



DISTRICT 2 EMPLOYEES GIVING 200% TO GRANT COUNTY CONSTITUENTS

First, I would like to welcome Tom Phillips and Bryan Brown back to work. Tom has returned back for 100 percent full-time work following a four-month recovery from quadruple heart surgery. Getting him back on the road driving a truck will mean ALL three of our trucks will be out on the road every day. District 2 also would like to welcome foreman Bryan Brown back to work. Following his fourth knee surgery, Bryan will be in the office working on FEMA paperwork a few hours a week until he is fully released. We know it has been a long slow recovery, but if you ask Bryan, he will say it has been a lifetime!

District 2 is now fully staffed according to what I have managed to “stretch” from the budget! Six, yes **SIX**, new field employees and one part time employee are working for you, the taxpayers of Grant County. Each and every one of them will help make the needed repairs from the numerous floods that we incurred as well as doing daily road maintenance. The new field employees are Gene Clayton of Medford, Bruce Shook of Medford, Joey Hayes of Pond Creek, Jimmie Loveall of Deer Creek, Greg Doty of Wakita and David Cink of Medford. Furthermore, Dale Berline of Renfrow has signed on for weekend work. All employees are being cross-trained from driving a truck to grading roads to building and repairing bridges. I am excited to have each of these Grant County residents and taxpayers working for Grant County as each one shows their dedication and enthusiasm to help make your roads and bridges better and safer.

When we were extremely understaffed, the other employees stepped up to the plate and worked hours of overtime in an effort to accomplishing the much-needed roadwork. These five, yes **ONLY FIVE**, field employees are Bob Werneke, Steve Wilson, Richard Metcalf, Jeremy Bellin, and Ron Cambron. While these five employees were busy completing FEMA flood repairs, day-to-day maintenance was unattended. For example, I know your roads did not get graded as often as needed, and I know your ditches and corners (and some roads) became very overgrown with weeds and grass. I also know floods washed out roads, culverts and bridges, causing many to be completely impassable and several had to be closed.

Our mechanic, Jon Trenary, has worked diligently keeping the equipment fully functional while supervisor Robert Moss has miraculously managed five employees to do the work of 10 employees. Then there is executive assistant Rich Donaldson who lives and breathes FEMA.

With more than 60 sites that incurred flood damage, the FEMA paperwork has become a full-time position in itself. Lots of paperwork, including regular and overtime man-hours, itemized equipment hours, materials, individual sites, etc., with logs from each employee and each piece of machinery must be consolidated into a single report of precise records. Of course, this is after our assessment including pictures are made then having numerous on-site inspections with personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Oklahoma Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) followed by more meetings to review and sign work order declarations. The result is that precise work records translate into 75 percent FEMA funding and 12.5 percent OEMA funding **IF** the project qualifies and **IF** the paperwork is completed correctly and timely.

As for the employees, I have not heard one complaint from any one of them. Several of the employees begin their work day at 5 a.m. and some work until 6 p.m. or later Monday through Thursday. Some of these same employees, as well as others, have worked on Fridays and Saturdays. You may ask “why”? Well, it is not for the money – it is for you and it is for me, the constituents of Grant County District 2. They know your needs and they desire to repair and improve your roads. If you appreciate what they have done and what they are doing – stop and tell them so or let me know and I will pass it on to them.

Furthermore, please remember that District 2 employee Ron Dixon is still on military leave until May 1, 2008, serving our country during this most difficult time. I ask that each of you remember him and his family in your prayer and devotions. We humbly hope and pray that this time for Ron, as well as all fellow soldiers, will be short and successful. Please remember Veteran’s Day is November 11, and all Grant County Government Offices, including District 2, will be closed for remembrance on Monday, Nov. 12, 2007.

As your commissioner and as an accountant, finances are always on my mind, and they are a very real concern. Please be advised that the county road districts funds for the month of September were \$39,000 less than August funding. Additionally, the county road districts funding in October were \$27,000 less than September money. In plain language, this means Grant Country Districts 1, 2 and 3 received \$93,000 (20 percent) less in October than we received in August and September. Constant monthly fuel bills are approximately \$55,000, wages are about \$85,000, and equipment leases are \$65,000. Then, there are repairs to equipment, utilities, employee benefits (insurances, FICA, FUTA, SUTA), as well as property insurance and many other costs. I am proud to say that in the past 34 months, I have been very diligent in being conservative and saving county funds in all ways possible and I pledge to always get the best bang for your dollar!

For more information check out our website at www.grantdistrict2.com. Questions and comments may be made by calling me at the office at 580-395-2859 or by e-mail at gtcomm2@wiredok.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy R. Bobbitt, Commissioner
Grant County District 2