

City Manager Update – 3/7/25

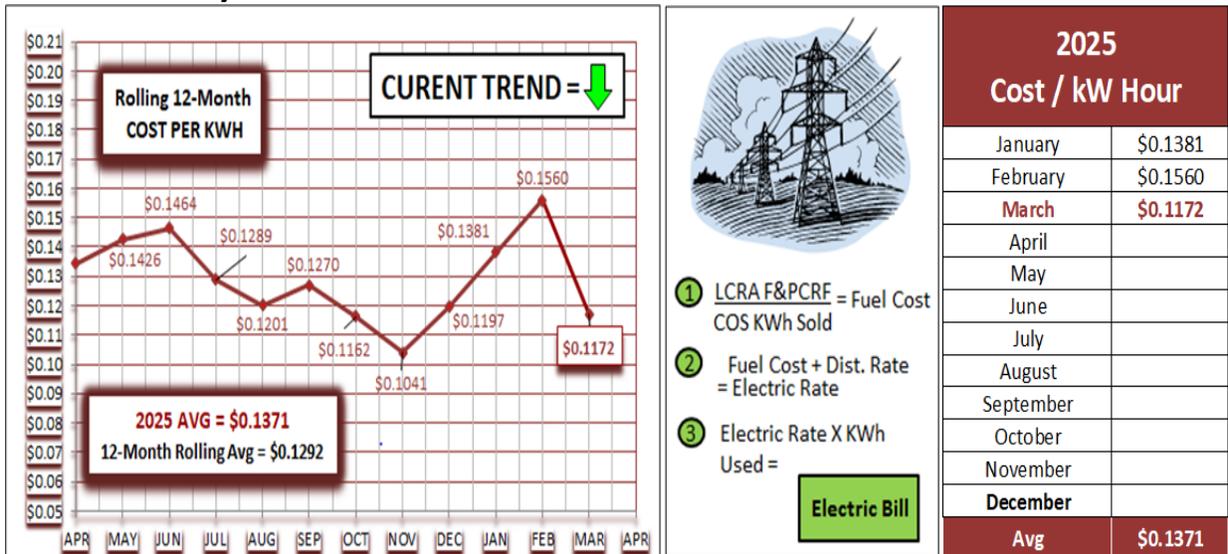
[Daylight Savings Time](#) will begin on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. Be sure to move your clocks ahead one (1) hour. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”. It’s also a good time to check/change out the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Below you will find a list of accomplishments, issues, events, and planned activities since my last update:

1) PHI Air Medical Transportation Contract / Renewal Agreement Under Consideration – Smithville is considering renewing its contract agreement with [PHI Air Medical](#) to provide "no cost" emergency medical air transport of citizens with life-threatening injuries / illnesses that reside within the Smithville City Limits. The proposed annual fee of **\$13,022.00** is based on providing coverage to approximately 1894 households as identified by the most current residential utility accounts minus 362 Medicaid-eligible households for an adjusted total of 1532 households). The plan will cover all Smithville residents that live in a household (while they are in PHI Service Area (i.e., Bastrop County) at a cost of **\$8.50/household**. For those citizens with insurance (including Medicare patients), the agreement will cover all co-pays, deductibles, and remaining balances for PHI transports. For those without insurance, the agreement will cover payment in full. For those citizens on Medicaid, PHI will receive a payment from the state. Citizens can upgrade to a full national household membership for **\$30/year** that will provide coverage outside of the Bastrop County service area. On average, the cost for medical air transport in large metropolitan areas is \$10-15k per flight. However, the average cost for citizens in Bastrop County for medical air transport is \$45-50k. In 2024, there were four (4) PHI Air Medical transports in Smithville. This will be an agenda item for discussion and action during the March 10th City Council meeting. If approved, the contract will be valid through April 30, 2026.

2) Residential Cost Per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Calculated – An analysis of LCRA billing data was conducted to determine residential cost per kilowatt hour (kWh) in March. LCRA fuel costs vary month to month and are based upon utility generation, transmission, line loss, and service fees. The cost per kWh for residential customers in March is \$0.0622. This represents an **38.42% DECREASE** compared to February’s fuel cost of \$0.1010. Adding the City’s distribution fee of \$0.0550 and LCRA’s \$0.0622 fuel cost, **the cost per kWh for residential service in Smithville during MARCH will be \$0.1172**. Generally speaking, it costs more to heat a residence than it does to cool it as there is a greater outdoor temperature difference to make up to achieve what most folks consider “comfortable” inside...68 F in winter and 78F in summer. Last month’s billing included 10-days in January that were below freezing with an arctic blast that shut down schools, the city, and county operations on January 21, 2025. So, the majority of residential consumption increased considerably (approximately 25-30%). Bottom line, most people stay inside and use more electricity cooking, watching TV, washing clothes, opening the fridge, and/or simply trying to keep themselves warm during extended periods of extremely cold weather. The Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has energy-savings tips on their website → <https://www.puc.texas.gov/consumer/facts/Save.aspx>. On average, the annual cost per kWh for electric service in Smithville is between 12-13 cents with the average household using 1,200 kW per month (\$156).

