 2024

***Includes \$3,515,917.86 supplemental for July 2025

2025 September's Distribution

September 2025 Municipal Levy Receipts and September 2025 Municipal/County Levy Receipts with 2024 Comparison (shaded gray)

CITY SALES AND USE TAX. AMOUNT	LAST YEAR										
Alexander	228,948.39	225,783.94	Fouke	14,162.87	11,833.82	Menifee	10,823.43	11,750.35	West Fork	104,279.65	92,343.55
Alma	356,639.95	336,151.97	Fountain Hill	2,949.76	2,524.99	Midland	2,007.42	1,700.74	West Memphis	1,443,366.84	879,615.17
Almyra	3,158.64	3,959.66	Franklin	3,470.12	3,553.99	Mineral Springs	7,802.23	7,535.64	Western Grove	5,506.88	5,552.77
Alpena	9,697.23	9,317.89	Garfield	31,155.46	27,048.34	Monette	46,533.06	43,156.56	Wheatley	7,388.72	7,430.98
Altheimer	4,327.03	4,555.41	Garland	2,711.68	3,638.30	Monticello	277,285.00	265,844.13	White Hall	110,335.32	102,937.36
Altus	9,575.63	8,326.19	Gassville	46,429.41	42,170.66	Mooresfield	7,761.54	8,450.52	Wickes	9,804.04	8,368.90
Amity	22,229.62	23,204.06	Gentry	223,147.08	195,374.00	Moro	5,465.64	5,667.16	Widener	7,656.88	3,676.06
Anthonyville	689.31	1,222.79	Gilbert	2,011.93	2,069.75	Morrilton	241,851.01	216,314.42	Wiederkehr Village	3,425.37	4,227.17
Arkadelphia	517,163.71	510,240.95	Gillett	16,279.29	14,730.81	Morrison Bluff	5,271.89	4,802.73	Wilmar	3,380.10	NA
Arkansas City	9,528.19	33,563.15	Gillham	14,342.55	11,607.79	Mount Ida	29,902.51	30,191.20	Wilmot	4,003.36	4,464.19
Ash Flat	149,741.32	149,332.18	Gilmore	599.86	857.64	Mountain Home	1,346,782.02	1,316,758.68	Wilson	5,809.78	7,530.19
Ashdown	189,717.76	182,099.93	Glenwood	117,660.67	113,602.35	Mountain View	283,767.15	266,965.31	Wilton	1,646.13	749.33
Atkins	91,797.97	83,897.75	Goshen	47,166.03	47,487.50	Mountainburg	16,172.84	16,581.36	Winslow	12,387.99	27,660.19
Augusta	25,478.41	23,851.43	Gosnell	20,269.42	22,930.33	Mulberry	43,356.72	39,457.29	Yellme	202,456.24	207,227.76
Austin	62,233.27	57,738.54	Gould	12,633.03	15,909.49	Murfreesboro	47,671.01	45,039.75	Yellville	56,923.76	61,051.73
Avoca	14,378.03	13,191.42	Grady	5,161.93	8,551.27	Nashville	145,272.08	139,372.72			
Bald Knob	70,097.58	65,407.28	Grannis	6,877.42	6,280.69	Newport	275,934.80	270,796.08	COUNTY SALES AND USE . AMOUNT	LAST YEAR	
Banks	590.16	631.96	Gravette	155,253.91	135,151.12	Norfolk	10,702.79	10,640.05	Arkansas County	402,397.25	396,470.89
Barling	116,694.86	93,042.07	Green Forest	136,124.35	107,072.19	Norman	5,540.60	5,650.72	Ashley County	96,119.19	283,931.92
Batesville	972,186.63	926,803.89	Greenbrier	423,905.53	398,048.37	North Little Rock	4,036,990.35	3,741,058.75	Crossett	23,207.99	68,555.39
