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Get free money for repairs

If your front door is looking a bit dingy or you discovered you had drafty windows this winter or your business could use some new outdoor lighting, a program offered by the City may be just what you need to make updates to your home or business.

FLIP, or Facades of Louisburg Improvement Program, has been expanded for 2019 and is available to any home or business within the city limits that meets the program requirements.

FLIP offers a monetary incentive for residents and businesses to fix up the facade of their home or business.

Complete program details and requirements can be found on the City's website.

Homeowners and even renters are eligible to receive up to \$500 to make improvements to a home.

Eligible improvements include additions, concrete work that includes a sidewalk, stoop or driveway; exterior window or door/storm door replacement; exterior lighting; exterior painting/siding; facade restoration; foundation repair; gutters; landscaping; masonry; new construction; roof; and shutters.

The appraised value of the home must be less than \$175,000.

The matching dollar grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis for homeowners.

The FLIP-Business opportunity is similar to the homeowner program. Eligible improvements are exterior painting or surface treatments; brick tucking; decorative awnings; window and/or door replacement or modifications; storefront enhancements; signage; exterior wall



lighting; decorative building lighting; and architectural features. Improvements should enhance the surrounding area.

FLIP-Business has a scoring criteria that must be met to be eligible. The grant award is worth 40% of the project costs up to \$2,500. The scoring criteria is available with the program's requirements on the City's website.

All residential and business projects must be approved to receive the grant before any work begins at the project location.

For Craig Holtzen, who owns a building on Broadway which houses his Edward Jones office, the FLIP opportunity was too good to pass up.

"I intended to do some improvement anyway but this added to the scope of what we did. I like to work with the City as a partner. We can do more together."

Holtzen used his \$2,500 match to upgrade the large windows on the front of his building to make it more energy efficient and also changed the entrance and added a new front door.

Holtzen encourages other businesses to take advantage of the grant money.

"I am excited to see the City investing in their local community and specifically local business. The funds are a small investment to the City that can pay dividends for many years to come."

"I intended to do some improvements anyway but this added to the scope of what we did."

— Craig Holtzen

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913-837-5371

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Hours: 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

Police Department

Chief Tim Bauer

209 S. Metcalf Rd.

Louisburg, KS 66053

913-837-3191

Fire Department

Chief Brad Seely

205 S. Metcalf Rd.

Louisburg, KS 66053

913-837-4700

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

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

Pool season is right around the corner

Now is the time to purchase pool passes and save 10 percent and to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Starbucks gift card.

Pool passes must be purchased by April 30 to receive the discount.

The discounted price is \$90 for a family of four and \$22.50 for each person over four. An individual pass is \$54.

The regular price for a family pass is \$100 and \$25 for each person over four. An individual pass is \$60.

This will be the second year the City will use a pool pass card program. Each pool user will be issued a pass with a bar code that will be scanned to gain entrance to the Aquatic Center. Pictures will be taken of users for verification. For passes purchased in advance, pictures can be taken at City Hall or the first time

the guest comes to the pool.

Daily admission to the pool is \$4 for ages 3 to 64 and free for those ages 2 and under or 65 and over.

Day care provider passes are \$100 plus \$10 per child. A 10-punch card pass is available for \$30. These passes are not offered at a discount.

The pool opens for the season Saturday, May 25 and will close Sunday, Aug. 11. Pool hours are noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Lap swim and water aerobics will be available again this year.

Swim lessons are managed by the Louisburg Barracudas swim team. Information on lesson sign-up will be announced later this spring. Watch the City's Facebook page for information.

Let's go swimming!

This morning I got up and the door was frozen shut on my van. It definitely is a sign that it is too cold. Since I work inside I really have no right to complain, but I find it kind of ironic that I am sitting here writing an article about our swimming pool on such a bitterly cold day.

When I first got the job at Louisburg High, the pool was being managed by a teacher who gave all the new school staff a tour of the pool. It was state-of-the-art for the time: zero entry, bright new slides and a diving board. I remember thinking back then what a great investment the pool was for the quality of life for the citizens of the community. This is still true today even though the pool is over 20 years old and probably not considered state-of-the-art anymore. The city staff has done a great job of maintenance and upkeep in order to keep it running.

Several months ago a survey was sent out in the utility bills asking, what, if anything should be done to update

the aquatic center. We received many suggestions, some of which are not cost effective, such as trying to make it an indoor pool, as well as enhancement ideas like a lazy river, splash pads, new slides and diving boards. Some of the suggestions included leaving the pool as is and just continue to maintain it.

The city council is going to start having discussions about this over the next few months. I strongly encourage everyone to get involved in the discussion by coming to the meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 at City Hall. Citizens are always welcome to contact me at 913-908-6384 or by email at msouthard@louisburgkansas.gov or reach out to your ward representative.



MAYOR'S
MINUTE

Marty Southard



2019 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS

LOUISBURG AT A GLANCE

- Incorporated in 1868 — The community celebrated the city's Sesquicentennial in 2018
- Population 4,487
- 52 full- & part-time employees
- Police Department with 14 full- & part-time officers
- Fire Department with 20 paid & volunteer firefighters
- Approximately 27.5 miles of paved roads
- City owned water, wastewater and gas utility systems

- 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 Rogers Rd.
- Aquatic Center — 2 Aquatic Dr.
- Louisburg Cemetery — Amity & Rogers Rd.
- City, Ron Weers and Lewis-Young Parks

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2019

- Stormwater Improvements
- Continued Sidewalk Enhancement/Replacement
- Utility Meter Replacement Program
- Comprehensive Plan Implementation
- Mobile & Body Video Recording System for Police
- Pumper Truck Replacement for Fire
- Upgrade Radios for Emergency Services
- Aquatic Center Projects & Planning
- Lewis-Young Park Ballfield Fence Replacement

