

# Louisburg Speaks <sup>KS</sup>

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## City unveils new logo, brand strategy as part of comprehensive plan update

A new logo for the City of Louisburg was recently approved by the City Council.

The design of the logo and brand strategy is part of the comprehensive plan process that is in the completion stages.

The Lakota Group, the consultants who have helped the City craft the comprehensive plan, developed the new logo as part of its work on the plan. The Lakota Group is a firm that works in urban design, planning, landscape architecture and historic preservation.

In the brand strategy guidelines, Lakota had this to say about the city:

"The City of Louisburg is known and valued for its homey, small-town, rural character yet close proximity to the larger business and entertainment opportunities in the Kansas City metro region. The logo is designed to capture this character in a fun, easily-identifiable way. The word "is" is highlighted because the City of Louisburg is beloved for many different reasons by different people and it is these things that make Louisburg uniquely 'Louisburg.'"

An additional graphic element, also called a "bug", was designed to be added as visual interest to printed pieces,

marketing materials, signage, merchandise and more. The bug is created by using the "is" highlighted in Louisburg and adding a tag line to it.

"I really like it because it is simple and brings out the strengths of our town," says Mayor Marty Southard. Creating a brand and updating the logo is a way to show off our town's identity to others, he said.

LOUISBURG  CLOSE-KNIT

LOUISBURG  CONNECTED

LOUISBURG  CLOSE TO EVERYTHING

LOUISBURG  HOME

*These graphic elements, called "bugs", can also be used to convey information about Louisburg.*

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Monday-Friday

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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

# Budget information provided in easy-to-read format

The City's 2018 budget information is provided as an insert with this newsletter. This flyer is a new communication tool offered by the City to inform and educate citizens about the City's financial health.

"The budget is arguably the single most important policy local governments pass all year," says Pat McQueen, the City's finance director. "While setting spending priorities and allocating public resources, the budget should ultimately reflect a community's values.

"One key ingredient in creating an effective budget is citizen engagement. Our hope is that by increasing transparency, citizens will have more information and feel empowered to provide their input on the budget process and future spending decisions. This is one small step towards that goal.



McQueen said the idea behind the budget flyer is to inform citizens about the budget and encourage their participation in the process.

"If nothing else I hope it helps citizens become engaged in the budget process and curious enough to ask questions of City leaders and staff. It may also lead to an increased understanding of how the City allocates resources, including the strong emphasis on public safety and infrastructure improvements."

The City has an A1 bond rating from Moody's Investor Services, which is excellent for a community of Louisburg's size. These ratings are usually indicative of a city's financial health, he said.

## Change looms like a gorilla

Change happens to all of us. Change can be challenging for families and for communities.

My family has been going through several changes lately. Two of my daughters have married in just the past few months. I love my new sons-in-law and both are great men who I believe will accomplish great things. But change is hard and I sometimes feel like I am placing my daughters' hands in the hand of a gorilla.

My recent experience got me to thinking about how change can be hard for a city too. Any decision or change the City makes is met with some citizens happy about the change and some, well, not so happy. Louisburg has experienced quite a bit of change over the past year. The

Broadway revitalization is nearing completion, the Amity and Metcalf project is finished with a much safer intersection, the trails plan is moving forward, work continues on the waste water treatment plant, the City is building sidewalks around the community and new businesses are opening. It is safe to say the City is in a constant sea of change and growth.

This is healthy change for any community but sometimes we have to remind each other that change is not so bad even if it looms over us like a gorilla.

**MAYOR'S  
MINUTE**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Southard".

# City to provide grant money to assist with home, business improvements

Homeowners in the traditional part of town as well as businesses located in the historic area of downtown are eligible for a new grant program offered by the City.

The Facade of Louisburg Improvement Program, or FLIP, provides matching grants to homeowners or business owners to fix up the facades of their homes or businesses.

Applications will begin Jan. 1 and any work done must be completed in 2018. Projects started or completed in 2017 are not eligible.