Bauxite	32,396.86	32,030.09	Greenland	132,965.44	60,243.72	Oak Grove	1,365.37	1,535.46	Fountain Hill	519.80	1,535.46
Bay	28,136.36	20,176.85	Greenwood	349,790.79	360,981.16	Oak Grove Heights	10,791.37	9,529.00	Hamburg	12,205.61	36,054.85
Bearden	12,689.52	11,736.16	Greers Ferry	40,949.81	38,440.75	Ola	18,662.64	17,602.38	Montrose	1,169.54	3,454.78
Beebe	278,078.35	241,999.23	Guion	2,529.73	4,107.15	Oppelo	5,429.34	4,549.35	Parkdale	827.83	2,445.36
Beedeville	201.90	110.20	Gum Springs	8,662.97	2,578.66	Osceola	334,477.12	459,116.04	Portland	1,564.20	4,620.59
Bella Vista	827,058.62	709,819.15	Gurdon	51,844.98	45,569.96	Oxford	5,104.49	3,989.45	Wilnot	2,002.18	5,914.36
Belleville	3,708.39	2,663.19	Guy	15,246.06	15,022.70	Ozark	245,225.93	234,068.45	Baxter County	822,300.94	805,881.56
Benton	2,445,404.51	2,309,593.88	Hackett	11,719.55	9,307.43	Palestine	41,332.74	38,235.61	Big Flat	2,121.15	2,078.80
Bentonville	4,060,873.06	5,071,210.44	Hamburg	117,695.33	99,922.58	Pangburn	10,461.25	10,315.96	Briarcliff	5,688.54	5,574.95
Berryville	439,947.79	378,810.09	Hampton	14,248.57	12,714.04	Paragould	895,756.29	840,195.65	Hampton	21,356.12	20,929.69
Big Flat	1,398.70	1,576.13	Hardy	39,914.57	39,077.01	Paris	102,462.87	89,991.90	Gassville	52,329.72	51,284.82
Black Rock	7,654.62	6,674.87	Harrisburg	88,995.56	90,259.38	Parkdale	923.68	743.99	Lakeview	18,680.58	18,307.57
Blevins	4,462.60	4,722.13	Harrison	1,001,770.45	931,359.58	Parkin	5,977.36	5,389.99	Mountain Home	309,133.42	302,960.77
Blue Mountain	279.67	322.66	Hartford	8,462.17	7,330.19	Patmos	291.38	204.77	Norfork	11,208.35	10,984.54
Blytheville	510,406.73	519,412.47	Haskell	76,538.98	72,673.70	Patterson	2,083.47	863.21	Salesville	11,401.17	11,173.53
Bonanza	3,543.21	2,514.86	Hatfield	6,333.83	6,814.31	Pea Ridge	359,032.59	347,871.93	Benton County	1,234,462.63	1,262,350.67
Bono	51,658.43	28,809.03	Havana	4,202.58	3,916.33	Pea Ridge	6,577.40	4,058.33	Avoca	13,421.97	13,725.19
Boneville	187,464.43	167,913.18	Hazen	105,429.07	105,245.81	Perryville	30,092.98	27,709.24	Bella Vista	829,681.47	848,425.01
Bradford	21,227.05	21,274.23	Heber Springs	253,302.71	240,974.75	Piggott	91,313.20	88,800.90	Bentonville	1,492,787.25	1,526,511.57
Bradley	5,796.45	6,999.90	Hector	6,562.35	7,565.48	Pine Bluff	1,303,440.46	1,648,562.74	Cave Springs	151,444.98	154,866.31
Branch	2,786.73	2,325.19	Helena-West Helena	264,458.36	305,954.22	Pineville	2,345.27	3,611.29	Centerton	490,356.52	501,434.29
