

# Louisburg Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

February - March 2021

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## Government 101

*City staff had hoped to initiate a Citizen Academy opportunity in the coming year where citizens can learn more about local government but that program is on hold until the pandemic ends. The following is a foundation of what a Citizen Academy would cover and was provided by Wichita State University's Public Policy and Management Center.*

In the United States, local government is established at the county and city level. A county is a political and geographic subdivision of the state that has some governmental authority. Cities are "incorporated" by the choice of the people. Dillon's Rule is labeled as the cornerstone of American municipal law that defines the authority of cities. Home rule provides authority to a local government to act independently of the state government subject to the limitations set out by state constitutions and statutes.

In 2017, there were a total of 38,779 general purpose governments in the United States and another 51,296 special districts. During the same year, Kansas had 1,993 local government entities ranking 5th in the nation after Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Ohio. In addition, Kansas had 1,799 special districts (*Governing — The Future of States and Localities*).

Typically, cities and counties have one of these forms of government: Mayor-Council; Council-Manager/Administrator; Commission-Manager/Administrator; or Commission or Council without professional management. The Mayor-Council format does vary in what duties and authority is given to the Mayor who is elected separately from the council and may require more time commitment. In the Council-Manager format, the Council makes policy, sets budget, and appoints a professional manager to carry out day-to-day operations. The oldest form of government is the Commission format where voters elect individuals to the commission, with one being designated as chairman and presides over meetings.

City government primarily focuses on "city" or "urban" type topics such as: water, sewer, policy, transportation, airports — services that are contained with a smaller bound-

ary than the County would face — plus "quality of life" aspects. County government often focus on health, welfare, criminal justice topics, assist the state government in keeping law/order and collecting taxes. County boundaries were established around the idea of the county seat being reached by wagon within a day.

Elected officials' key roles and responsibilities are to: establish a community vision; develop long-term goals and priorities; adopt policies and ordinances; communicate and respond to citizens; oversee management performance; oversee program effectiveness; provide financial oversight; and allocate values. The roles and responsibilities of the manager/administrator generally is to: implement policies of the governing body; oversee enforcement of policies and ordinances; manage all local government services; prepare for and assure fiscal security; oversee/prepare the organization's workforce; prepare and provide professional response for governing body issues and policies; and coordinate information among community, elected officials and staff.

Generally, the functions of government are to: protect lives, property and rights of citizens; maintain and ensure supply of essential resources; promote steady and balanced economic growth; promote quality of life and personal opportunity to succeed; protect natural resources; and promote scientific and technological advancement. Local governments must balance competing values and deliver services in a transparent, efficient, effective, and responsive way. They must be able and willing to be accountable by ensuring that its actions and decisions are based on agreed upon objectives. It is important that local government elected officials and professionals can look forward and anticipate future needs and develop policies that address community issues.





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Monday-Friday

**Police Department**

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209 S. Metcalf Rd.  
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913-837-3191

**Fire Department**

Chief Gerald Rittinghouse  
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913-837-4700

Louisburg Speaks is published six times a year by the City of Louisburg for its residents. Please direct questions or comments to:  
jcarder@louisburgkansas.gov

The City of Louisburg requires building permits. Please call the Building & Zoning Department at 913-837-5811 before beginning any construction project.

# Tips to avoid utility surprises

Not only does Old Man Winter make us humans shiver, he can also do a number on water lines and utility bills.

It's no surprise that water leaks are more common in the winter, says Craig Hufferd, the City's public works supervisor.

"In the winter there is a lot of movement underground when it freezes and thaws. That movement can cause lines to split."

The City of Louisburg is not immune to that and have had a few instances this winter of lines splitting and causing Public Works crews to make repairs, he said.

The same thing can happen to homeowners, Hufferd said. The City has recently granted water leak adjustments to homeowners and businesses who have yard lines split and leak water.

"A good thing to remember is if a leak is before the meter it is the City's responsibility and anything after the meter would be the homeowner or business' responsibility. If you ever have a leak, feel free to call the City anytime and we will help you shut the water off so you can fix it."

Hufferd offered a few simple tips to prevent a water pipe from bursting at your home or business.

"Make sure your water line is insulated if it is anywhere near a spot that it could freeze like an outside wall. Always make sure your garden hose is disconnected because that could cause your outside spigot to freeze and break."

There are some common signs to watch for to tell if you have a leak, he said.

The biggest indicator, Hufferd said, is a higher than normal utility bill. If your water usage spikes and you can't account for the additional usage, you might have a leak.

If the water pressure drops in your home, that might be another sign of a leak. If there is a leak, that

*City staff have this handy key-chain that provides examples of how much water is wasted from continuous drips of various sizes. The keychain is provided by a manufacturer of water meters.*

can translate to less water making it to your fixture, Hufferd said.

