

Financial Picture Improving For City Of Providence

The Providence City Council heard their 2025 audit report on Monday night, and the numbers presented more positive news for the city's financial picture. Quintin Stone of ATA presented the 2025 audit just a few months after a dire report on the 2024 fiscal year, but on Monday Stone told the council that the city's net position has increased by about \$513,000, "a big improvement" over previous years, he noted. Stone credited the improvement to the city's adjustment to utility rates.

During his report Stone reviewed the governmental, utility and proprietary account balances noting that the statement of revenue reflects governmental funds showing a deficit, something not unusual for Providence. The utility fund shows growth. Stone also shared a three-year historical look at the city's finances noting that for the past three years Providence has been in a deficit; however, the latest audit reflects that the city is now out of that deficit.

The report also indicates that the city has cash on hand to operate 29 days without income; ideally, that cash on hand should be benchmarked at 120 days, Stone said. He also credited the adjustment to utility rates as part of the reason the city's utility income is up. In 2023 the city had extra expenses which impacted the utility account revenue flow. Stone added that while the governmental fund account typically operates at a deficit, it is now trending in the right direction.

In the report findings, the auditor noted that segregations of duties is always an issue for small communities, and he found one budget violation related to a budget ordinance violation on transfers.

Other budget information provided to the council included Stone suggesting they look at the recently passed Kentucky SB192 for options for future city audits. Mayor Tom Glover said following the report, "I think we are heading in the right direction. We will ad-

dress the findings and make corrections." The council accepted the audit, which now has the city "caught up" in the required auditing for city budgets.

Following the audit report, Glover opened the floor for community input and discussion on finding revenue streams to fund a new ambulance for the community. At their last meeting, the council approved the \$273,000 purchase pending public input regarding funding the purchase.

Although several people were in attendance at the meeting none of them spoke about the best options for generating additional revenue for the purchase. Fire Chief Cameron Brown who also oversees the city's ambulance service told the council and the community members present that he and clerk Tiffany Conrad have researched the matter and have found that the city will begin receiving about \$75,000 annually for the ambulance service through Medicaid reimbursements, and noted the amount could increase.

Glover then addressed the council: "If

we stay in the ambulance business, we are going to need to more revenue and would need to pursue a ten cents per hundred ambulance tax." The move would require the city to create an ambulance taxing district and pass a city ordinance to the require the ten cents tax for property owners. The annual cost on a property valued at \$50,000 would be an increase in property tax of about \$50, Glover said. On a motion by Jimmy Crowell and a second by Shannon Layton, the council voted unanimously to create an ambulance taxing district. The move should generate enough funds to make the annual payments on the purchase of a new ambulance. The city attorney will now prepare and ordinance creating the taxing district and the city will move forward with the purchase. Two readings of the ordinance will be required before it can go into effect.

The council then voted to confirm the purchase of the new ambulance, a 2024 Wheeled Coach 153-inch door forward mod-

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Clay City Council Approves Audit Report For FY 2025

The Clay City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14 with Mayor Jackie Edens presiding and all council members in attendance. Also present was City Clerk Christy Freeman.

Following approval of the minutes of the March meeting, the clerk's report, and the accounts payment, the council discussed several items of business in a session that lasted about 40 minutes.

Auditor Quinten Stone presented a review of the city's audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Stone told members the audit found no issues with the city finances and offers a "clean opinion" for fiscal 2025.

He noted positive changes in the amount of \$193,000 in the city's financial position for the fiscal year. Ms. Freeman pointed out that most of the positive funding came from grants received during the year. Stone also

told members the city suffered a \$76,000 loss in operating revenue during the year, primarily due to expenses and costs incurred during the water improvement project.

The audit report also listed a control risk due to lack of segregation of duties. This concern is listed on most community audit report due the number of employees in city offices. The report suggested enhancing controls over the documentation and approval of utility adjustments, deposit reconciliation, and the recording of revenue vis a billing register. New software recently purchased for the city utility department will help city employees address these concerns.

In other business, council members approved a bid from Allen Elder in the amount of \$1,250.50 for a city-owned dump truck which was declared surplus property at the March meeting.



Christina Ramage, Jennie Hopper, and Taylor Herzog

Webster County Teachers Are Recipients Of Excellence Awards

The Regional Education Partnership Excellence in Teaching Award reception was held at Madisonville Community College on April 17th. Three inspiring Webster County educators were recognized for their tremendous hearts for students and the teaching profession.

Congratulations to Taylor Herzog and Jennie Hopper from Dixon Elementary School, and Christina Ramage from Webster County High!

