

February 2025  
Cherokee Village, Arkansas  
State of the City for 2024

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I want to start by saying the State of the City is good. The city passed legislative audit for 2022 – 2023. The year ended with a welcomed increase in sales tax revenue and with negotiating for higher interest rates at our banks to maximize our earning potential. The City received about \$3.2 million in revenue with about \$3.3 million in expenses, which left a budget deficit of about \$25K. We had unexpected air conditioner replacements that were not budgeted for at City Hall and Baseheart Fire station that added about \$50K to the budget.

The City Administration office has been hard at work getting the City of Cherokee Village's website up and going. The website has updated information for contractor list, Bills of Assurance, Ordinances, Resolutions, Council meeting packets, meeting minutes and videos. City Departments have a tab for which their information will be housed. The calendar tab will have meetings and events posted on it and the city's face book page will share meetings and events also.

The City Fire Department answered 709 calls for service in 2024 with about 56 of the calls being fire related and about 575 being medical calls. The department took delivery of a 2025 Ford F550 Service truck built by Unruh Fire Inc. paid for with Federal ARPA and CARES act money. It has been a greatly needed asset for them. Engine #2 a 2008 Kenworth required a major engine rebuild in 2024. It is now repaired and in use. The CVFD Auxiliary purchased a new device used for lifting patients to help make it safer not only for the patient but reduce injury to firefighters when lifting. The CVFD Auxiliary hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Pancake Breakfast and MDA Fill the Boot Campaign which were a great success. The CVFD Auxiliary started the first ever Scholarship to graduating seniors in the Highland School District that have an immediate family member in either a volunteer or professional firefighter job. They raised the funds and were able to award four seniors Scholarships in 2024.

The Street Department was busy last year with cutting back brush, cleaning ditches and mowing. In May the city experienced high straight line winds with speeds of up to 80MPH. The Street Department employees worked on clearing streets, cutting downed trees and opened an area at the city shop for residents to bring brush and drop off. They were able to make about 1100 tons of cold patch asphalt to be used for overlay and potholes in the City Streets.

A 2008 Chevrolet 2500 4x4 plow truck was purchased to replace two 1980's plow trucks that were beyond repair. The city street department provided Village Pride with two dump trucks for roadside clean up and provided manpower and equipment for the citywide drop off.

The Police Department responded to 5734 calls for service, made 138 arrests, 52 accidents and 243 citations written. They put two new Ford Police trucks into service that were purchased with Federal ARPA and CARES act money. They hired a grant writer and with his help have received about \$90K worth of grants. The grant money along with some city money was used to purchase new in-car computers, purchased two Thermal Camera's for the night shift Officers to use, booster packs and a small air compressors for patrol vehicles. They have started to update the police camera systems to AXON from watchguard which was bought out by another company and no longer supported.

I want to thank the department heads along with our entire city employees. They have and continue to work very hard to provide the very best service to the citizens of Cherokee Village. I also want to thank all the volunteers that help daily with everything from answering the phones to taking care of the animal shelter to doing fund raising activities and helping keep our city clean.