



The best news to report is the additional \$25 million appropriated for county bridges all across Oklahoma. Grant County will receive \$421,746.50 from this legislation. This will NOT fix all the bridges in Grant County, but it is a “golden opportunity” to help begin making a noticeable improvement for our infrastructure.

Are you interested in keeping up with what District 2 will be doing with our 1/3 share or \$140,582.16? You now can! A web page has been created for District 2, which includes Current Projects, Completed Projects, Applications (including job openings), Calendar, Meet the Staff, Continuing Education, Hot Spots, Links, and Commish Cindy’s Comments. **CHECK IT OUT AT** [www.grantdistrict2.com](http://www.grantdistrict2.com)

Harvest is fast approaching and our workload is overflowing creating a scheduling nightmare for Bryan Brown, Foreman. He, along with the 12 other employees, are steadily working to make repairs and improve roads. Unfortunately, we are short employees. Two employees have been on medical leave for a month and will be for some time yet. I have been short a truck driver for over a month now and am in the process of interviewing for this position as well as a position on the bridge crew. In the next few weeks, I will also be interviewing and hiring summer help for mowing and spraying of right of ways.

Bryan and I are very proud of our 12 employees, Jon Trenary, Bob Werneke, Steve Wilson, Tom Phillips, Ron Dixon, Danny Schneeberger, Robert Neumayer, Leon Rash, Richard Metcalf, Robert Moss, Jeremy Bellin, and Rich Donaldson. As I said we are “short handed” but all of these men are doing all kinds of jobs to cover for other employees and to make improvements in District 2. Each of them takes their job seriously and *generally* speaking, does not do much complaining. We let them know how much we appreciate them and what they do for you, our constituents, and you should too!

Of course we have numerous bridges that are still closed and I would love to have a 5-man bridge crew, but that won’t happen any time soon due to a shortage of funds. Even though we will receive \$140,000 plus in additional bridge money, that money is for materials. I estimate the materials for the rehabilitation of bridges will average \$25,000 to \$50,000 per bridge, which means only 3 to 6 bridges will get repaired with this money. Remember, District 2 has 162 bridges OVER 20’ long, as well as numerous bridges UNDER 20’ long that are also in need of repair. Only the bridges that are over 20’ long are eligible for these “extra appropriated” funds.

As to “access” to your property. Grant County provides one drive per farm. As much as we would like, we cannot continue to add additional drives to a farm that has an

existing drive. Our budget just will not allow it. If we remove a drive for maintenance of the ditch or road, we will replace it. But to continue to add additional drives with county money cannot be done.

You may see culverts in our yard and think we are “not using them anyway.” These are generally already dedicated to a project or need to be available for emergency repairs. Believe me, we have plenty of these jobs but we just cannot seem to work them into our schedule (too many jobs, not enough people). What you think of as a minor request or “not a big deal” becomes more than our budget will allow when taken into the context of the **entire district!**

Think about it, is it really the district’s responsibility to add additional drives, or is it the landowner’s (or even the tenant’s) responsibility? If you wish to widen a drive or add additional drives, there are a number of local contractors who will be more than willing to do this for you. These are the same contractors that do the work on drives for the oil companies, cell phone tower companies and other utility companies, and etc. As with all things, sometimes there are “extenuating circumstances” to a few requests.

We are all thankful for the rains – it was a God send! Of course that means we are now behind on grading the roads. In late June we should receive the two new graders that were ordered in late February. That will improve timing and upkeep of grading of roads.

I am very PROUD of the roads that we have laid shale on. Bryan and the crew did an outstanding job getting them packed with the correct grade and crown on them. Didn’t the rains improve them? I know we received several calls on how rough they were, but the rain worked its magic and now they are indeed GREAT roads.

I know that prior to the rains, that one or two were out with “speed movers” going up and down these roads because they were “rough”. We have RETURNED to put the crown back on the road. The road MUST have a CROWN or the water will NOT drain off the road. Thus, causing the water to sit on the road, soak in the road, soften the road, and then rutting it out and losing the base, then the road is SHOT once again. **PLEASE DO NOT DRAG YOUR SPEED MOVER DOWN THESE ROADS!** We must keep these roads correctly built, crowned, and maintained, the speed mover ruins the road for you and for the district and for everyone. Furthermore, it costs the taxpayers time and money when speed movers ruin these roads.

And lastly, all Grant County Officers will be having a “Garage Sale Auction” on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the District 2 Old Shop (110 S. Front Street). Look in next week’s paper for the ad. Again, be sure to check out our web site!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy R. Bobbitt  
Grant County District 2 Commissioner