The residential program is open to homeowners that own a home in an area generally bounded by Amity Street on the north, S. 8th Street on the south, Olive Street on the east and Howard Street on the west.

Residential facade improvements include: add or replace the concrete sidewalk, stoop or driveway; replace

exterior windows or front door; add or replace exterior lighting; paint or add or replace exterior siding; foundation repair; gutters; landscaping; masonry; roof; and shutters.

The program is a matching grant with the City's match not to exceed \$250. All projects must be approved before the City will award the grant. Grant money is awarded after the City receives receipts for the project work. Complete details of the program including all requirements are available on the City's homepage of the website or at City Hall.

The Council approved a budget of \$5,000 for FLIP-Residences.

A similar program is available for downtown buildings. The FLIP-Commercial project area is on Broadway from Amity Street to the half block south of S. Third Street.

Businesses must apply for the

grant and be approved before starting any work. The City's reimbursement grant will be 40 percent of the project costs not to exceed \$2,500.

The Council approved a budget of \$15,000 for the FLIP-Commercial program. A FAQ sheet and complete requirements are available on the City's website or at City Hall. Money is dispersed after the project is completed.

Eligible improvements for businesses are: exterior painting or surface treatment; brick tucking, decorative awnings; windows or door replacement; storefront enhancements; signage; outdoor patios or decks; exterior wall lighting; and decorative lighting or architectural features.

All improvements should enhance the surrounding area and complement the character of Downtown.

## Louisburg celebrates Sesquicentennial

Next year Louisburg celebrates its 150th birthday with events planned throughout the year.

The first sesquicentennial event will be Tales & Treasures at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17 at City Hall.

The Louisburg Historical Society, who is spearheading all sesquicentennial events, is partnering with the City to invite area residents, organizations and businesses to bring their memorabilia and share their tales about their treasures.

Everyone is invited to come hear the tales and view the treasures. If you have something to share, email the Historical Society at [louisburghistory150@outlook.com](mailto:louisburghistory150@outlook.com) or call City Hall.

In addition to the Historical Society sharing artifacts, several guests will attend with their memorabilia.

Albert Hinds, a descendant of one of Louisburg's early sheriffs, S.S. Hind, will share a pistol that Sheriff Hind used in his patrol of Louisburg streets. Albert plans to bring other items relating to the town's history.

The Miami County Historical Society will bring some

of the recently donated native American artifacts from the Christmas Dagentte family. Dagentte lived outside Louisburg, was an interpreter for the U.S. government and belonged to the Wea tribe.

Annette Kueser and daughter Mary Jo Shelton will share Blair House memorabilia including a quilt with many employees' signatures along with a display of locally produced church and club cookbooks. Annette and her husband Ralph purchased the Blair House from Golda Blair in the late '70s or early '80s and operated the restaurant until the late '80s.

For more information or to become involved in the 150 events, check out the Historical Society's website at [www.louisburghistory.com](http://www.louisburghistory.com).



*This is the seal that will highlight all sesquicentennial events.*

# Getting to know.....Plans

Two very important plans were expected to be approved by the City Council at December meetings.

The Council conditionally approved The Bright Future Plan, the City's updated comprehensive plan. A comprehensive plan is the vision and framework for the community's long-term growth, development and quality of life. The document is expected to guide the Council and City officials for the next 15-20 years. It includes goals and policy statements covering such things as residential, commercial and economic development, transportation and quality of life issues.

Also at a December meeting, the Council conditionally approved the Master Trails Plan. This plan provides a conditions report of all sidewalks and trails within the City. Through community engagement the plan then prioritizes building new or making improvements to existing sidewalks and trails. This document will be used to guide discussions and make recommendations on sidewalks and trails.

Both of these documents are available for the public to view on the City's website or at City Hall during normal business hours.

Other noticeable projects are planned sidewalks and streets. As part of the Downtown project, a sidewalk was constructed along Mulberry Street at the Farmer's Market property and connected to new sidewalks along S. First and S. Second streets.



