

STATE OF THE CITY 2017

The City of Ward is a Mayor/Council form of Municipal Government, in the State of Arkansas. This past year our city saw a very productive year which certainly continues to make a better quality of life for our citizens.

ADMINISTRATION: Started a child abuse awareness program, continued to work on Census paperwork for the annual census in 2020. Additional security cameras added for all locations. Computer upgrades for each area as needed, servers upgraded. Attended training for Human Resources, Financial Services and Health Insurance program. Computer training was made available in the areas of Microsoft Word, Excel and office programs for employees.

ANIMAL CONTROL: While patrolling, 168 animals running at large were picked up, 33 animals were returned back to their owner, adopted out 169 animals. Received/made 1409 phone calls and 1098 hours were spent at the shelter feeding, watering and cleaning. A total of 32 citations, warnings, welfare checks were made, delivered 18 Code Violation Reports.

CITY OPERATIONS: Because our residents need to be kept abreast of city business, the city website (www.wardarkansas.org) is updated and maintained daily with more than 81,000 inquires being answered or resolved. The Police Department, Parks and Recreation, and Animal Control have Facebook pages which offer updates such as railroad closings which reached and aided over 7,000 residents and informed residents as the city being liaison for the Headstart Program. Our city initiates and participates in events for our citizens such as 4th of July festivities, Community Night with the Travelers, and assisting with distribution of USDA Commodities. The cities employees assist in the Court Office, aid in the development of District Court Office Training Manual, update the Emergency Operations Plan and participate in Emergency Management exercises. The city coordinated with NLR Office of Emergency Management and oversaw the installation of used Early Warning siren and we are currently updating and repairing all sirens making sure they are functional. The city is continuing its evaluation of Mass Notification System, working with the Lonoke County Public Library System to have Wards' library reinstated which will bring a Genealogy Workshop to our city, and a Production Control was rewritten to process Fleet Work Orders. Implementation of Badger Water Meters Beacon software was/is on a trial basis and the city instituted a WASP inventory program. Our employees are attending classes to upgrade the knowledge needed to perform the tasks required to keep our city the best that we can make it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Delivered 289 copies of City Ordinances, 117 citations and warnings. A total of 96 building permits were submitted did 189 hours of patrol, received/made 808 phone calls. Participated in the Annual City Wide Clean Up, attended Floodplain Administrator Training with ANRC.

DISTRICT COURT: Processed 255 criminal citations, 36 DWI, 69 city ordinances, 846 traffic violations, 57 juvenile traffic citations, issued 1,913 warrants, took in 4,434 receipts. Court Clerks completed three sessions of continuing education.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Responded to 12 structure fire calls, 3 vehicle fire calls, 16 grass fire calls, 197 rescue/medical calls, 32 rescue/auto accident calls and 28 mutual aid calls. Conducted the fireworks display for the City's July 4th celebration. Assisted neighboring Fire Departments with Arson Investigations, attended Hazard Mitigation Plan meetings. We participated in community activities at

schools, Boy/Girl Scouts fire station tour and City Christmas Parade. Training sessions 50 + times completed.

PARKS AND RECREATION: There were 115 players for spring 2017, coed had 8 teams. This included baseball, t-ball and soccer. Fall soccer had 28 players and coed had a total of 7 teams. Improvements at the Sports Complex include a new pitching mound for live arm baseball, resolved drainage issues, donation of a pavilion and 4 picnic tables, dog waste stations were donated and installed. A storage building and new restrooms were completed. A GIF grant was awarded for the construction of the restrooms. A special appreciation to every sponsor, and donation made to make our program successful. Director coordinated Fishing Derby and July 4th Celebration. Continued training includes attending the Arkansas Park and Recreation Annual Conference and studying for the Certified Park and Recreation Professional Exam.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Received a free patrol unit from NHTSA valued at \$45,000.00, purchased and outfitted 2 new patrol vehicles. We received \$6500.00 in grants. Responded to over 10,000 complaint calls for service, approximately 434 911 calls, 853 warrants served, worked 84 vehicle accidents, completed 629 outside agency assists, responded to 128 alarm calls. Completed 275 arrests misdemeanor and felony, issued 444 citations traffic and criminal, issued 397 warning/contact cards. Responded to 126 domestic violence calls, 17 DWI arrests. Extra patrol request/house watches 3352, made 4015 after hour's business checks, conducted 356 criminal investigations, 1000 incident reports filed. Over 1400 hours of officer continuing education completed.

