

# City of Baker City

ANNUAL REPORT | 2017



*1655 1st Street ~ P.O. Box 650  
Baker City, Oregon 97814  
[www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)*

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# Organizational Chart

**MAYOR**  
Mike Downing

**COUNCILORS**  
Rosemary Abell  
Arvid Andersen  
Loran Joseph  
Dan McQuisten  
Adam Nilsson  
Jim Thomas

**CITY MANAGER**  
Fred Warner, Jr.

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Human Resources  
City Recorder  
Community Development  
Information Technology

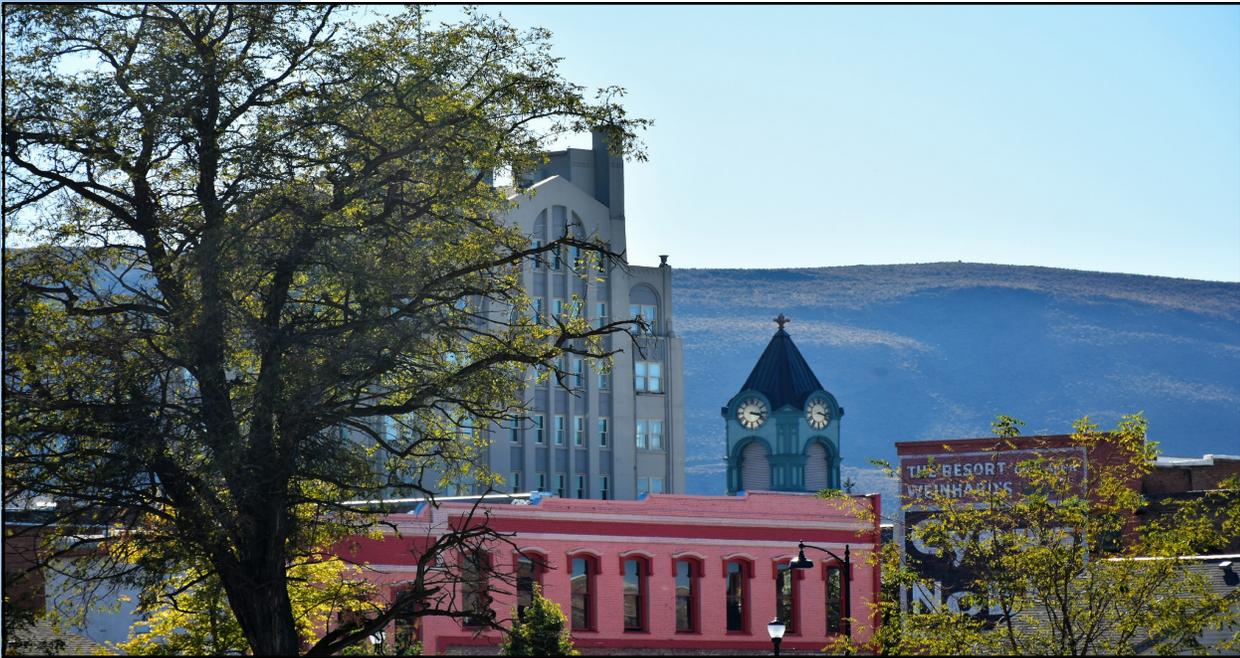
**FINANCE**

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**PUBLIC WORKS**



This annual report will highlight the many activities and achievements that have taken place in 2017. City staff have worked extremely hard to provide friendly and efficient services to the citizens of Baker City. We continue to focus our efforts to ensure that Baker City remains one of the best small towns in America.

The year began with unprecedented weather. Over five feet of snow fell in Baker City over the winter and it created many challenges for our staff as well as the citizens of Baker City. The City Public Works Staff plowed every street in Baker City a minimum of three times. Many of our collector streets were plowed weekly. Along with the snow, we had very little melting, so finding places to put or move the snow became a real challenge.

Communicating snow plowing plans to the public became a serious issue. The City adapted and began providing daily updates on Facebook, multiple websites and throughout the media. As winter receded, the City geared up for potential flooding. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and we avoided any major runoff issues.

The City Council faced a challenging budget year. Ultimately, they instituted a public safety fee which allowed for a budget that kept our public safety departments intact.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of 2017, we remain excited about the future. The City is looking forward to tackling any issues which arise and working toward enhancing the livability of Baker City and providing the essential services that the citizens of Baker City expect and deserve.



