

# COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

August, 2024

## **New this month:**

The Baker Lake Road Bridge project was completed. We hope to receive the grant funds soon.

Work has begun on Dodd Mountain to dig out clay/soft spots and fill with base. We will re-chip/seal the areas next year after settling has occurred.

We should be at a complete staffing level in a couple of weeks when all new-hires have completed their two-week notice with their current employers. Jody Carpenter will return to work in September.

## **MAINTENANCE:**

Quarry operations at full capacity.

End to end road grading and ditching is happening on the grader routes.

Road mowing is happening daily.

Working business as usual as inexpensively as possible to rebuild monetary resources from the recent disaster.

## **GRANT PROJECTS:**

The Rabbit Ridge/Bricky Road low water crossing grant has been approved. The Nature Conservancy is requesting more funding on our behalf. Currently, we have received \$75,000 from the Arkansas Unpaved Roads Project and \$300,000 from the Nature Conservancy. The total project price tag is right at \$1 million dollars. The county will match with in-kind labor, equipment, and product. We will also fund the relief pipes for the project and subsidize the purchase of the arch top crossings.

**UPDATE – COMPLETE** The Baker Lake Project is valued at \$600,000 dollars. A bridge and relief pipes will replace the current series of failing pipes.

**WE RECEIVED THE OYLER ROAD GRANT!** We applied for the maximum amount of \$500,000.00. The project will consist of paving most of Oyler and chip/sealing the remaining portion as the county's matching portion. Total project price tag is valued at \$1.5 million. Base work will begin in late 2024 with pavement applied in 2025.

Lake Cliff Road Bridge Project – Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million.

Scotland Bridge Project - – Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million.

Archey Road Bridge Project – State and Federal Aid funded, County pays 2%. Total price tag of approx. \$1.5 million.

The Federal Infrastructure Program appears to have some extra money in it so I have applied for an off-program grant to build a new bridge at Shirley which would be constructed parallel to the current

historic Shirley Train Bridge. Contrary to popular rumor, the county IS NOT entertaining even the thought of removing the historic structure. Traffic would move to the new structure and the old structure would remain in place for the historic value, pictures, etc. The value of this proposal is approximately \$2.5 million.

FEMA reimbursement for the declared disaster – Reimbursements can take a very long time to receive. I hope to receive \$150,000 - \$175,000. Governor Sanders approved the disaster on May 9 and VBC is listed as an approved county. We hope to receive the funds this calendar year.