

Towns to receive water upgrades

Burlington, others receiving total of \$21.6 million

By Michael Hooper
The Capital-Journal

Published Saturday, August 16, 2008

USDA Rural Development is investing \$21.6 million in water improvement projects in 13 Kansas communities, including Burlington.

Burlington, located 62 miles south of Topeka on US-75 highway, is getting a \$5.8 million loan and a \$1.2 million grant from USDA Rural Development to help rebuild the town's sewer system.



Burlington ? \$7,079,700 (\$5.8 million direct loan and \$1,279,700 grant) to repair the city's sewer collection system.

Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 23, Chanute ? \$5,790,000 (\$3,807,000 direct loan and \$1,983,000 grant) for modifying water treatment plant and constructing water lines to serve the four cities and 15 Rural Water Districts that make up Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 23.

Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 11, Crawford County ? \$1,784,300 (\$1,074,000 direct loan and \$710,300 grant) for constructing a 500,000-gallon elevated water tower, building a pump station, constructing an office/storage facility and installing a telemetry system.

Chautauqua County Rural Water District No. 4, Sedan ? \$1,727,000 (\$791,000 direct loan and \$936,000 grant) for installing water lines, meters, construction of a booster pump station and a water storage tank. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$46,000 and state and tribal assistance grant funds in the amount of \$1.2 million.

Spearville ? \$1,506,000 (direct loan) for a building to house the pump and chlorination equipment, purchase a stand-by generator, install water line, and fire hydrants.

Olpe ? \$1,256,756 (\$706,720 direct loan and \$550,036 grant) to construct an elevated storage tank, upgrade pumps and install water line with telemetry controls.

Morris County Rural Water District No. 1, Dwight ? \$996,000 (\$736,000 direct loan and \$260,000 grant) for installing 31 miles of water line to hook up 66 new customers; construction of a standpipe and installation of 66 meters.

Damar ? \$500,690 (\$309,690 direct loan and

"The money will be used for a \$12 million sewer improvement project," said Regina Kewley, city clerk. "We have very old clay tile sewer lines all over town."

She said the old sewer lines have broken up over the years, with tree roots and deterioration. The sewer lines date to the early years of the city.

Burlington, founded in 1857, has a population of 2,721, with many residents working at nearby the Wolf Creek nuclear power plant.

Kewley said Burlington will begin construction in 2009 starting with sewer lines south of Rock Creek. Phase 2 will be north of Rock Creek.

The project also will consist of rehabilitating or replacing 111 manholes.

Kewley said some residents don't see the need, but she said the old sewer lines have caused problems for homeowners. There have been cases of sewage backup in homes because of clogging.

"Without sewer we'd be in a world of mess," she said.

USDA Rural Development state director Chuck Banks said the \$21.6 million in USDA Rural Development funding will provide long-term benefits to more than 17,700 Kansans.

The funding, provided from the recently approved Farm Bill and regular USDA Rural Development's program allocation, brings the total USDA support of such projects to nearly \$38 million for Kansas this year.

"USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental

\$191,000 grant) to install water main and fire hydrants.

Ellsworth County Rural Water District No. 1, Ellsworth ? \$347,000 grant for modifications at the water treatment plant to bring the system into compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment requirements. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$42,134 and a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Red Bud Lake Improvement District, Abilene ? \$310,000 (\$171,000 direct loan and \$139,000 grant) to replace the private septic systems with a centralized collection system, replacing water lines and resurfacing roads.

St. Paul ? \$264,500 (direct loan) for replacing the obsolete Raw Water Intake Structure.

Chase ? \$78,000 (direct loan) to replace a majority of the water lines within the community.

Program is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this agency undertakes for rural Kansas," Banks said. "These USDA funds, combined with the agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality."

Michael Hooper can be reached at (785)295-1293 or michael.hooper@cjonline.com.

Copyright 2008 The Topeka Capital-Journal