

\$9,000 Solid Waste Program Grant requested

Grant County Road Districts 1, 2 and 3 have applied for a \$9,000 Solid Waste Program Grant through the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO). Each year ACCO offers counties a way to receive financial assistance to do solid waste clean-up and/or to purchase equipment to assist in the clean up.

ACCO applies for these funds through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and each year DEQ awards ACCO a certain dollar amount. ACCO acts as a third party administrator of these funds.

Funding is based on a fiscal year (FY) of July 1 through June 30. For FY 2009-2010 ACCO has requested \$400,000 to be used towards the following three main programs: Solid Waste Equipment, Trash Cop and Illegal Dump Clean-Up.

ACCO distributes funds to all counties in Oklahoma on a first-come first-serve application date as well as to the scope of each project. There are limitations on monies available each year within each program.

District 2 applied and received a \$20,000 Grant in 2007 to purchase a Bandit Wood Chipper with a Cat motor. Additionally, District 1 and District 3 each received grant funds in prior years to purchase wood chippers.

In past years the Solid Waste Equipment Program was specifically designated only for the purchase of wood chippers; however, due to the high number of Federally Declared Disasters in Oklahoma from flooding, ice storms and snow storms, the program has been slightly modified. This year the program may include high-powered professional chainsaws that is to be used to clear debris from these Federally Declared Disaster storms. These will not be your ordinary chainsaws but will be a high-powered saw with timber cutting chains and will include primary and secondary braking system for added safety.

The Grant County Board of Commissioners has submitted an application to purchase six professional chainsaws with cases and accessories. If approved, Award Letters are expected to be mailed out to counties sometime in November or December.

If Grant County receives the Grant, the county must purchase the chainsaws prior to March 1, 2010 and then apply for reimbursement with ACCO. This program is a win-win-win situation for county government, DEQ and ACCO.

As always, for any questions or comments concerning county government please stop by the shop office at 524 N. Front Street in Medford or call the office at 580-395-2859. You may also reach me on my cell phone at 580-541-8950 or Robert Moss, District 2 Road Foreman, at 580-541-8953.