*The City is wrapping up work on the comprehensive plan, above, and the master trails plan, left.*



*Crews work on the new sidewalk at the Farmer's Market block in late November.*

Also as part of the project is a new sidewalk from Amity and Broadway to Amity and Metcalf.

In 2018, the City will connect the new sidewalk built as part of the Amity/Metcalf intersection east to the middle school. A sidewalk north on Metcalf from the intersection to N. Ninth Street is also in the works.

New streets include connecting Danford Drive in The Lake subdivision to Starbrook and rebuilding Rockville Road from Amity to S. Fifth Street East.

## CALENDAR & REMINDERS

- Jan. 1 — The LHS Marching Wildcats perform in the Tournament of Roses parade airing locally at 10 a.m. HGTV is the recommended network to watch to catch a glimpse of the band.
- The first Tuesday of each month is bulky item pickup with regular trash service. The bulky item is restricted to just one item. Additional items will not be picked up.
- City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day and will be closed Monday, Jan. 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. January city council meetings will be Tuesday, Jan. 2 and Tuesday, Jan. 16 because of the holidays.



## 2018 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS



### LOUISBURG AT A GLANCE

- Incorporated in 1868 — 2018 will mark the community's Sesquicentennial
- 45 full- & part-time employees
- Population 4,382
- Approximately 27 miles of paved roads
- City owned water, wastewater and gas utility systems
- Police Department with 15 full- & part-time officers
- Fire Department with 21 paid & volunteer firefighters

### MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2018

- Build S. Rockville Road from Amity St. to S. 5th St. with sidewalk on one side and a turn lane
- Connect Danford Drive between The Lake and Starbrook subdivisions
- Construct sidewalk from Amity/Metcalf intersection to N. 9th St.
- Connect sidewalk from the Amity/Metcalf intersection east to Louisburg Middle School
- Stormwater survey of entire city
- Install new playground equipment at City Park

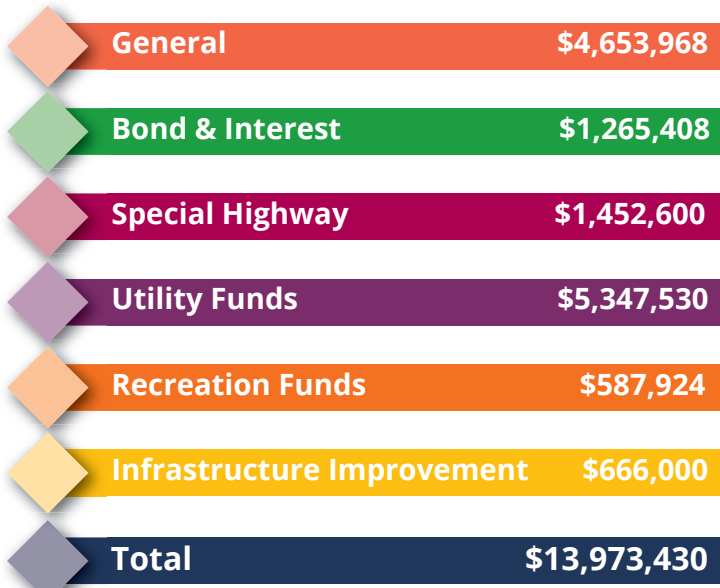
- City Hall — 215 S. Broadway
- Fire Station — 205 S. Metcalf
- Police Station — 209 S. Metcalf
- Community Storm Shelter — 205 S. Metcalf
- Public Works Building — 29146 Rogers Rd.
- Aquatic Center — 2 Aquatic Dr.
- Louisburg Cemetery — Amity & Rogers Rd.
- City, Ron Weers and Lewis-Young Parks

