

COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

May, 2025

New this month:

Working on the basics. Grading, ditching, mowing, crushing, and delivering.

The Rabbit Ridge Crossing Project has begun.

The Oyler Road Project is still in progress.

MAINTENANCE:

Quarry operations at full capacity.

Working May as a Safety Month. Checking all gas cans, fire extinguishers, canisters, etc. to make sure we are complying with AOSH (Arkansas Occupational Safety and Health) Standards.

GRANT PROJECTS:

The Rabbit Ridge/Bricky Road low water crossing grant has been approved. The total value of this grant is just under \$1,000,000.00

Work is proceeding on the Oyler Road Grant. Base is still being applied for the grant to come behind us and pave as far as the grant funds will take the asphalt. The award to the county is \$500,000.00 with VBC providing match in the form of base rock, equipment, labor and gravel. Total project value is \$1,500,000.00.

Lake Cliff Road Bridge Project – Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million. The feasibility study has been ordered.

Scotland Bridge Project - -- UPDATE – WE RECEIVED WORD THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN ORDERED. 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. The feasibility study has been ordered.

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, 2024 and VBC is listed as an approved county. After submitting all the required paperwork, we received a book for each impacted road to be completed. **We are still waiting for the reimbursement.**