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- No mill increase
- Assessed value growth of 7.78% largest increase since 2009 economic downturn, compared to last year's 4.6%
- 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

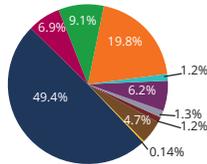
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2019 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS

BUDGET BY FUND

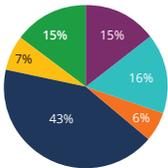


GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT



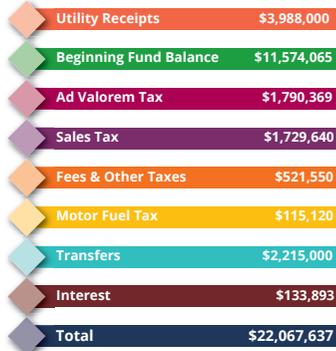
Administration	\$336,944	6.9%
Fire	\$448,670	9.1%
Police	\$972,183	19.8%
Court	\$60,338	1.2%
Streets	\$305,908	6.2%
Building & Zoning	\$65,316	1.3%
Building Inspections	\$58,907	1.2%
Parks	\$229,566	4.7%
Special Events	\$6,500	0.14%
Capital Outlay/Transfers	\$2,425,400	49.4%
Total	\$4,909,332	

BUDGET BY TYPE



Salaries	\$2,145,725	15%
Contractual	\$2,287,843	16%
Commodities	\$825,705	6%
Capital Outlay	\$6,293,112	43%
Debt Service	\$957,607	7%
Transfers	\$2,215,000	15%
Total	\$14,724,992	

REVENUES BY TYPE



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

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Odds & ends from the City

The City has positive news to share with residents at the start of the new year.

The 2019 City's budget overview information sheet is available to residents. It is reproduced here, is also available on the City's website or a copy can be picked up at City Hall. This flyer details some general information about the City, major projects scheduled for 2019 and a list of budget highlights including no mill increase and carryover sufficient to keep a highly desirable bond rating.

There are also details about the City's budget by fund, department and type as well as revenues by type.

The other positive news the City received is it has been approved for a State Revolving Fund that will help lower the cost of the wastewater treatment plant.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, through the State Revolving Fund process, committed to providing a subsidized interest rate of 2.33% as well as \$4,278,931 of principal forgiveness.

Bids will be let later this spring and construction will start soon after. The plant is scheduled to be operational in 2020.

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

- Discounted pool passes are now available to purchase at City Hall for a 10 percent savings. To receive the discount, passes must be purchased by April 30.

- As a reminder the City requires an annual backflow inspection for businesses or residences that have a lawn irrigation and/or fire suppression system. City staff will be mailing reminder letters in March.

- Annual dog tags are required for all dogs living inside the city limits. Tags are \$3 for a dog that is spayed or neutered or \$5 otherwise. A copy of the dog's rabies vaccine is required. Tags may be purchased at City Hall during regular business hours.

- E-recycle Day sponsored by the Louisburg Rotary is Saturday morning April 13 at the middle school.

- Citywide garage sales are the weekend of April 20. The garage sale sign moratorium, which allows for the placement of signs without a permit, is April 10-24.

- Citywide clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27. Residents should have all trash to the curb by 6:30 a.m. Hazardous materials, paints, tires, items that contain engine oil or fuel, regular trash and yard waste will not be picked up. Refrigerators and freezers should either have the doors removed or steel banded and placed facedown at the curb.

Getting to know....

Don't Flush That!

With a new wastewater treatment plant in Louisburg's future, it might be a good idea to review what are acceptable items to flush to avoid clogs that could cause expensive repairs or even downtime at the new plant.

A quick search of the web pulls up lots of great information on what not to flush down the toilet.

Anyone from the local plumber to the wastewater treatment plant operator to the environmentalist will tell you there are only three things that should be flushed: pee, paper and poo.

Anything else is not truly flushable, even those items marked as "flushable".

Wipes — not flushable. While baby wipes may seem like they are toilet paper, after all they clean your baby's bottom, they are thicker and sturdier than toilet paper and don't break down. Same goes for adult wipes. Even if they are labeled as flushable, they are not good for any sewer system, including the homeowner's system.

Chewing Gum — maybe flushing what is basically an adhesive might not be such a great idea.

Contact Lenses — Lenses are small, what's the big deal? They don't biodegrade and the chemicals can leach into the wastewater.

Condoms — Flushing might seem a good way to get rid of condoms but they can inflate anywhere in the wastewater system and cause huge problems.

Feminine Products — Another no-no. The thickness of the products makes them hard to flush and applicators shouldn't be flushed either.

Diapers — Can a full diaper even flush? Apparently so. It's well documented that sewer workers find diapers clogging the systems.

Food & Food Fat — Even though food is biodegradable it can still stick together and cause clogs. Grease and fat congeals after it cools and forms a solid mass that cause major problems to sewers. These grease balls are called "fatbergs" by sewer workers. Often fat sticks to baby wipes causing monster-sized fatbergs.

Prescription drugs — When drugs are flushed they can dissolve in the water, can harm animals and can work their way back into the drinking water. Dispose of these when the City offers a Drug Take Back Day in the spring and fall.

Let's work together to keep our investment in the new City sewer plant in good condition. Make sure your family members know what shouldn't be flushed. Just remember only pee, paper and poo should be flushed. Everything else should go in the trash.



This fatberg from the London sewer system was larger than a Boeing 747. A tennis ball can be seen in the lower right side of the photo.

Photo courtesy Thames Water



A mass of baby wipes causes a clog in the Charleston, S.C., sewer system.

Photo courtesy Charleston Water