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

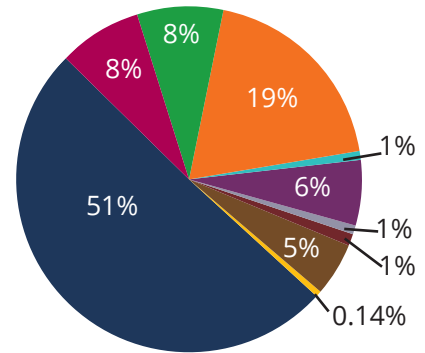
- No mill increase
- Assessed value growth of 4.6% largest increase since 2009 economic downturn
- Proposed reserves at a level to maintain Moody's A1 bond rating
- Maintain service levels
- Continued focus on equipment / vehicle replacement schedule and capital improvement goals
- Maintain moderate levels of debt with 74 percent of total statutory debt capacity remaining

# 2018 BUDGET OVERVIEW | LOUISBURG, KS

## BUDGET BY FUND

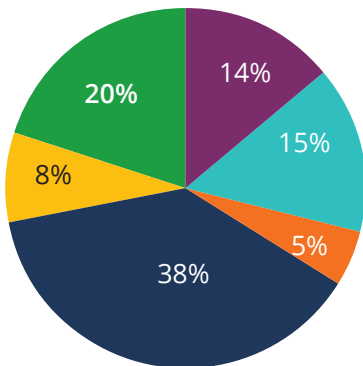


## GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT



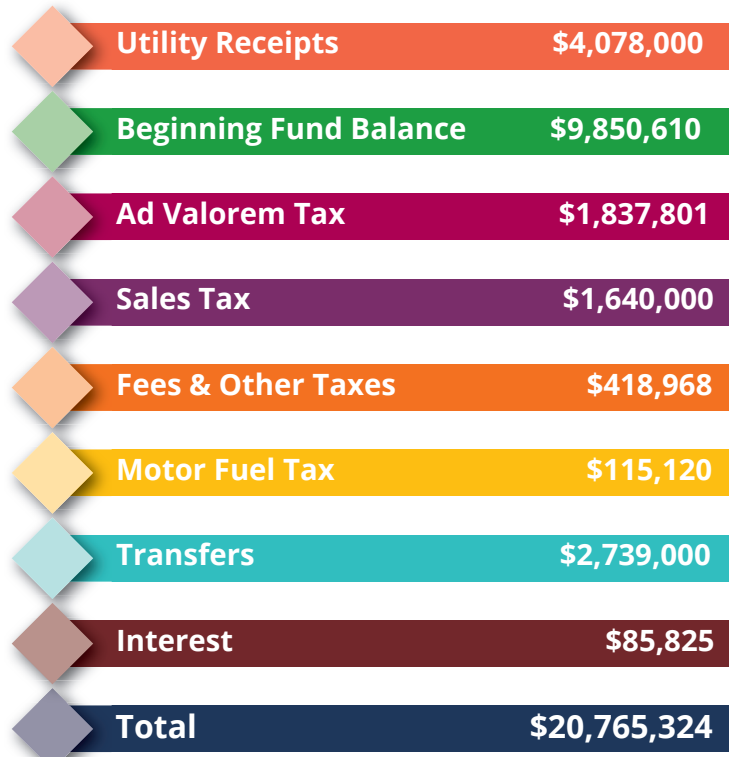
Administration	\$355,248	8%
Fire	\$368,057	8%
Police	\$871,970	19%
Court	\$58,134	1%
Streets	\$288,475	6%
Building & Zoning	\$56,371	1%
Building Inspections	\$50,092	1%
Parks	\$233,969	5%
Special Events	\$6,500	0.14%
Capital Outlay/Transfers	\$2,365,152	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,653,968</b>	

## BUDGET BY TYPE



Salaries	\$1,990,553	14%
Contractual	\$2,136,081	15%
Commodities	\$762,093	5%
Capital Outlay	\$5,257,213	38%
Debt Service	\$1,088,990	8%
Transfers	\$2,739,000	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,973,430</b>	

## REVENUES BY TYPE



	2016 Mill Levy for 2017 Budget	2017 Proposed Mill Levy for 2018 Budget
General Fund	28.097	27.179
Debt Service Fund	6.356	7.275
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.454</b>	<b>34.454</b>