

City of Wellington Utility Operations



Assessment And 2024 Annual Report

Message from the Assistant City Manager

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the City of Wellington Utility Operations. This year's achievements showcase the outstanding work, innovation, and dedication of our Utility Operations team. From providing safe, reliable services to implementing key infrastructure upgrades, we are proud to deliver excellence that powers our community forward.

Wellington's municipally-owned utilities have long been the backbone of our city, ensuring dependable water, wastewater, and electric services for generations. Today, we serve nearly 4,600 electric customers and 3,800 water customers, striving daily to meet and exceed expectations.

We recognize that strong utilities empower strong communities. By investing in innovative solutions, modernizing infrastructure, and supporting our exceptional workforce, we are building a brighter, more sustainable future for Wellington.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive leadership, and the community we proudly serve.

**Jason Newberry
Assistant City Manager for Utilities & IT**




Our Mission

To deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater, and electrical services while managing resources responsibly, efficiently, and sustainably to meet the needs of our growing community.

2024

Associations and Organizations

- **Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA)**
- **Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU)** *Member of the Board of Directors*
 - *Executive Board (President-Elect)*
- **Kansas Power Pool (KPP)** *Member of the Board of Directors (President)*
- **Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA)** *Member of the Board of Directors*
- **Kansas Municipal Gas Agency (KMGA)** *Member of the Board of Directors*
- **Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA)**
- **Kansas American Water Works Association (KsAWWA)**
- **League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM)**
- **Kansas Association of City/County Management (KACM)**
- **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)**

 <p>KANSAS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES</p>	 <p>KWEA Kansas Water Environment Association</p>
 <p>American Water Works Association Kansas Section</p>	 <p>KANSAS RURAL WATER association</p>
 <p>THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES</p>	 <p>KMEA KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY</p>
 <p>KPP ENERGY</p>	<p>ICMA INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION</p>

2024 Department Highlights

City of Wellington Utility Operations

Ensuring Reliability and Quality in our Utilities while Empowering Progress

Electric Production: “Powering Progress”

- 44 MW of Generation Capacity: Our diverse generation mix—including a steam plant, gas turbines, and diesel generators—helps to minimize outages and offers a cost-effective power supply.
- Reliable Performance:
 - Gas Turbine: Produced 95% of rated capacity (19,020 kW)
 - Steam Turbine: Produced 94% of rated capacity (18,827 kW)
- Efficiency in Action:
 - Total Generation: 9.5 million kWh
 - Net Revenue: \$193,406 from generation
- Operational Excellence:
 - Completed operability tests on Gas and Steam Turbines, meeting performance benchmarks.
 - Managed 1,066 hours of generation to ensure system reliability.
 - Continued training with Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) to enhance operational expertise.



Electric Distribution: “Enhancing Service Reliability”

- System Upgrades & Improvements:
 - Infrastructure Enhancements: Upgraded poles, conductors, and breakers to improve resilience and efficiency.
 - New Installations: Installed 37 energy-efficient LED streetlights, saving \$542 annually, and added new storm sirens to enhance public safety.
 - Service Expansion: Initiated tie upgrades between circuits to support potential solar array integration.



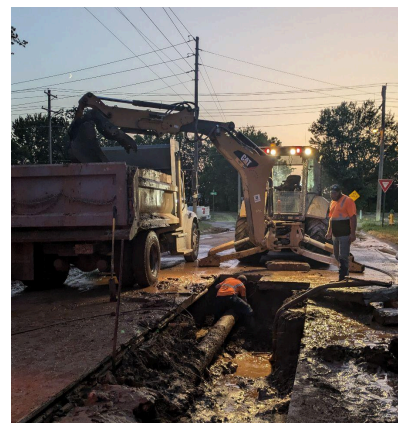
- Maintenance & Response:
 - Repaired 83 streetlights and replaced 21 poles and 8 anchors to improve reliability.
 - Continued AMI meter rollout, replacing over 3,100 electric meters for improved real-time monitoring.
- Community Partnerships: Provided electrical support for events like the Wheat Festival, Memorial Day celebrations, and school district activities, while also assisting other city departments with electrical maintenance.
- Employee Development: Lineworkers completed advanced KMU Hotline and Underground Schools, enhancing safety and technical skills.