City of Smithville Residential Cost Per kWh - MARCH 2025



Note: Fuel & Power Cost Recovery Factor + City Distribution Fee* (\$0.0550) = Cost / kWh
 *Residential Distribution Fee = \$0.0550/kWh (Effective October 1, 2023). Non-Resident (i.e., service outside city limit) Distribution Fee = \$0.0650/kWh

City Manager Update – 3/7/25 (continued)

- 3) **“State-of-the-City” Presentation Provided at Quarterly Chamber Luncheon** – On Thursday, February 26, 2025, a “State-of-the-City” presentation was provided during the Smithville Chamber of Commerce quarterly luncheon. Current financial performance, accomplishments, issues, projects, and future plans were shared with approximately 85-100 attendees. During 2025, the city will face many challenges with respect to managing growth. Infrastructure improvement, economic development, and fiscal performance remain the City’s key areas of focus. Drainage improvements, WWTF expansion, ordinance updates, housing development, business recruiting, and updating the city’s Comprehensive Plan are among the top priorities. Currently, the city is supporting seventeen (17) infrastructure projects and twenty-two (22) development projects. Going forward, there will be multiple opportunities for community engagement and involvement. Citizens are encouraged and welcome to attend all future public meetings, workshops, and/or stakeholder feedback sessions. Good things are happening within our City and I look forward to what the future holds. Click the following link for a copy of the [2025 State-of-the-City](#) presentation.
- 4) **2025 City of Smithville Councilmember and SISD School Board Elections** – Candidate filing for the 2025 City of Smithville General Election is complete. A list of candidates and the position(s) for which they are running is provided below. Election Day is Saturday, May 3, 2025. Early voting begins April 22, 2025 and ends April 29, 2025. Voting will be held at the Smithville Recreation Center (106 Royston). Click on the following link for additional information (e.g., sample ballot, polling locations, etc.) → <https://www.bastropvotes.org/election-information-2/upcoming-elections/>. As a reminder, all political signs on private property must be removed within 7-days after the election per City of Smithville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 - Zoning, Part 3, General Development Standards, [Section 3.7.2 - “Political Signs”](#). Good luck to all the candidates!

City Council / SISD Trustee Candidates For 2025 General Election

| | Position | Candidate | Term Lenth | Term Expires | Election Type | Candidate Status |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| City of Smithville | Alderman - Place 1 | Tyrone Washington | 2-Years | May 2027 | General | Unopposed |
| | Alderman - Place 2 | Brandon Dunham | 2-Years | May 2027 | General | Challenger |
| | | Cale Lammerts* | | | | Challenger |
| | Alderman - Place 3 | Jimmy Jenkins | 2-Years | May 2027 | General | Incumbent |
| Brian Wells | | Challenger | | | | |
| SISD | Trustee - Place 5 | Josh Magden | 3-Years | May 2028 | General | Unopposed |
| | Trustee - Place 6 | Candice Parsons | 3-Years | May 2028 | General | Unopposed |
| | Trustee - Place 7 | Michael Hancock | 3-Years | May 2028 | General | Unopposed |

* Cale Lammerts is an official "Write-In" Candidate

- 5) **Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) Rate Increase to be Considered by City Council** - Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) is requesting an 1.44% increase in the current residential and commercial garbage rates. Contract rate increases are based upon the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Energy Information Administration of the US Department of Energy ("EIA/DOE") diesel fuel adjustment compared to the prior year. Per Section 8.03 of the current contract, there is a 5% cap on annual rate adjustments. The current residential garbage rate that the City charges customers is \$48.50 / month. WMI currently charges the City \$31.99 / month per residential customer. The new monthly residential rate charged to the City (at 1.44%) will be \$32.45 / month. The difference in the monthly rate between what the City charges and what the City pays helps cover the cost for providing leaf and limb service and operating the brush dump. At this time, I do not recommend we pass any increase onto residential and/or commercial accounts as the 5% annual increase has already been included in the FY24/25 budget. If the City Council authorizes the lesser 1.44% amount, we will see more revenue / cost savings (approximately \$23k). We are one of the few municipalities in the Central Texas area that still offers 2X per week garbage service, bulk service, AND leaf / limb pick-up service. Note: The current contract with WMI, Inc. expires on **March 31, 2026**. The city must notify WMI, Inc. 90-days prior to the expiration date (December 31, 2025) to re-bid the contract. This will be an agenda item for discussion and action during the March 10th City Council meeting.

