

City of Sedgwick
Special City Council Meeting
July 28, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: 2026 Proposed Budget

INITIATED BY: Administration

AGENDA: New Business

Background: At the July 16, 2025, council meeting, council determined that they would not be renewing their membership to the Harvey County EDC as part of the projected cuts in the 2026 Budget. Areas that were cut in the 2026 Budget include:

- Harvey County EDC Membership:	\$12,600
- Downtown Façade Improvement Grant:	\$20,000
- Sidewalk Cost Share Program:	\$10,000
- Future Christmas Decorations:	\$ 5,000
- <u>Budgeting Software:</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>
Total	\$58,600

These cuts represent approximately 4 mills worth of funding that will be utilized to cover added expenditures in other areas of the budget including building the unencumbered cash balance for the general fund. One major change to the budget projections is the addition of one (1) full-time paramedic position. This position is projected to be covered by a grant that Harvey County initiated in 2023 to assist agencies in stabilizing the EMS environment within the county. In year one, Hesston, Halstead, and Burrton were awarded the grant. The Harvey County proposed budget includes funding for the grant, however we would be required to apply after the budgets are set. If we are not successful in obtaining the grant, we would freeze the position and utilize the savings during transfers. The addition of this position would allow us to expand our ALS scheduling capabilities and enhance our responses within the city. This grant would only cover the cost of the employee's salary expenses for one (1) year.

As we look toward the future, we need to remain cognizant of things such as the Fire/EMS station project, the environment of hiring first responders, routine street maintenance projects, and replacement of equipment. In doing so, staff is presenting the council with two options for the 2026 Proposed Budget.

Option A: Available resources of \$4,145,476 with total expenditures equaling \$4,127,175. Set the mill levy at 74.990 mills.

- Addition of (1) FT PW & Utilities Worker
- Addition of (1) FT Paramedic
(Cost offset by Harvey County Grant. If not awarded, we will not open position. Savings from this line would be rolled into the cash carry forward amount.)
- Addition of (1) FT Certified Police Officer
(Cost offset for three years at a set percentage by COPS Hiring Grant)

Option B: Available resources of \$4,138,009 with total expenditures equaling \$4,119,925. Reduce the mill levy by .5 mills to 74.490. The same positions will be added to the budget along with all the planned capital expenditures. The reduction in the mill levy will come from a reduction in the cash carry forward amount.

Historical Society

The Historical Society has presented the City with a quotation for the work that they would like to get accomplished for the 2026 budget cycle which includes: renovations of the tin roof on the depot which will utilize a majority of the \$20,000 funding request. Both scenarios listed above have the request fully funded.

Mill Levy Discussion

Below is a representation of the value of 1 mill for all Harvey County Municipalities for 2025. As you can see, while the mill levy may be less in other municipalities, their value of one mill is greater, thus generating more revenue.

CITY	MILL LEVY	VALUE	TOTAL REVENUE
WALTON	56.718	\$1,781	\$101,206
BURRTON	75.899	\$4,972	\$377,409
NORTH NEWTON	51.004	\$13,940	\$711,033
SEDGWICK	74.990	\$14,176	\$1,063,099
HALSTEAD	74.750	\$18,704	\$1,398,142
HESSTON	38.426	\$44,068	\$1,693,258
NEWTON	71.361	\$172,965	\$12,342,837