City of Lawrence
UTILITIES

2007 Annual Report

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A. Accomplishments

The department reorganized in the spring of the year to consolidate work groups previously divided by their respective utility of water or wastewater and to improve efficiencies. The department's administrative offices moved from the Kaw Water Treatment Plant to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on East 8th Street. As part of the reorganization, Lawrence Utilities Management System (LUMS) now applies across the department. Third party audit verified LUMS as consistent with three standards in 2006. The department is the only organization to achieve this.

The department successfully sited and acquired land for a second wastewater treatment plant along the Wakarusa River. Early planning took place for the plant. In 2008, the timing and scope for the construction of a new facility to expand treatment capacity and enhance effluent quality will be evaluated. The acquisition of the site and permit approvals allow the department to move forward with the project quickly when growth and economic development drivers require expanded service capacity.

The department made significant progress toward targets that address City Commission goals during 2007. These include higher customer approval, better services supplied, and expansion of services.

B. Programs and Projects

The department completed many projects in 2008. These included

- Replacement of Pump Stations 1, 2, and 3 in North Lawrence.
- Construction of Pump Station 48 that replaced two current pump stations and expanded capacity for the Northwest service area within the urban growth area.
- Increasing Pump Station 16 capacity from eight million gallons per day to sixteen million gallons per day.
- Completion of the downtown water line replacement.
- Replacement and expansion of the Yankee Tank Creek sanitary sewer pipeline.
- Expansion and updating of the Clinton Water Treatment Plant upgrade began. At finish, it will treat 15 million gallons of drinking water more each day.

Other programs in 2007 include locating water lines geographically with a high degree of precision and installing computerized controls and monitoring in all pump stations. These projects improve the reliability and quality of services provided to the customer.

The department beneficially reuses wastewater biosolids by providing it to local farmers for fertilizer. Nutri-ject Systems remains the contractor for hauling and applying the solids to area farm fields. Lime residuals, a by-product from water treatment, are removed by RD Johnson and ultimately the material is used for fill material.

The department plans to expand services to include a grease program in 2009 to control grease entering the collection system and ensure the material is properly recycled. This program will assist major contributors like area restaurants manage these waste materials and keep the grease out of the sanitary sewer. This will reduce line blockages, basement back-ups, and the need for frequent cleaning and replacement of sewer lines for both the restaurant and the public system.

Photo: The department completed Pump Station #48 in the summer 2007. The pump station fits into the rural area and has drives that save energy, decrease wear on the equipment, and community friendly.

C. Awards and Recognition

In 2007, the department received recognition by peer and regulatory agencies for excellent services. These include:

- ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 certifications.
- Alliance for Innovation's Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation.
- USEPA National Environmental Performance Track Program membership.

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment Pollution Prevention Award for Excellence

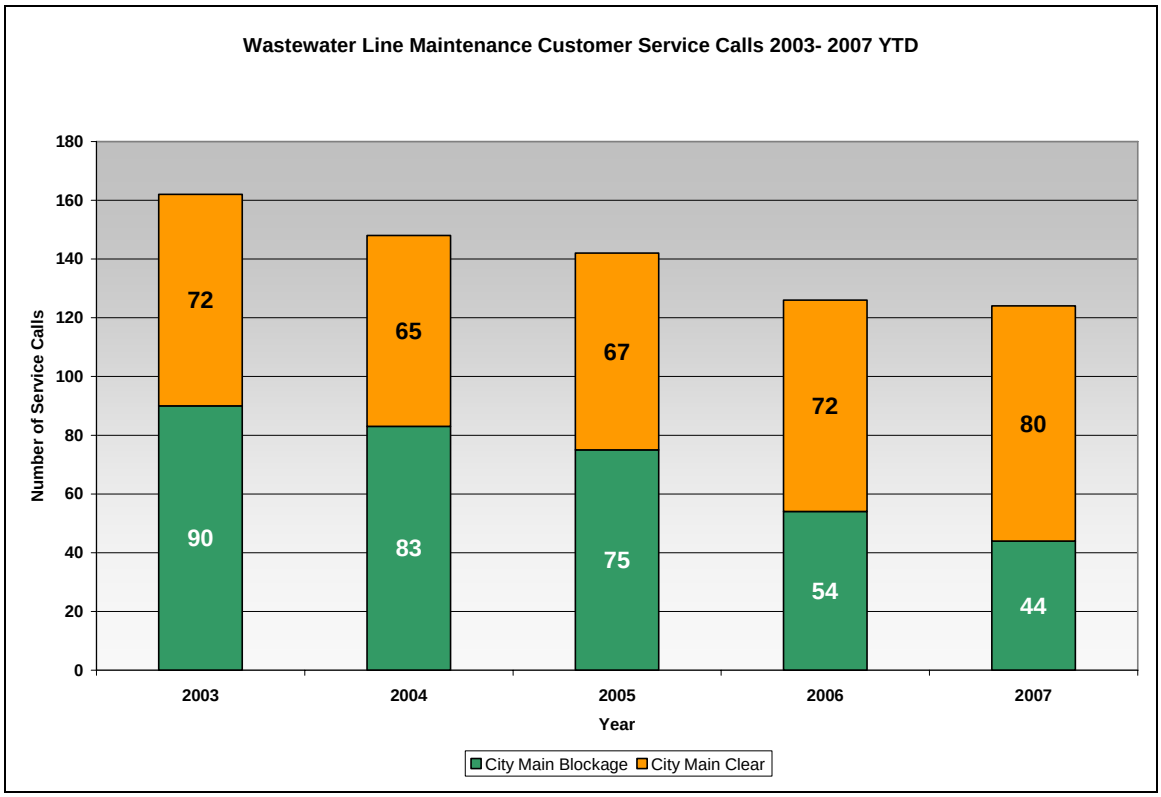
D. Community Outreach Activities

The department took part in various public outreach activities in 2007. The department held and the public attended public meetings for construction projects. All plants gave multiple tours to schools and community groups. The department also staffed an activity table at the Earth Day festival in May.

E. Performance Measures and Other Statistics

The department measures how well it is doing in the following areas:

Measure	Quantity
Sanitary sewer overflows	26
City main blockages	44
Percent decrease in city main blockages	51
Gallons wastewater treated	3.877 billion
Gallons drinking water treated	4.149 billion
Tons of biosolids land applied on farm ground	6660
Percent biosolids used	100
Number of work orders addressed	1733



Graph: Blockages in the City Main have decreased by 51% over the last 5 years.

F. Audits and Compliance Reviews

The department has yearly internal and external audits and reviews of the management system and department performance. These are required by the standards and are intended to find opportunities to improve. The 2007 third party audit resulted in one major finding and eight minor findings. The auditor identified several opportunities for improvement. The department will develop and implement plans to address all findings and take advantage of opportunities to improve in 2008.

The department is dedicated to a safe work place for staff, as well as the community. The department requested the Kansas Department of Labor to inspect and find areas for improvement. The department also hired a safety specialist to assist with safety programs, including finding ways to lower safety risks, improve staff training, and assist with keeping emergency plans effective and up-to-date.

The department reviews its regulatory compliance on a regular basis. These reviews confirmed 100% compliance with discharge permits for water and wastewater and all drinking water regulations and laws.

G. Summary

Many changes made in 2007 resulted in improved service to our customers and a more reliable water supply and wastewater system. The department expects further progress in these areas in the next year and continues to look for ways to improve.