



## STATE OF ARKANSAS

### *City of Brookland*

#### **Brookland Arkansas State of the City Report 2019 Required by Arkansas Statute 14-58-302**

**General Fund** started January 1, 2018 with a checking balance \$190,605.89. During the year 2018, there were several properties purchased and projects completed by the city. Our first storm shelter was built at 407 N. Holman. Ditch work, detention ponds, and culvert change outs were completed through out the city to help alleviate flash flooding. Property at 307 N. Bernis was purchased and a detention pond was built to help the flash flooding issue in Hardwood Acres Subdivision, and on Brookland Street and Bernis Street. Park property on Cherry Street was sold to purchase 2.7 acres at corner of N Bernis and Smith Street. This would allow the city to expand the park to meet the needs of its growing community.

The Brookland Police Department was able to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by upgrading their patrol vehicles to Electronic Filed Citations. The BPD also installed E-Crash, which allows police officers to enter information into their computers to print the accident scene on accident reports.

The City of Brookland also purchased Nightingale Buildings for a future library and museum. With all these projects and other day to day expenses, the ending balance for General Fund was \$155,892.00.

**Street Fund** started January 1, 2018 with a checking balance of \$145,888.93. Street employees continued to improve city street drainage in preparation for street widening and asphalt overlay. Widening improvements on West Matthews from Logan Street to South Oak Street was started. Ditch work from 309 North Bernis to Fordyce intersection with North Lynch was completed. Drainage ditches was cleaned out or built on Whitten Creek Road, Eason Street and Hayes Street for State Aid overlay of asphalt. Eason Street from Maple Slough Ditch south was brought up to street specification in preparation for asphalt overlay. Whitten Creek Road between West School Street and CR 740 was brought up to specification for overlay. One and a half miles of gravel roads in the city limits on Eason and Whitten Creek Road were paved. Hayes Street was widened, and drainage culverts were improved for overlay. Hayes was overlaid between E Matthews and E School Street. Whitten Creek Road, Hayes Street, and Eason Street was overlaid by the city utilizing State Aid Street Fund Monies, which can be applied for every three years. This funding was in the amount of \$250,000.00. Total cost of these projects was \$293,000.00.

Completion of these projects and more left Street Fund Checking Balance \$78,903.65.

**Utility Fund** started January 1, 2018 with a checking balance of \$312,688.00. Brookland Utilities has completed several water improvement projects including a new 400,000-gallon elevated

water storage tank, well and well house, and the first phase of 8" and 6" water line upgrades. Both the sewage lagoons were emptied, and maintenance was completed, bringing them back up to specifications. In 2010, Brookland Utilities adopted a new water/sewage rate. These rates lowered the cost of the first 1,000 gallons, and a higher rate was established on the customers with more usage. This rate structure and growth, has given Brookland Utilities the means to continue a preventive maintenance program to keep our equipment in good repair and allowing the water and sewer system to prepare for the future. However, we can't let our guard down and need to start planning now for the future in wastewater treatment. Our current plant is permitted for 500,000 gallons of wastewater treatment per day. Our current wastewater treatment is 125,000 to 130,000 gallons per day. As you can see we have room for growth.

With the completion of these projects, Utility Fund Checking Balance \$376,057.80.

Brookland School is the fastest growing school in our state. While growing at a steady pace, the Brookland School Board and Faculty continue to strive to maintain a curriculum level that ranks high for our students. Brookland School is the City of Brookland's biggest asset.

In summary, all current indicators are good for our city. The proposed Veteran's Memorial, Library and Museum, along with street overlay and drainage projects, including new culverts, and detention ponds is positive progress for our city. The 2020 census is a year away and we need to start preparing for it now. Since our last census, our population count has increased substantially. This growth will increase our funding that is received, and our city will be financially sound. The additional revenue will allow our city to do more infrastructure projects that will improve the quality of life for our citizens. Preliminary infrastructure improvement projects in our future include wider streets with curb and gutter, parks that will be vibrant and give the community a place to enjoy our city without leaving and a baseball/softball complex that will give our children a place to have ball games and tournaments. This positive planning will help our city attract businesses and families will locate in our city because it is a good place to live and raise their children, and they will have a great school to attend.