

**State of the City 2019
Paragould, Arkansas
February 10, 2020**

The City of Paragould has had another positive year. Revenue exceeded our revenue budget overall and provided opportunities to continue to improve the city. Last year with the beginning of the new Fire Department it did extend our budget and if it was not happening our revenue would have extended. On occasion things come up in departments that make a difference and department heads work hard to stay within revenue budget.

The 911 Center had it first full year and the Sheriff's department did finally include itself in January 2019. The 911 had 88,045 dispatches last year and are dispatching 20 organizations in the entire Greene County, and every city in the county.

**Alcohol Beverage Control
Arkansas Game & Fish
Arkansas Methodist Medical Center
Arkansas State Police
Black River Technical College
Delaplaine Fire Dept
Greene County Coroner
Greene County OEM
Greene County Rescue Squad
Greene County Sheriff's Office
Lafe Fire Department
Marmaduke Fire Department
Marmaduke Police Department
Northeast Greene County Fire Dept
Oak Grove Fire Department
Paragould Emergency Services
Paragould Fire Department
Paragould Police Department
South Greene County Fire Dept
Western Greene County Fire Department**

The Paragould Police Department had another improvement year.....

- 1) 6 New Patrol Calls with in car computer systems**
- 2) Computers (in-car) this gives us the ability to work accidents, reports, and tickets in car that saves time.**
- 3) Drone and FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared Radar)
----several mission so far with great success because it can detect any regular temperature issues such as people who are out in areas**
- 4) AED's for each shift officer to help save lives**
- 5) Trauma Kits for each shift officer**
- 6) Stop the Bleeding Training----Trauma first aid for each officer**

The Paragould Fire Department has continued to train employees to emergency and will respond dispatches.....

- 1) Responded to 2757 incidents in 2019**
- 2) Have a total of 19 EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians)**

- 3) Have added 2 additional Hazardous Materials Technicians to our roster for a total of 38.
- 4) Added new AEDs to our equipment.
- 5) Completed over 11,000 total hours of training in 2019.
- 6) Completed 1026 Fire Inspections in 2019.
- 7) Performed over 40 Public Education visits including station visits making contact with well over 4000 children and adults speaking about fire safety, performing fire extinguisher and stop the bleed training. Also, your aware that the new number one fire department building will be completed this year.

The Inspectors Office had another positive year as we continue to change the inspections and approvals of construction. In 2019.....

<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Qty Issued</u>
Building Permits	1,031
Electric Permits	915
Plumbing Permits	1,162
HVACR / Mechanical Permits	648
<u>Gas Permits</u>	<u>47</u>
Total Permit Fees	3803

There was 104 residence, 21 duplex, 11 quadplex and 8 triplex. There was also 8 new commercial, 11 commercial addition, 16 commercial remodel, 4 carports, 3 garage, 2 mobile homes. There were also 25 permanent signs, 12 pools, 5 porch/deck, 4 residential addition and 47 storage buildings. The inspector’s office is included in every public construction or recovering throughout the city. Meetings are held to make sure things follow the ordinance. Groups are inspectors, public works, fire department, PLWC and engineer.

The Public Works continue to improve the City of Paragould. We had discussed these last year as they had received the pot-hole truck that repairs and is available year-round. Another equipment will overlay the streets when immediate issues are available. These two pieces of equipment were used last summer and are improving the streets. The trash pickup has been great for the city and they are continuing to do more than trash cans to make sure the city is moving forward in good shape. The Public Works is in charge of streets, sidewalks, ditches, trash, dogs, cemetery, and continuing to work and improve all equipment in the city.

The State Aid Street committee has approved the overlaying of McDaniel Road and Oak Dr this year in the area of the Community Center, and we will only have to pay 10 percent of the \$250,000.00 and all the amount over the \$250,000.00.

The Condemnation of the City of Paragould, by the Code Enforcement, continues to remove buildings that are no longer safe and are helping to make the city more attractive. In 2019 there were 47 condemnations, 16 demolished by the city, and 24 were removed by the owners and there were 7 repaired by the owners. There were also 504 property cleanups. These are things that take place every year. In the month of June, the Condemnation will have been in place for 12 years.

The Airport is continuing to improve the safety of airplanes landing. Also including buildings that owners have rented and we also provide gas to airplanes. As you know the Air Evac have left the City of Paragould and we still have the property that would be available to another emergency system.

The Parks of the City of Paragould have been a great piece to have. The Community Center gets improved every year and still looks new. All of the parks have been upgraded over the years to have a place the citizens can go to enjoy. There is a dog park being built at Harmon Park and will be completed this year. It is another opportunity for the citizens of Paragould. Here is what is available at each park,

Community Center/ Aquatic Center : indoor basketball, volleyball, racquetball, ping pong, indoor walking track /with exercise equipment, silver sneakers class, floor aerobics, indoor aquatic center with therapy pool, water aerobics, outdoor water park, 2 softball fields, 11 soccer fields, outside walking track and a children's all- inclusive playground which won the Arkansas Recreation & Parks Association Facility of the Year Award for 2018.

Labor Park: indoor basketball, volleyball, pickleball, softball field, outside walking track, children's playground, splash pad, skateboard park, outdoor basketball, outdoor volleyball, pavilions and grilling areas.

Harmon Park: inclusive playground, outside basketball, 2 tennis courts, outside pavilion, building available for event rentals, horseshoe pit, outside grilling areas, walking track at football field and a new dog park.

Reynolds Park: 11 RV Pads, playground, fishing lake and dock, walking path, horseshoe pits, outside soccer field, outside volleyball, outside basketball, 5 outside pavilions, outside grilling areas, building available for event rentals.

Woodside Glen: playground equipment, basketball court, horseshoe pit, grilling and covered picnic area, walking path

Centennial Park: green space area, used for various uptown events.

Bland/Threlkeld Baseball Complex: 10 ball fields, playground areas, concession stands.

Rotary Softball Park: 7 ball fields, playground area, walking path, concessions stand.

Been notified by ArDOT, the State Highway Department, that the bypass will be finished this year by September. They are continuing the 4-lane road to Walnut Ridge west and also to begin the 4-lane to Utility Trailer north. The ½ cent sales tax, state wide, has helped improve the progression of the streets. The re-elections for this tax are in November, before the time the tax is up. The City of Paragould gets 15 percent of the money from its town, that ArDot collects, and that amount in 2019 was \$608,599.00 and we spend more than that in Public Works for streets because of the additional revenue from that ArDot sales tax. This will not be a new sales tax; it is one that has been here for several years to help upgrade the streets in our city and state. This tax is a benefit to the city and state and if this tax does not pass, not only will the city lose that money, the State will lose theirs also and streets will be more difficult to upgrade.

The Police, Fire Department and 911's goal is continuing to help protect the citizens of Paragould. The Inspectors, Public Works department and the Code Enforcement is working to upgrade the City of Paragould. The Parks system has a goal to continue to provide fun and health for all citizens.

Once again, as I do every year, I would like to thank all of the employees and their commitment to take care of the city. This is also a time to commend the City Council for being progressive and conservative. I appreciate their efforts to help take care of the city and maintain funding for all departments. We also have many volunteers that are also committed to this city.

***I am very proud to work for, and support, the citizens of Paragould.
It is an ongoing goal to maintain the City of Paragould during its growth.***

Respectfully submitted,

***Mike Gaskill
Mayor-City of Paragould***