Briarcliff	2,012.43	2,804.04	Hermitage	17,529.83	16,003.66	Plainview	6,364.56	8,185.93	Decatur	48,864.78	49,968.69
Brinkley	226,929.08	222,198.26	Hickory Ridge	3,769.30	NA	Pleasant Plains	24,618.74	28,045.73	Elm Springs	12,815.64	13,105.16
Brookland	187,184.84	229,513.18	Higginson	3,170.82	2,616.48	Plumerville	17,124.45	15,491.34	Garfield	16,343.38	16,712.60
Bryant	1,693,557.22	1,672,254.20	Highfill	196,548.18	185,389.15	Pocahontas	396,265.89	387,754.18	Gateway	12,016.38	12,287.85
Bull Shoals	40,974.16	42,796.89	Highland	46,184.63	41,614.97	Pollard	664.85	499.83	Gentry	104,454.32	106,814.07
Cabot	1,315,030.04	1,280,767.00	Holly Grove	11,859.38	8,504.13	Portia	6,513.21	5,505.55	Gravette	97,757.11	99,965.57
Caddo Valley	78,741.94	67,976.41	Hope	490,190.55	241,385.27	Portland	10,091.38	11,474.01	Highfill	43,738.52	44,726.63
Calico Rock	65,302.82	60,398.78	Horatio	10,770.68	8,733.23	Pottsville	69,053.18	58,345.25	Little Flock	84,197.35	86,099.47
Camden	406,140.82	416,323.66	Horseshoe Bend	42,578.33	37,217.37	Powhatan	890.17	NA	Lowell	271,167.82	277,293.84
Caraway	8,370.53	7,179.44	Hot Springs	2,579,204.57	2,523,255.08	Prairie Grove	31,246.19	23,977.82	Roa Ridge	180,769.36	184,853.16
Carlisle	70,506.53	63,546.61	Hoxie	25,556.00	20,007.03	Prescott	120,117.17	116,141.32	Rogers	1,926,699.86	1,970,226.40
Carthage	2,852.20	NA	Hughes	6,675.85	6,932.83	Pyatt	5,311.88	2,189.98	Siloam Springs	476,438.47	487,201.81
Cash	3,945.19	3,391.26	Hummer	5,338.78	2,162.51	Quitman	39,445.82	37,133.17	Springdale	333,399.44	340,931.35
Cave City	36,949.65	36,575.73	Humphrey	2,130.94	3,129.83	Ravenden	5,274.63	4,752.80	Springtown	2,287.52	2,339.20
Cave Springs	225,694.26	180,629.67	Huntington	7,811.24	7,826.18	Reactor	39,542.67	34,277.61	Sulphur Springs	13,256.59	13,556.08
Cedarville	12,163.74	10,416.49	Huntsville	112,685.98	152,660.31	Redfield	46,613.66	43,124.24	Boone County	649,585.05	606,978.20
Centerton	596,002.37	570,580.12	Imboden	17,198.98	13,134.01	Rison	20,213.09	21,151.32	Alpena	6,097.17	5,697.25
Charleston	50,057.11	45,531.87	Jacksonville	919,616.19	881,870.51	Rockport	39,266.90	38,220.23	Bellefonte	8,641.16	8,074.38
Cherokee Village	35,899.11	35,760.93	Jasper	48,219.75	42,591.12	Roe	928.12	841.82	Bergman	8,956.53	8,369.06
Cherry Valley	9,309.37	5,300.37	Jennette	1,446.45	541.89	Rogers	5,333,876.54	5,250,144.14	Diamond City	15,915.71	14,871.79
Chidester	5,437.89	5,466.06	Johnson	209,474.80	206,160.05	Rose Bud	30,267.21	33,064.61	Everton	2,186.57	2,043.15
Clarendon	66,443.98	70,299.68	Joiner	5,948.59	6,997.42	Rosston	6,892.07	4,021.45	Harrison	274,772.08	256,749.54