Leaks can be detected by wet spots in the yard or greener than normal grass, he said. And it's not uncommon for a leak to go undetected until you dig in the exact spot where the leak is occurring, he said.

## A SMALL LEAK ADDS UP FAST

It doesn't take long for a small leak to add up fast, says Jessica McGowin, the city's utility clerk.

A continuous leak that is 1/16" in size, or the size of a No. 2 pencil lead, can result in a loss of 24,700 gallons of water in a month's time. That's like drinking 6,175 gallons of milk each week for a month.

A slightly bigger leak, 1/8", can waste 98,700 gallons of water. Hope you're thirsty — that's 24,675 gallons of milk each week for a month.

Bigger leaks result in more waste. A leak 3/16" in size is a loss of 222,000 gallons in 30 days while a leak that is 1/4" wastes 393,800 gallons a month — or 55,500 gallons of milk and 98,450 gallons of milk each week for that month, respectively.

That 1/16" leak can translate to an increase of about \$100 for the average residential utility customer, says McGowin.

Both McGowin and Hufferd said as most homes and businesses have radio-read meters the data on those meters can be downloaded to pinpoint water usage if a leak is suspected.

Hufferd said that data helped recently when a homeowner had higher than normal usage and Hufferd was able to determine the homeowner's lawn irrigation system was running at night.



## Disc golf check-out

The Louisburg Library has jumped on the disc golf bandwagon and has three sets of golf discs available for check-out, says Elizabeth Ellis, the library's youth services coordinator.

Library patrons who would like to enjoy the new 18-hole disc golf course at Lewis-Young Park can take advantage of the library's check-out program. Ellis says a bagged set of 5 starter discs can be checked out for a week at a time.

If you aren't a library patron, you



can sign up for a card on the library's website, [www.louisburglibrary.org](http://www.louisburglibrary.org) under the "about us" tab or stop in at the library and complete an application.

## MAYOR'S MINUTE

### High school students lead by example

One of the many joys of getting to work around teenagers at the high school is that there is never a dull moment and you constantly get a glimpse of our future leaders.

It is so easy to watch the national news and become fearful of where this country is headed. I have to constantly remind myself to shut off the TV and for goodness sakes stay off social media. Both of those sources of information lead you to believe that there is not much hope and we are all doomed.

I wish you could peak into some of the classrooms and see students, our future leaders, having well-thought out discussions and disagreements without putting each other down and belittling each other. It honestly feels like they are actually listening to each other's point of view. What a refreshing idea!

In a previous Mayor's Minute I had written that the future of Louisburg is bright due to our fantastic young people. This is absolutely true and we should all be proud. Those of us who are "more seasoned", you know a little older, who these future leaders look to for guidance have to continue to give them the tools and knowledge they need to figure out their place in this world. It gives me hope that Louisburg High School is full of people who will accomplish their goals that will make our city, state and country a better place to live.



MARTY SOUTHARD

*Marty Southard*

## This & that

### Council swearing-in

Traci Storey, city clerk, gave the oath of office to re-elected councilmember Steve Town and newly elected Councilmember Kevin Vohs at a special swearing in ceremony meeting in January.

Vohs represents Ward 4 while Town is the at-large councilmember.

### Citywide clean-up

The annual citywide clean-up day will be Saturday, April 24. This event, a service for city residents only, allows residents to dispose of bulky trash items. Items should be at the curb by 6:30 a.m.

More information, including what will and will not be picked up, can be found on the City's website and will be posted to the City's Facebook page closer to the event.

### Countywide emergency alerts

Miami County residents interested in getting updated information on the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine in the county can receive that information through the County's emergency alert system. This is a new option through the alert system.

County residents can also sign up for weather and county alerts on Everbridge, the County's emergency alert system.

If you had previously signed up for the alert service, you should log into your account and add the health department alerts to your alert selection if desired.

Residents may sign up for alert service at the Miami County page on the Everbridge website at: <https://bit.ly/2Xw1XJT>. Residents may also text MICOALERTS to 888777 to opt in. You will receive a reply with a link to follow to create an account.



# Volunteers needed for spring spruce-up

Warmer weather is right around the corner and that means it's time to think about sprucing up for the spring.

Last year the city volunteer clean-up day was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This clean-up day sees volunteers working in the city parks and at homes of the community's senior citizens doing spring clean-up work.

Two different clean-up days are planned for this year.

## HOME BUDDIES

Home Buddies will be the first clean-up day this year. This program matches senior citizens who may need help with outdoor work with local volunteers.

Home Buddies clean-up day is planned for 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 27.