City Manager Update – 3/7/25 (continued)

- 6) **City of Smithville Sales Tax Update** - Below are the sales tax allocations for February 2025 vs. February 2024 (retail sales made primarily in December). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax that were purchased in Smithville. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for February was **\$117,069**. This represents a **22.23% INCREASE** in our net payment compared to the same time last year. The state collects 8.25% on every dollar of which the City gets 1.5%. A very rough calculation would show that for every \$1M spent, the State gets \$67.5k and the City receives \$15k. So, for the City to receive \$117k in monthly sales tax revenue in February, approximately **\$7,822,000** of local goods and services would need to be sold in December. This sounds like a lot of money but one needs to consider all the goods and services the businesses operating in this town provide to consumers in any given month (e.g., restaurants, grocers, C-stores, furniture stores, auto parts, retail shops, professional services, and Amazon Prime deliveries, etc.). As a reminder, sales tax dollars are used to make street / road repairs and help pay for community services like the LIBRARY, FIRE, and POLICE. Thanks to all who continue to SHOP LOCAL --- it makes a difference!!!

Bastrop County Sales Tax Allocation - February 2025

| County/City | Current Rate | Net Payment This Period | Comparable Payment Prior Year | % Change | 2025 Payments To Date | 2024 Payments | % Change |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bastrop | 1.50% | \$1,556,639 | \$1,198,859 | 29.84% | \$2,634,508 | \$2,229,552 | 18.16% |
| Elgin | 1.50% | \$478,838 | \$385,950 | 24.06% | \$819,718 | \$707,816 | 15.80% |
| Smithville | 1.50% | \$117,069 | \$95,775 | 22.23% | \$186,126 | \$166,505 | 11.78% |
| Bastrop County | 0.50% | \$1,047,776 | \$805,031 | 30.15% | \$1,818,986 | \$1,519,240 | 19.73% |

- 7) **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event Scheduled** - The City of Smithville has partnered with the City of Bastrop, Keep Smithville Beautiful, Bastrop County, and Lee County to hold a PAINT, PESTICIDES, and USED CHEMICALS collection event on **Saturday, March 15, 2025** from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street in Smithville. Participants must have voucher to participate. Vouchers are available at City Hall (317 Main Street) or on-line. Click on the following link for more information -> https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/ds.household_waste.
- 8) **NE Loop 230 Road Closure and Detour Scheduled** - CC Carlton Industries, LTD will begin culvert installation (open sawcut) across Loop 230 on Wednesday, March 11, 2025 (from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am Thursday March 12, 2025). This will require road closure of a portion of Loop 230 (indicated below) to ensure the SAFETY of all involved. Motorists will DETOUR along OLD LAKE ROAD, WOODRESS LANE, and MARBURGER. Access to FAULKNER ROAD and all businesses / residents along Loop 230 (up to the WORK ZONE) will remain OPEN. Contact City Hall on 512-237-3282 for additional information.



City Manager Update – 3/7/25 (continued)

There are several events / activities planned the next few weeks in Smithville:

Sunday, March 9, 2025 - Daylight Savings time begins. Set clocks ahead one (1) hour. “Spring Forward – Fall Back”.

Monday, March 10, 2025 - CITY COUNCIL meeting will be held at 6:00 pm (City Hall – 317 Main). Click link to access the [COUNCIL AGENDA](#) and [COUNCIL DATA PACKET](#).

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – Smithville City Council Candidate Forum will be held at the [FAT CAT LOUNGE & CAFÉ](#) (located at 301 Main). Meet and greet starts at 6:00 pm and the Forum begins at 6:30. Come meet the Candidates, and hear their views on policy and other things that impact our town.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 - PAINT, PESTICIDES, and USED CHEMICALS Collection Event (9:00 am to 12:00 pm) at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 109 Taylor and SE 2nd Street. Vouchers required.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – Smithville Recreation Center [4TH ANNUAL SPRING BREAK 5k COLOR RUN](#). Check-in begins at 9:00 am with 10:00 am START TIME. Register → [ON-LINE](#). For more information, contact the Smithville Recreation Center on 512-237-3282, extension #7.

Monday, March 17, 2025 – St. Patrick’s Day. According to fun folklore, you get pinched on St. Patrick's Day for not wearing green because green makes you invisible to leprechauns. Leprechauns are mischievous creatures, and according to legend, they like to pinch people....and eat your Lucky Charms!

Thursday, March 20, 2025 - CHAMBER MIXER & RIBBON CUTTING - Sponsored by [THE BLUEBONNET ROOM](#), (located at 115 Main) from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Thursday, March 20, 2025 – First day of Spring.

Saturday, March 29, 2025 - Smithville Empty Bowl Project will be held at the Recreation Center (106 Royston) from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. EMPTY BOWL INFO: <https://www.smithvilleemptybowl.org/>

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Have a great weekend!

--Robert--



PHOTOS - 3/7/25

NE Loop 230 Detention Pond Construction – \$3.3M w/ 1% City Match - Estimated Completion in October 2025



Light Damage from Short-tail Buzzards Roosting on The Tin Man



NE/NW 2nd Drainage Improvement Project – Estimated Completion in May 2025