Clarksville	551,552.03	545,485.03	Jonesboro	2,159,211.65	2,160,292.56	Rudy	14,943.96	13,057.26	Lead Hill	5,760.77	5,382.92
Clinton	144,271.73	139,416.37	Judsonia	25,186.75	17,783.35	Russellville	1,435,358.12	1,368,785.31	Leah	2,691.16	2,514.65
Coal Hill	4,894.37	5,342.38	Junction City	7,070.51	6,686.70	Salem	33,769.51	31,569.12	South Lead Hill	1,808.13	1,689.53
Colt	7,466.25	NA	Keiser	5,738.88	5,774.94	Salesville	5,690.95	5,999.72	Valley Springs	3,847.52	3,595.16
Concord	3,792.68	3,913.32	Kensett	9,579.21	NA	Scranton	5,901.50	5,239.43	Zinc	1,934.29	1,807.41
Conway	3,344,979.03	3,086,473.05	Keo	2,363.35	2,075.92	Searcy	1,633,519.11	1,530,098.68	Bradley County	167,357.60	167,330.87
Corning	98,328.90	87,496.92	Kibler	4,938.70	4,592.60	Shannon Hills	21,830.60	19,001.30	Banks	969.06	968.90
Cotter	23,937.18	85,066.30	Kingsland	2,766.59	2,603.80	Sheridan	351,601.76	328,332.88	Hermitage	5,847.77	5,846.84
Cotton Plant	1,860.26	1,479.54	Lake City	43,467.67	33,978.82	Sherrill	1,014.01	812.11	Warren	60,738.83	60,729.13
Cove	18,125.01	14,702.65	Lake Village	105,304.91	94,286.17	Sherwood	1,371,257.93	1,417,926.43	Calhoun County	177,089.79	101,872.40
Crawfordsville	17,667.16	14,903.11	Lakeview	9,277.92	7,767.54	Shirley	5,671.55	4,610.00	Hampton	47,104.96	27,097.52
Crossett	244,636.74	283,427.46	Lamar	32,327.74	34,284.46	Siloam Springs	1,203,635.99	1,029,058.21	Harrell	8,375.98	4,818.36
Cushman	2,239.54	3,213.28	Leachville	21,929.43	20,309.34	Sparkman	5,584.74	4,688.26	Thornton	13,521.24	7,778.20
Damascus	12,102.98	14,945.33	Lead Hill	8,516.05	8,221.57	Springdale	4,605,667.22	4,325,201.92	Tinsman	1,994.28	1,147.24
Danville	55,780.64	56,722.48	Lepanto	24,545.25	23,821.15	Springtown	552.17	438.18	Carroll County	296,318.59	262,049.77
Dardanelle	218,742.15	201,417.00	Leslie	10,773.36	9,036.94	St. Charles	3,114.84	3,495.83	Beaver	771.06	681.89
Decatur	54,851.49	52,188.83	Lewisville	12,938.95	8,977.57	St. Paul	3,703.21	4,115.60	Blue Eye	529.39	468.16
Delight	7,452.54	6,879.46	Lincoln	112,778.48	106,596.42	Stamps	16,723.64	15,437.14	Holiday Island	27,608.68	24,415.78
DeQueen	164,014.61	157,190.70	Little Flock	25,512.53	23,713.51	Star city	67,675.73	52,055.85	Chicot County	213,300.93	205,053.00
Dermott	66,169.77	36,380.67	Little Rock	7,080,287.45	6,418,498.96	Stephens	16,796.37	5,716.95	Dermott	29,522.06	28,380.50
Des Arc	89,147.11	78,235.49	Lockesburg	8,392.44	7,470.65	Strong	10,287.96	11,893.32	Eudora	25,242.02	24,265.96
DeValls Bluff	20,993.27	10,705.15	London								