The Louisburg High School's Future Business Leaders



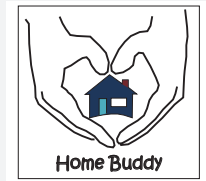
*Volunteers spread across Louisburg in April 2019 doing clean-up work at the City's parks and at homes of area senior citizens.*

*Below: Crews work to rake leaves from around the City Park's bandstand.*

*Left: Scouts assist in the Home Buddies program.*



of America organization will be the primary volunteers for this event. FBLA sponsor and LHS teacher Adrienne Lane said the group hopes to get quite a job list going as the club hasn't been able to achieve its required community service hours due to the pandemic.



Volunteers will rake leaves, clean out flower beds, pick up limbs or do other outdoor chores at homes of Louisburg senior citizens. Senior citizens can call City Hall at 837-2324 to be placed on a first-come, first-served list to match the volunteer availability.

"We hope Louisburg's senior citizens will call to get on the list and help out the kids with their service hours," Lane said.

## PARK CLEAN-UP

Volunteers from the Ministerial Alliance will take the lead on the annual park clean-up. This event is planned for 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 17. Work includes spreading mulch in planting beds and in the playgrounds, raking leaves and picking up sticks, trimming bushes, planting trees, cleaning picnic tables and similar chores.

## ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Any community member is welcome to join either group. To participate in Home Buddies, contact City Hall at 837-2324. To help with the parks clean-up, meet at City Park at 8:45 a.m. to be grouped with a team and receive a clean-up assignment.

Those participating in either clean-up day are asked to wear a mask during the event. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring rakes, pruners and other yard tools.

The rain-out date for either day will be 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 24.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, March 1  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, March 8  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, March 15  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm Tuesday, March 16  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Fox Hall Board**  
5 pm Monday, March 29  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, March 31  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, April 5  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Citywide Garage Sales**  
Garage sale sign moratorium  
from April 7-April 21

**Louisburg Park & Tree Board**  
6:30 pm Monday, April 12  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg City Council**  
6:30 pm Monday, April 19  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Louisburg Recreation Commission**  
6 pm, Tuesday, April 20  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

**Citywide Clean-up**  
6:30 am Saturday, April 24

**Louisburg Planning Commission**  
6:30 pm Wednesday, April 28  
City Hall, 215 S. Broadway

*Agendas and minutes can be found at [www.louisburgkansas.gov](http://www.louisburgkansas.gov) under the Agenda & Minutes icon.*



## 2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS



### LOUISBURG AT A GLANCE

- Incorporated in 1868
- Population 4,487
- 53 full- & part-time employees
  - Police Department with 15 full- & part-time officers
  - Fire Department with 19 paid & volunteer firefighters
- Approximately 27.75 miles of paved roads
- City-owned water, wastewater and gas utility systems

### MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2021

- Opening of New Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Continued Stormwater Improvements
- Continued Sidewalk Enhancement/Replacement
- Utility Meter Replacement Program
- Comprehensive Plan Implementation
- Completion of Grant Projects at Lewis-Young Park
- Metcalf 2.0 Design Phase
- Continued Implementation of Master Plans
- Replacement of Wastewater Lift Station
- Maintain/Replace Streets city-wide

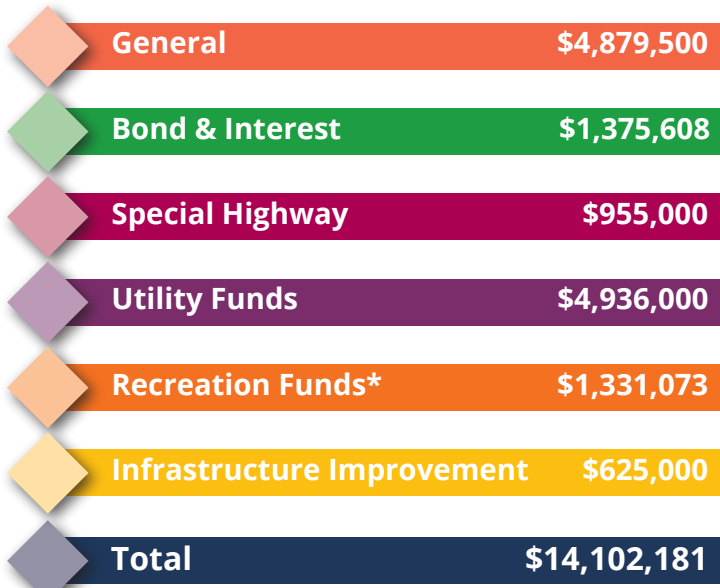
- City Hall — 215 S. Broadway
- Fire Station — 205 S. Metcalf
- Police Station — 209 S. Metcalf
- Community Storm Shelter — 205 S. Metcalf
- Public Works Building — 29146 S. Rogers Rd.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant — 29140 S. Rogers Rd.
- Aquatic Center — 402 Aquatic Dr.
- Louisburg Cemetery — Amity & Rogers Rd.
- City, Ron Weers and Lewis-Young Parks