Water Production: “Producing Clean, Quality Water”

- Water Treatment Excellence:
 - Production Volume: Treated 473 million gallons in 2024, averaging 1.7 MGD with a peak output of 2.6 MGD.
 - Compliance: Ensured KDHE compliance through consistent sampling, reporting, and system upgrades.
- Facility Enhancements:
 - Ammonia feed system upgrades to enhance performance and better reliability.
 - Installed a new catwalk surface to create a safer walkway.
 - All exterior lights of the plant were fixed to help with visibility around the plant at night.
 - Staff worked with KDHE in the efforts of getting a discharge permit for the process waste lagoons at the water plant to maintain lower water levels.
- Proactive Maintenance: Staff completed annual inspections, maintained Wellington Lake Dam systems, and ensured consistent plant performance.

Water Distribution: “Strengthening Infrastructure and Delivering to the Customer”

- Major Infrastructure Projects:
 - Water Main Upgrades: Installed 5,000+ ft of new water main along North Plum and High Street to improve capacity and reliability; Installed roughly 800 ft of 12” water main North of Crestview Heights
 - Installed 400 ft of new main to supply a looped service for the Community Center.
 - Control Valves & Hydrants: Installed 5 new control valves and 3 fire hydrants to enhance water flow and fire protection.
 - Service Upgrades: 50 water services and 110 outdated water meter tiles were replaced.



- **Emergency Response & Repairs:**
 - Responded efficiently to over 70 main breaks, ensuring minimal service disruption.
 - Completed 108 water quality tests for coliform bacteria and maintained sampling for KDHE compliance.
- **Modernization Efforts:** Expanded AMI water meter installations, bringing the total closer to full system integration for improved monitoring and efficiency.

Wastewater Treatment: “Protecting Our Environment”

- **Operational Performance:**
 - **Treatment Volume:** Processed 275 million gallons of wastewater while enhancing biological nutrient removal processes.
 - **System Improvements:** Rebuilt drum screens, repaired pressure sewer mains, and installed new Flygt mixers to improve treatment efficiency.
 - **Facility Enhancements:**
 - Upgraded UV systems for improved disinfection efficiency.
 - Installed new catwalks on bio-basins to ensure worker safety and system accessibility.
 - **Environmental Compliance:** Successfully passed KDHE inspections and completed pollutant scan tests to meet regulatory standards.
-

New Members of Our Team

2024 marked another year of flux in our ever-changing workforce. We welcome the following to assist us in our commitment to serve the community.

Welcome to the TEAM:

- **Electric Distribution:** Tatum Lee, Brant Sipe, Casey Hinton
- **Water Distribution:** Blake McCreary, Jesse Long
- **Electric Production:** Keaton Gonsalves
- **Water Production:** Dakota Heim

The turnover rate for Utility Operations in 2024 was 31.4%, with the industry standard of 21% in 2023.

A Year of Accomplishment and Momentum

From system upgrades to exceptional performance, 2024 was a year of progress and achievement for the City of Wellington's Utility Operations. Looking ahead, we remain committed to:

- Delivering Unmatched Reliability: Modernizing our infrastructure to meet evolving community needs.
- Promoting Sustainability: Implementing energy-efficient solutions and environmentally sound practices.
- Supporting Growth: Investing in technology and talent to ensure our services remain top-tier.
- Utility Locate Class- Subsurface Solutions came and gave a class to the Electric and Water Distribution Staff.



Together, we are serving a stronger, more resilient community.

Thank you for your continued support!
The City of Wellington Utility Operations Team