McNeil	1,090.39	1,158.40	Midway	4,421.79	3,622.74	Yellville	15,428.16	14,688.65	Reyno	6,597.41	6,388.76
Taylor	1,657.04	1,760.41	Perka	3,014.32	2,469.61	Miller County	458,446.37	460,745.82	Saline County	826,120.82	804,726.16
Waldo	3,294.05	3,499.53	Rockport	7,928.74	6,495.96	Fouke	12,064.38	12,124.89	Scott County	169,040.69	143,662.85
Conway County	563,867.36	475,254.90	Howard County	484,918.41	456,383.52	Garland	12,064.38	12,124.89	Mansfield	11,269.38	9,577.52
Menifee	5,615.26	4,732.81	Dierks	20,386.69	19,187.04	Texarkana	271,448.51	272,810.02	Waldron	45,077.52	38,310.09
Morrilton	143,291.59	120,773.13	Mineral Springs	24,147.99	22,727.01	Mississippi County	1,368,735.39	1,586,937.10	Searcy County	122,663.74	111,916.57
Oppelo	15,103.82	12,730.23	Nashville	92,430.06	86,991.04	Bassett	2,476.57	2,871.38	Gilbert	325.83	297.29
Plumerville	15,042.33	12,678.43	Tolette	4,117.40	3,875.11	Birdsong	639.12	741.00	Leslie	4,699.52	4,287.77
Craighead County	428,288.34	416,006.84	Independence County	786,112.50	720,459.33	Blytheville	267,749.38	310,433.58	Marshall	16,655.10	15,195.86
Bay	42,931.82	41,700.71	Batesville	230,847.96	211,568.41	Burdette	2,796.13	3,241.88	Pindall	1,190.55	1,086.24
Black Oak	5,332.15	5,179.25	Cave City	3,754.30	3,440.75	Dell	3,874.64	4,492.33	St. Joe	1,616.63	1,474.99
Bono	55,129.39	53,548.52	Cushman	8,931.92	8,185.96	Dyess	6,770.63	7,849.99	Sebastian County	449,414.71	419,862.92
Brookland	93,003.68	90,336.72	Magness	4,538.16	4,159.15	Etowah	5,072.98	5,881.70	Barling	118,231.90	110,457.42
Caraway	25,928.44	25,184.92	Moorefield	2,599.13	2,382.06	Gosnell	58,119.55	67,384.88	Bonanza	14,513.20	13,558.87
Cash	6,407.73	6,223.99	Newark	24,341.04	22,308.17	Joiner	9,946.23	11,531.85	Central City	11,397.93	10,648.45
Egypt	2,585.98	2,511.82	Oil Trough	4,661.93	4,272.58	Keiser	14,999.24	17,390.39	Fort Smith	2,203,979.01	2,059,053.75
Jonesboro	1,798,193.15	1,746,628.56	Pleasant Plains	7,261.06	6,654.64	Leachville	40,723.63	47,215.73	Greenwood	235,277.02	219,806.10
Lake City	53,229.96	51,703.55	Southside	88,267.22	80,895.47	Luxora	18,813.96	21,813.25	Hackett	19,383.90	18,109.29
Monette	34,464.45	33,476.16	Sulphur Rock	12,562.45	11,513.29	Manila	73,538.21	85,261.56	Hartford	12,337.46	11,526.19
Crawford County	654,066.49	608,656.22	Izard County	76,489.39	67,950.63	Marie	2,157.01	2,500.88	Huntington	12,114.94	11,318.30
Alma	93,893.43	87,374.64	Jackson County	403,414.74	400,983.01	Oseola	139,327.14	161,538.46	Lavaca	60,574.68	56,591.52
Cedarville	22,953.52	21,359.91	Amagon	1,110.46	1,103.77	Victoria	399.45	463.13	Mansfield	16,911.46	15,799.43
Chester	2,321.14	2,159.99	Beebeville	1,351.86	1,343.72	Wilson	15,298.81	17,737.75	Midland	5,612.43	5,243.38
Dyer	12,443.90	11,579.95	Campbell Station	3,733.72	3,711.21	Monroe County	NA	NA	Sevier County	628,054.15	577,124.14
Kibler	16,199.64	15,074.94	Diaz	19,698.59	19,579.85	Montgomery County	400,406.21	338,852.81	Ben Lomond	2,114.62	1,943.14
Mountainburg	8,510.86	7,919.97	Grubbs	4,844.18	4,814.98	Black Springs	1,614.07	1,365.94	De Queen	92,212.36	84,734.70
Mulberry	24,871.69	23,144.90	Jacksonport	2,414.04	2,399.49	Glenwood	1,042.42	882.17	Gillham	2,371.39	2,179.09
Rudy	2,095.48	1,949.99	Newport	128,829.43	128,052.86	Mount Ida	16,745.94	14,171.63	Horatio	13,896.05	12,769.19
Van Buren	374,251.97	348,268.55	Swifton	11,796.62	11,725.52	Norman	5,094.40	4,311.25	Lockesburg	8,972.01	8,244.46