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

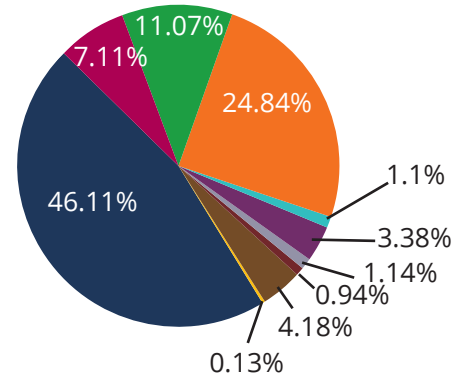
- A 1.621 mill decrease
- Assessed value growth of 5.44%
- Proposed reserves at a level to maintain Moody's A1 bond rating
- Maintain service levels
- Continued focus on equipment / vehicle replacement schedule and capital improvement goals
- Maintain moderate levels of debt with 74 percent of total statutory debt capacity remaining

# 2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS

## BUDGET BY FUND

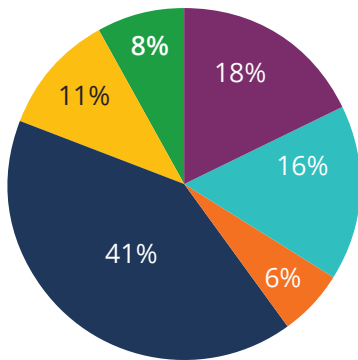


## GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT



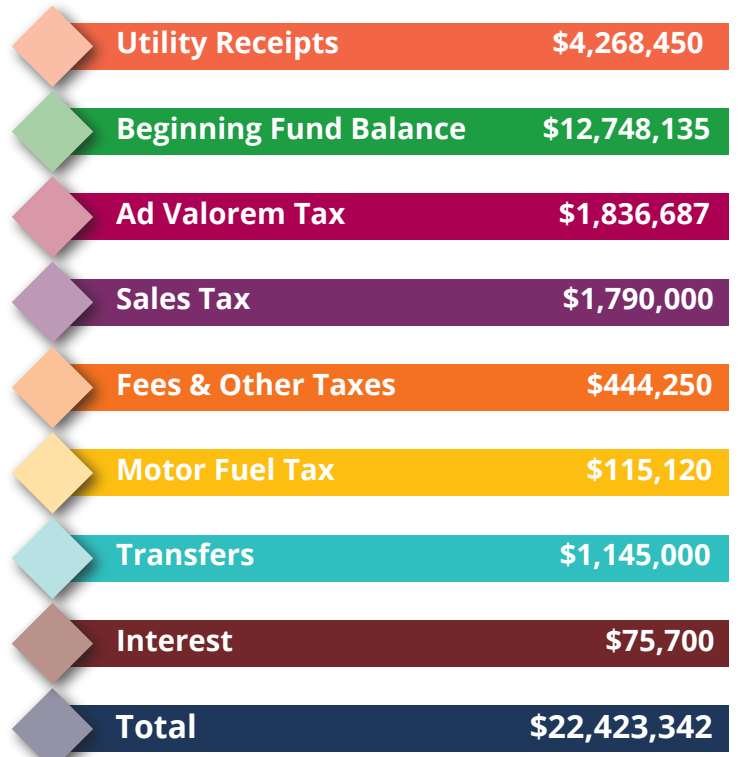
Department	Amount	Percentage
Administration	\$347,000	7.1%
Fire	\$540,000	11.1%
Police	\$1,212,000	24.8%
Court	\$53,500	1.1%
Streets	\$165,000	3.4%
Building & Zoning	\$55,500	1.1%
Building Inspections	\$46,000	0.9%
Parks	\$204,000	4.2%
Special Events	\$6,500	0.1%
Capital Outlay/Transfers	\$2,250,000	46.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,164,612</b>	

## BUDGET BY TYPE



Type	Amount	Percentage
Salaries	\$2,535,000	18%
Contractual	\$2,286,000	16%
Commodities	\$915,500	6%
Capital Outlay	\$5,725,073	41%
Debt Service	\$1,495,608	11%
Transfers	\$1,145,000	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,102,181</b>	

## REVENUES BY TYPE



	2019 Mill Levy for 2020 Budget	2020 Proposed Mill Levy for 2021 Budget
General Fund	29.125	28.423
Debt Service Fund	5.329	4.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.454</b>	<b>32.833</b>

\*City-funded projects only. Does not include any funding for Recreation Commission programs/projects.