



THIS IS EL DORADO

El Dorado Police Department adds Flock Cameras



The El Dorado Police Department continues to look for ways to improve safety in the community. Recently, the Department invested in a Flock Camera system.

The Department is installing ten of the cameras in different areas of the city to track traffic patterns and for vehicle and tag identification.

“What those cameras will do is give us the ability to track criminal activity,” said Police Chief Mike Holton.

One use is to track a run-a-way or missing elderly person if they have a vehicle description or tag number. Flock cameras can capture the make, model, color, plate and any damage or alterations of a vehicle. They also are timestamped.

The cameras will be connected to the Flock System, which can be accessed by law enforcement agencies across the country.

“It’s beneficial when you’re looking for someone here, in another jurisdiction or even out of state,” Chief Holton explained.

It is simple to pull needed footage when a crime occurs, by searching for terms such as vehicle color or type, license plate number and more in the secure web portal.

The cameras will be installed and in use by the end of December.

“We’re excited to add this new technology to our department to help us prevent and fight crime in El Dorado. Our goal is to continue to make El Dorado safer for all of our residents,” Chief Holton said.

What’s Happening in El Dorado

- Dec. 1 - Old-Fashioned Christmas - Remembrance Tree
- Dec. 2 - Old Fashioned Christmas and Parade
- Dec. 4 & 18 - City Commission Meetings
- Dec. 4 - Community Potluck @ Senior Center
- Dec. 6 - Chamber Chat
- Dec. 10 - Kansas Oil Museum Sunday Speaker Series
- Dec. 19 - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- Dec. 19 - Kansas Oil Museum History Happy Hour
- Dec. 19 - Library Book Club
- Dec. 25 - City Offices Closed for Christmas
Monday trash collected on Wednesday of that week
- Dec. 27 - Coutts Caterpillars Preschool Program

Sign up for event notifications online at www.eldoks.com

City utility billing cycle to change in December

El Dorado residents will be seeing a change in their utility billing cycle for water, sewer and trash beginning in December.

The City of El Dorado is moving from two billing cycles each month to a single monthly billing cycle. This will benefit citizens and residents in a number of ways.

This will help prepare the city for the possible implementation of an automated meter reading infrastructure. It also will streamline the billing process, so everything is only done once a month, rather than preparing the bills twice, allowing the City to utilize the front office staff for other projects.

It also will benefit citizens by reducing penalties many on a fixed income faced due to the timing of their due dates. Bills will now be mailed out on the 15th of each month and due the 15th of the following month.

The date change will take place at the end of this year. Citizens will receive their December bills on Dec. 15, and they will be due on Jan. 15.

We appreciate your patience during this process. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 321-9100.

City Commission sets 2023 mill levy, 2024 budget authority

At a September meeting, the El Dorado City Commission approved setting the 2023 mill levy at 57.525 mills, with one mill valued at approximately \$113,931.

In addition, the Commission set the budget authority for the 2024 fiscal year at \$42.28 million. The budget authority represents the total amount the City may spend without requiring a budget amendment. Individual funds cannot exceed the specific spending limit for the fund without first conducting a public hearing and having the City Commission approve any increased expenditures.

Expenditure Authority by Fund

Total Proposed Budget Authority: **\$42.287 million**

| FUND | Expenditures | Property Taxes | Mill Levy | % Budget |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| General | \$14,610,561 | \$4,727,324 | 40.274 | 35% |
| Debt Service | \$5,484,507 | \$1,173,797 | 10.000 | 13% |
| Library | \$673,000 | \$608,660 | 5.185 | 2% |
| Airport | \$532,108 | \$108,776 | 0.927 | 1% |
| Industrial | \$595,464 | \$133,677 | 1.139 | 1% |
| TOTAL | \$21,895,640 | \$6,752,234 | 57.525 | 52% |

Expenditure Authority by Fund

Total Proposed Budget Authority: **\$42.287 million**

| FUND | Expenditures | % of Expenses |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Water | \$6,669,561 | 16% |
| Sewer | \$3,639,192 | 9% |
| Refuse | \$2,025,280 | 5% |
| Major Street | \$1,675,025 | 4% |
| Internal Services | \$1,674,734 | 4% |
| Ord. Street Sales Tax | \$1,600,000 | 4% |
| Excess Sales Tax | \$1,200,000 | 3% |
| Stormwater | \$616,427 | 1% |
| Experience El Dorado | \$541,844 | 1% |
| EcoDevo Sales Tax | \$285,000 | <1% |
| El Dorado Senior Center | \$153,143 | <1% |
| Special Parks & Rec | \$128,500 | <1% |
| Building Demolition | \$105,000 | <1% |
| Compressed Gas | \$41,590 | <1% |
| Special Alcohol & Drug | \$37,000 | <1% |
| BUDGET AUTHORITY | \$42,287,936 | 100% |

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YOU
KNOW

The City's new trash schedule means fewer changes for customers. During a holiday week, only those residents whose trash day falls on the holiday will change to Wednesday of that week. All other routes will run as normal.

Sewer averaging begins in December

To calculate your sewer rates for the year, the City of El Dorado uses a process each winter called sewer averaging. For this, a three-month average of your water usage is determined.

The city averages the months of December, January and February. During these months, there is not irrigation or other warm-weather water activities, so this accounts for only water going down the drains from essential use, such as the shower, toilet and washing machine. This method provides a reasonably accurate method to determine the amount of water treated at the Wetlands & Water Reclamation Facility, for which you will be charged.

To ensure your rate is as low as possible, it is beneficial to conserve water use during these months, such as checking for leaky faucets and running toilets; installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures and turning off the water while brushing your teeth.

So why is your rate different during December through February? During the months the city is doing the averaging, you are paying for actual volume of water that you use.

For new residents the sewer average is based on the city's average residential sewer rate. Then once you have been a resident during the winter months, you will have your own average calculated.

If you have a water leak during those months, it is important to get it fixed, then bring the receipts from the repair to City Hall and they will adjust your average so you are not penalized for that leak the rest of the year.

To calculate your own average sewer charge you can use this formula:

- 5,984 gallons usage in December
- 5,610 gallons usage in January
- 6,358 gallons usage in February
- 3-month usage average of 5,984 gallons

The current sewer rate is \$3.48 per 1000 gallons plus a readiness to serve fee of \$12.61. Multiply your average usage (5,984) by 0.00348 which equals \$20.82, add the \$12.61 readiness to serve fee for a total sewer charge of \$33.43. This will be your monthly sewer charge for the rest of the year.

Without using the averaging, your cost could be about \$40 more a month throughout the year.

Why is this charge important?

Sewer rates are an integral part of the Sewer Fund which pays for operation and maintenance of the city's sewer collection system, including underground piping and lift stations. In addition to the collection of sanitary sewer flows, the Wetlands & Water Reclamation Facility has to treat it by removing nutrients and any harmful bacteria before discharging to the Walnut River.

For questions on your rate or the averaging, please call City Hall at 316-321-9100.