Crittenden County	1,222,679.84	1,119,784.62	Tuckerman	27,471.81	27,306.21	Oden	3,026.37	2,561.14	Sharp County	369,974.30	345,037.52
Anthonyville	1,547.12	1,416.92	Tupelo	1,126.55	1,119.76	Nevada County	140,273.39	127,845.96	Ash Flat	19,938.78	16,729.69
Clarkedale	3,850.62	3,256.57	Weldon	917.35	911.81	Bluff City	1,335.94	1,217.58	Cave City	30,481.92	28,427.40
Crawfordsville	5,294.60	4,849.03	Jefferson County	568,282.10	523,971.91	Bodcaw	1,369.90	1,248.54	Cherokee Village	69,144.91	64,484.44
Earle	20,983.57	19,217.69	Altheimer	11,433.65	10,542.15	Cale	826.47	753.25	Evening Shade	7,357.70	6,861.79
Edmondson	2,784.82	2,550.46	Humphrey	3,515.52	3,241.41	Emmet	4,494.64	4,096.44	Hardy	12,402.99	11,567.01
Gilmore	1,815.29	1,662.53	Pine Bluff	677,690.34	624,849.34	Prescott	35,107.97	31,997.61	Highland	17,203.01	16,043.51
Horseshoe Lake	3,025.48	2,770.87	Redfield	24,723.63	22,795.88	Rosston	3,079.45	2,806.63	Horseshoe Bend	227.74	212.39
Jennette	1,217.07	1,114.65	Sherrill	870.67	802.78	Willisville	1,675.58	1,527.12	Sidney	3,363.52	3,136.82
Jericho	1,123.10	1,028.58	Wabbaseka	2,956.98	2,726.42	Newton County	62,688.69	57,623.22	Williford	1,383.96	1,290.65
Marion	157,600.26	144,337.26	White Hall	91,682.78	84,534.06	Jasper	5,422.31	4,984.17	St. Francis County	498,461.45	491,285.65
Sunset	1,897.80	1,738.10	Johnson County	195,180.28	186,255.58	Western Grove	3,509.14	3,225.59	Caldwell	12,444.98	12,265.82
Turrell	5,332.42	4,883.66	Clarksville	144,707.68	138,090.86	Ouachita County	676,693.17	474,705.13	Colt	8,085.10	7,968.70
West Memphis	281,003.38	257,355.40	Coal Hill	12,649.10	12,070.62	Bearden	12,137.71	11,533.95	Forrest City	359,138.38	353,968.08
Cross County	732,601.57	764,694.11	Hartman	7,959.62	7,595.66	Camden	165,986.36	157,729.69	Hughes	29,139.46	28,179.96
Cherry Valley	10,378.58	10,833.23	Knoxville	10,180.90	9,715.38	Chidester	3,957.27	3,760.42	Madison	20,943.98	20,642.48
Hickory Ridge	4,115.33	4,295.61	Lamar	26,516.63	25,304.14	East Camden	12,481.82	11,860.94	Palestine	13,962.66	13,761.64
Parkin	14,331.47	14,959.28	Lafayette County	116,221.74	100,523.21	Louann	2,393.13	2,274.09	Wheatley	7,698.78	7,587.94
Wynne	150,065.28	156,639.07	Bradley	4,110.90	3,555.62	Stephens	12,043.87	11,444.76	Widener	5,849.98	5,765.74
Dallas County	186,383.36	175,438.67	Buckner	1,674.81	1,448.59	Perry County	209,288.08	259,200.70	Stone County	255,013.17	242,587.74
Desha County	139,082.46	146,480.66	Lewisville	9,287.59	8,033.08	Adona	1,242.52	1,538.85	Fifty Six	2,598.90	2,472.27
Arkansas City	6,356.90	6,695.04	Stamps	12,769.17	11,044.38	Bigelow	2,935.36	3,635.40	Mountain View	47,323.05	45,017.27
Dumas	67,643.46	71,241.61	Lawrence County	495,120.25	452,260.94	Casa	1,000.69	1,239.34	Union County	719,185.18	439,358.04
McGehee	65,073.65	68,535.11	Alicia	1,584.37	1,447.22	Fourche	466.99	578.36	Calion	19,863.58	12,134.88
Mitchellville	4,953.65	5,217.14	Black Rock	6,536.90	5,971.04	Houston	1,192.49	1,476.88	El Dorado	880,612.98	537,976.05
Reed	2,197.86	2,314.77	Hoxie	28,784.51	26,292.83	Perry	2,184.84	2,705.90	Felsenthal	3,773.51	3,205.27
Tillar	541.01	569.79	Imboden	7,090.87	6,477.06	Perryville	11,449.56	14,180.15	Huttig	25,724.24	15,715.22
Watson	3,127.73	3,294.11	Lynn	2,858.51	2,611.07	Phillips County	203,127.29	224,201.50	Junction City	24,286.12	14,836.66
Drew County	615,302.52	588,200.20	Minturn	963.92	880.48	Elaine	10,162.19	11,216.51	Norphet	31,274.14	19,105.72