PROBATION: Court ordered community service work completed is 650 hours with 61 hours worked in lieu of fines. Fees paid are 823, and the year ended with 275 people on probation.

STREET DEPARTMENT: Improved and maintained drainage throughout the city and for park and ball fields. Graded and leveled fields for parks, added driveways, general parking and VIP parking area assisted Parks and Recreation in maintaining ball fields and park area. Poured concrete slab for pavilion at the park, constructed equipment shed at the park. Moved the vendors and stage for the 4th of July Celebration the front of the park and added new electrical services in various locations throughout the park. Graded and salted roads during snow and ice events, maintained city, water and police vehicles and equipment, made improvements in and around the city shop. Fabricated garage door opening and built divider walls in the water utility field shop, coordinated and set up clean-up operations for the City Wide Clean-Up. Completed many major street repairs and street maintenance projects throughout the city, added a new parking area and new parking pad for the generator at the City Complex. Purchased a new track-hoe and a 2005 dump truck to be used in various constructions and hauling projects. Damaged/rusted out culverts in many locations were replaced, closed Hickory Street and diverted traffic to Elm St. to Hwy 367, maintained crosswalks in several locations. Setup and assisted in the 4th of July Celebration, installed and assisted in Christmas lighting and displays. Maintenance included ditches mowed and kept free from debris and trash, cut and hauled trees and brush from storm damage areas.

WATER UTILITIES-FIELD: Used dump truck purchased, water upgrade water maintenance building, wastewater up-graded HVAC, improved VAC system operations. A total of 505 plumbing and heat and air inspections were completed.

WATER OFFICE: Received one new computer, billed overall 46,435 customers, 10,337 late bills were sent out, signed up 485 new customers, installed 73 new meter sets. Payments processed were 48,333 and we collected over \$22,000 in bad debts.

There are many other areas that our city oversees to make a better quality place to live: The Planning Commission is very active to make sure we get the very best product for our citizens. They meet monthly and are an all voluntary service which has implemented a new master plan for our city. The Parks and Recreation work hard to provide recreational opportunities for you. Your support is needed and appreciated.

There are many activities for all to enjoy: City Wide Clean Up, Fishing Derby, July 4th Celebration, Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting are all planned, organized, and conducted by our city employees for the benefit and enjoyment of our citizens and persons from the surrounding areas. Senior citizens meet weekly and serve snacks/meals for a donation. They meet on Thursday's at 12:00 noon, meetings are open to all ages here at Ward Municipal Complex.

There are several support organizations which are partnered with our city:

Central Arkansas Development Council;

Ward Chamber of Commerce;

Central Arkansas Planning Development District;

Public Computer Library – City of Ward;

Mid Ark Water Alliance;

Metro Plan;

Municipal League;

LRAFB Community Council;

Local Churches;

Local Banks;

Boy Scouts

Girl Scouts

These are just a few that support our city to make a better quality of life for all.

Our city continues to grow with new construction permits valued at \$6,895,725 for 2017. This is a 6% growth rate. Ward has established a new (LMI) low middle income this year, completing the surveys resulting in a 61% LMI. This will aide in securing grants.

This year we will focus on improving the intersection at 319/367 Hwy. at railroad crossing, maintenance of streets, paving of streets and resurfacing. Several streets will be considered for surfacing. Many ditches will be cleaned for proper surface run-off of rain water which will help prevent flooding. Grant for safe sidewalks to school has been awarded and to be completed in 2018, phase III to be included, plus a walking trail at the city park.

The Water Department focuses on providing the very best quality water to our customers. We will continue protecting all our water sources and continue electronic surveillance of these important locations. Lonoke White Public Water Authority is on line in our fourth year pumping quality drinking

water from Greers Ferry Reservoir at Cove Creek and several water companies have joined the Public Water Authority. The wastewater system is being up-graded to meet the necessary treatment requirements IAW, Federal, State, Local laws, (as required); a loan from USDA – RD as been secured.

Allied Ambulance Service continues to provide outstanding service to the city. They are highly trained and certified in all areas of responsibility.

“Team Ward” is serving you at their best. Our employee’s are multi-skilled in every department. I give all the Thanks and Praise to our Lord Jesus Christ for what he has done for all.

Art Brooke

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Art Brooke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor, City of Ward