This award recognizes teaching excellence in elementary, middle, and high school education. Public school partners from Caldwell, Crittenden, Daw-

son Springs, Hopkins Muhlenberg, and Webster County districts along with Madisonville Community College and Murray State University-Madisonville created the award to acknowledge the importance of teachers and the teaching profession.

The council approved the purchase of a 14 ft. x 83 inch dump trailer from J & T Trailers of Lebanon, Kentucky. Cost of that purchase is \$12,195.

Ms. Freeman reported a complaint concerning a property located at 86 Taylor Street. The complainant noted a trailer loaded with trash sits on the property, and an area around an outbuilding on the property is littered with trash. Mayor Edens responded the property owner will be notified of the nuisance violations.

He also told members a residence located next to the post office

in Clay will be razed by Tim Smith. That home was damaged by a fire in late 2025.

It was also noted that two nuisance properties in the city were being sold by the Master Commissioner on Thursday, April 16.

The fire report for March showed members of the Clay Volun-

teer Fire Department responded to 15 rescue fund and nine fire runs.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Clay City Council will be Tuesday, May 12, 6:00 P.M.

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-- PUBLIC NOTICE --

CITY OF SEBREE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE No. 2026-001

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT OF CITY UTILITY BILLS (WATER, SEWER, AND SANITATION BILLS)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SEBREE, KENTUCKY:

That the Sebree Code of Ordinances relating to the due date for payment of all City utility bills (including water, sewer, and sanitation bills) is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. All municipal utility bills, including bills for water, sanitary sewer, and sanitation services provided for the previous month, shall be due and payable on the fifteenth day (15th) of each month. If the municipal utility bill is not paid by the twentieth (20th) day of the month in which such bill is due, then a ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to the bill.

Section 2. In addition to the penalty provided for in Section 1, the City shall have the right to discontinue water service to any property where any water bill remains unpaid after the twenty-fifth (25th) day of the month in which the bill is due. The service shall not be reconnected until such time as the past due water bill and penalties and reconnection fees then due and owing are paid in full. The reconnection fee is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), and the reconnection fee becomes due at the date and time that a city employee leaves the offices of the City of Sebree with a shutoff list in his or her possession to shut off the water for customers upon whose property water bills remain unpaid for more than ten (10) days.

Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this ordinance, or the application thereof is for any reason found to be unconstitutional or invalid, such a finding shall not affect or repeal any of the remaining provisions herein. All other ordinances and applicable law, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication.

READING/ADOPTION

The foregoing ordinance was read and presented for its first reading at the March meeting of the Sebree City Council conducted on March 17, 2026, and for its second reading at the meeting of the Sebree City Council conducted on April 20, 2026.

Upon the motion of council member Jim Williams, seconded by council members Kord Cooper to adopt the Ordinance, the City Council voted as follows:

Council Members	
Council Member Kord Cooper	Aye
Council Member Perry Culbertson	Aye
Council Member Kathy Edwards	Aye
Council Member Jana Foraker	Absent
Council Member Pam Jones	Absent
Council Member Jim Allen Williams	Aye

APPROVAL or REJECTED

WHEREUPON, it appearing that four council members voted AYE on the motion and zero council members voted NO on the motion, the Mayor announced that the motion PASSED/FAILED, and if PASSED, that the above stated ordinance would be submitted for his signature and then published as required by law, to be effective immediately upon the completion thereof.

Dated this the 20th day of April 2026.

Honorable BILLY JOE SMITH, Mayor
City of Sebree

ATTEST,
MARY MEREDITH, City Clerk

Webster County Schools 2nd Local Planning Committee Meeting and Public Forum

The Webster County Schools' Local Planning Committee (LPC) will conduct a second **PUBLIC MEETING** on **April 30, 2026, at 5:30 PM CDT** at the **Webster County Board of Education Central Office** located at **28 State Route 1340, Dixon, Kentucky 42409**. A Public Forum for public comment will follow this meeting at approximately 6:00pm. This is the second of a series of meetings and public forums to develop a District Facilities Plan for Webster County Schools. The district's architect will present a facilities update to the Local Planning Committee. Following this presentation the architect will present a draft district facility plan for discussion and possible approval. This meeting and future meetings will be informal gatherings to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee in the development of a proposed District Facility Plan for the Webster County School District.

For additional information contact Aaron Harrell, Superintendent of Webster County Schools, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409 at 270-639-5083.

The public is welcome and invited to this series of meetings and public forums.