Monticello	173,588.78	165,942.69	Portia	4,697.70	4,291.05	Helena-West Helena	192,088.83	212,017.84	Smackover	81,078.78	49,531.91
Tillar	2,878.75	2,751.95	Powhatan	1,152.27	1,052.52	Lake View	6,714.51	7,411.14	Strong	21,231.05	12,970.28
Wilmar	8,122.19	7,764.44	Ravenden	4,719.86	4,311.30	Lexa	4,274.36	4,717.83	Van Buren County	341,068.99	330,358.96
Winchester	2,817.08	2,692.97	Sedgwick	1,805.96	1,649.63	Marvell	17,711.61	19,549.17	Clinton	45,651.75	44,218.23
Faulkner County	1,288,924.73	1,192,996.96	Smithville	963.92	880.48	Pike County	292,388.80	270,952.86	Damascus	4,457.82	4,317.84
Enola	3,384.88	3,132.96	Strawberry	2,969.30	2,712.27	Antoine	2,020.54	1,872.41	Fairfield Bay	35,426.05	34,313.63
Holland	6,237.54	5,773.31	Walnut Ridge	59,651.97	54,488.29	Daisy	1,573.52	1,458.16	Shirley	4,512.41	4,370.71
Mount Vernon	1,532.77	1,418.70	Lee County	51,760.57	46,723.29	Delight	5,149.71	4,772.16	Washington County	2,447,534.71	2,280,906.29
Twin Groves	3,374.23	3,123.11	Aubrey	1,269.62	1,146.06	Glenwood	35,869.13	33,239.45	Elkins	86,897.79	80,685.93
Wooster	11,091.33	10,265.85	Haynes	1,434.20	1,294.63	Murfreestown	26,731.98	24,772.17	Elm Springs	45,740.76	42,470.99
Franklin County	374,408.62	351,637.80	LaGrange	611.30	551.81	Poinsett County	338,300.59	338,517.92	Farmington	182,963.04	169,883.98
Altus	10,841.90	10,182.51	Marianna	42,026.81	37,936.81	Fisher	2,439.30	2,440.87	Fayetteville	2,275,240.89	2,104,487.03
Branch	4,825.87	4,532.37	Moro	2,080.77	1,878.27	Harrisburg	29,976.30	29,995.56	Goshen	50,710.48	47,085.46
Charleston	42,193.72	39,627.58	Rondo	1,916.19	1,729.71	Lepanto	23,471.50	23,486.58	Greenland	29,504.72	27,171.58
Denning	4,709.93	4,423.48	Lincoln County	203,636.86	174,658.19	Marked Tree	30,979.13	30,999.03	Johnson	87,066.67	80,842.73
Ozark	57,747.36	54,235.27	Gould	5,936.91	5,092.05	Trumann	100,268.83	100,333.25	Lincoln	55,342.46	51,386.32
Wiederkehr Village	815.18	765.61	Grady	2,731.16	2,342.50	Tyronza	9,703.00	9,709.23	Prairie Grove	169,959.73	157,810.21
Fulton County	338,419.62	305,826.63	Star City	19,458.37	16,689.34	Waldenburg	718.24	718.70	Springdale	1,814,745.32	1,685,018.76
Ash Flat	954.51	862.58	Little River County	409,547.93	409,038.65	Weiner	8,767.93	8,773.55	Tontitown	103,761.08	96,343.75
Cherokee Village	7,036.31	6,356.65	Ashdown	60,587.40	60,512.06	Polk County	403,614.10	376,755.58	West Fork	56,235.08	52,215.13
Hardy	295.64	267.17	Foreman	13,892.02	13,874.74	Cove	10,985.74	10,254.70	Winslow	8,805.57	8,176.10
Horseshoe Bend	92.92	83.97	Ogden	1,862.70	1,860.38	Graniss	17,081.28	15,944.60	White County	1,742,092.99	1,624,332.43
Mammoth Spring	7,847.22	7,091.46	Wilton	4,080.87	4,075.79	Hatfield	11,881.14	11,090.50	Bald Knob	47,113.64	43,928.89
Salem	13,227.93	11,953.96	Winthrop	1,649.41	1,647.37	Mena	192,474.34	179,666.12	Beebe	157,612.11	146,957.98
Viola	3,024.01	2,732.77	Logan County	473,941.11	411,891.51	Vandervoort	3,960.38	3,696.84	Bradford	12,665.76	11,809.59
Garland County	2,850,970.00	2,796,660.02	Blue Mountain	1,248.56	1,085.09	Wicks	21,937.03	20,477.24	Garner	3,941.70	3,675.26
Diamondhead	27,553.35	NA	Booneville	54,042.68	46,967.27	Pope County	527,340.71	502,803.30	Georgetown	1,513.17	1,410.88
Fountain Lake	18,544.59	18,017.19	Caulksville	2,184.98	1,898.91	Atkins	58,531.99	55,808.67	Griffithville	2,895.56	2,699.83
Hot Springs	987,										

