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City Takes Comprehensive Approach as it Plans for Critical Infrastructure Improvements

The City of Shawnee recently underwent an analysis of current and future needs while preparing a long-range water and sewer capital improvement plan. Implementation of this plan will ensure that residents and customers continue to have access to clean water and an exceptional wastewater disposal system. It will also provide for future commercial, residential and industrial growth. The planned improvements are highlighted herein.

The first proposed project includes construction of a new 30-inch raw waterline from Shawnee Twin Lakes to the water treatment plant (a distance of 9.5 miles), which is estimated at \$13.5 million. Other projects include replacement of pumps and controls for \$1.5 million and intake valves at lake #2 for \$450,000. These are especially critical needs as the principal water delivery system for the City and our customers. This new primary line will replace the original line constructed in the 1930s which is no longer in use. The waterline used at present dates to the 1960s and will remain available as a backup delivery source.

Other proposed improvements include required upgrades to the north-side wastewater treatment plant, south-side wastewater treatment plant and the water treatment plant. Construction of an additional water tower, improvements to the Atoka Waterline and several other projects are also planned. All told, \$55 million in improvements are proposed. While these projects are not very visible, they are essential to Shawnee residents and represent the most significant series of system upgrades in decades.

As a result of the above-noted infrastructure needs, there is a planned water/sewer rate increase that may be implemented as soon as late-2009. For the average residential customer who uses 5,000 gallons of water per month, the expected combined water/sewer rate increase is \$7.73 per month in the first year. We understand that increased rates can be frustrating. However, the proposed improvements are absolutely necessary to maintain and improve the systems that we all rely on everyday. Utility rates pay for the delivery of clean drinking water and the removal of wastewater and sewage, including the construction, operation, and maintenance of all utilities and associated infrastructure.

We would like to thank Shawnee residents for their patience and understanding during the coming months. This planned investment in our infrastructure system will ensure that the City will be able to provide exceptional service indefinitely, while preserving and improving the quality of life residents enjoy. It is a pleasure to serve you.

For more information, please visit the Utility Department website at:
<<http://www.shawneeok.org/Utilities>>.