Fairs & Festivals

October 17-18, ARKADELPHIA, Mid South Music Festival, midsouthmusicfestival.com

October 24-25, MOUNTAIN VIEW, Bean Fest & Championship Outhouse Races, facebook.com/ARBeanFest

October 25, EUREKA SPRINGS, Eureka Springs Zombie Crawl, eurekaspringszombiecrawl.com

October 25, CORNING, Corning Harvest Festival, facebook.com/corningharvestfestival

November 1, CLINTON, 4th Annual Ozark Moonshine & Music Festival, ozarkmoonshinefest.org

November 28-29, STUTTGART, 90th Annual World's Championship Duck Calling Contest & Wings Over the Prairie Festival, stuttgartduckfest.com

November 29, MOUNT IDA, Ol' Timey Fire Department Fund-raiser, 870-867-2191

December 6, KEO, Arkansas Pecan Festival, facebook.com/keopecanfest

December 6, SHERWOOD, Winter Fest, cityofsherwood.net



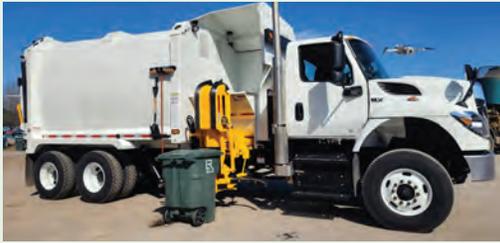
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ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT

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501-601-5588
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With a customer-first approach and a team of dedicated professionals, AME is more than a supplier—it's a trusted partner in keeping communities running smoothly.



NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT

AME proudly supplies top-tier refuse and recycling equipment designed for efficiency and durability. We offer a full lineup of New Way garbage trucks, including front loaders, automated side loaders, and rear loaders, built to handle any waste collection need. Our Pac-Mac knuckle booms and grapple trucks provide powerful solutions for bulk waste and debris removal. For roll-off operations, GalFab roll-off trucks and hook lifts deliver reliable performance and versatility. No matter the job, our equipment is built to keep your fleet running strong.



CARTS & CONTAINERS

AME provides durable and reliable waste collection solutions, including 64 & 96-gallon commercial trash carts and a full range of roll-off boxes, front-load, and rear-load dumpsters. Built for strength and efficiency, our containers are designed to withstand daily use in municipal, commercial, and industrial settings. Whether you need carts for residential collection or large containers for waste management operations, we have the right solution to keep your business running smoothly.



ENGINEERING ARKANSAS

**HIGHWAY 340
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
OVER SUGAR CREEK**
BELLA VISTA, AR



Crafton Tull