# 2017 Notable Events

- ◆ The Baker City Council unanimously elected Mike Downing as the Mayor and Rosemary Abell as Acting Mayor. The City had two vacant Council positions at the beginning of the year. The Council appointed Dan McQuisten and Adam Nilsson to fill the two vacancies.
- ◆ The Baker City Council declared a local emergency proclamation in late January because of the unprecedented snowfall in the City. The City worked with Baker County Emergency Management to document public and private potential losses to see if we could qualify for state or federal assistance.
- ◆ The City finalized a two year contract with the Baker YMCA for the operation of Sam-O-Swim Center.
- ◆ A new downtown organization, Baker City Downtown, was formed to represent businesses in the Historic Downtown Corridor. Sheri Stuart, Oregon Main Street Program Director, was in the City a number of times to explain the Oregon Main Street Program and to help the group get organized. They have continued to evolve into a strong organization throughout the year.
- ◆ Baker City was designated a “2017 Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation. Thanks to the Baker City Tree Board for their work on educating the public about trees and helping to enhance the beauty of our community.
- ◆ The Baker City Development Code was adopted this year after many months of review and input from Baker City citizens. The Baker City Planning Commission and Staff spent many hours with the update which should make it easier to navigate the Development Code.
- ◆ The City finalized two union contracts this year. The Council approved a three year contract with the Baker City Police Union and a three and a half year contract with the Baker City Firefighters Association.



# 2017 Notable Events

- ◆ The City phone server failed this past year. Due to the age of the system, the City elected to move to a Voice Over Internet Phone system. This was accomplished at significant price reduction over a traditional phone system.
- ◆ The City and the County updated the Memorandum of Understanding for the economic development activities within the County. As part of the agreement, the Economic Development Council was expanded to nine members with a focus on business representation.
- ◆ The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center celebrated its twenty five years of operation. Congratulations to the BLM and local volunteers that make the Interpretive Center a significant tourist attraction for our community.
- ◆ The City Council and the Board of Commissioners came to a consensus to move the Consolidated Dispatch/911 Center under the management of the Baker County Sheriff.
- ◆ Fire Chief Tom Wills took an extended leave of absence in June. Assistant Fire Chief Cliff Hall handled the department admirably in his absence.
- ◆ The Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally enjoyed good weather and many enthusiastic riders.
- ◆ The Baker Chamber of Commerce Miners Jubilee festival was marred by a tragic accident during the Parade. A young participant on a float fell between the wheel wells and was killed. The community rallied around this tragic event. The Baker City Council subsequently adopted new parade rules to attempt to make the parades in our community safer.
- ◆ Baker Valley was filled with smoke much of July and August. The smoke came from all over the Northwest. It cleared in late August in time for the eclipse, but then came back when the fire in the Columbia Gorge blew up.



# 2017 Notable Events

- ◆ August 21<sup>st</sup> brought a total eclipse of the sun to Baker County. The City prepared for a huge influx of tourists. Though the crowds were down from expected numbers, we saw a large number of people come for the weekend and the actual eclipse was breathtaking and truly a phenomenon worth watching. In addition, our local businesses enjoyed a profitable weekend.



- ◆ The City accepted a SAFER Grant from the federal government which allows us to increase our firefighter/EMS capacity. Thanks to support from Baker County, this grant will allow us to hire three additional firefighters/EMS over the next three years. This will allow Baker City Ambulance to have enough staff to continue to respond to the bulk of the citizens in Baker County.

- ◆ Baker City Downtown held its inaugural Wine Walk in the fall. This event, which is held on the third Thursday of the month, focuses on bringing people downtown for fun and shopping and raising money for local charities.



- ◆ Grocery Outlet announced plans to build a store on the East side of the I84 near the Chevron Station. The City worked with them on signage, site development, utilities and a myriad of other issues. They are looking at opening in the winter 2018-19.
- ◆ The annual Christmas Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting was a great success. Baker City employees were very festive and participated in a number of entries.
- ◆ The City Council approved an updated Wastewater Facility Plan, which paves the way for the construction of new holding pond and sets the City on course to land apply treated water to agricultural ground in the valley.

# 2017-18 Council Goals

## **Continue Support of Parks and Outdoor Spaces**

- ◆ Complete Court Plaza pursuant to grant award
- ◆ Continue regular maintenance of parks, pathway, and playground equipment a priority
- ◆ Explore pathway extension options
- ◆ Work on access and improved utilization of Central Park
- ◆ Improve lighting in Central Park

## **Continue to Promote Communication and Collaboration with Community Partners and Government Entities**

- ◆ Encourage combined meetings with other local entities to find additional means for collaboration

## **Develop a Wastewater Disposal Plan**

- ◆ Continue regular communication with DEQ
- ◆ Complete updated Wastewater Master Plan
- ◆ Identify final option for wastewater disposal enhancements

## **Enhance Community Livability**

- ◆ Adequate staffing to provide efficient police and fire services to account for increased demand
- ◆ Continue to explore a railroad quiet zone
- ◆ Identify street funding options and hold at least one public meeting to discuss the options with the public
- ◆ Explore interest in a community youth center

## **Evaluate and Enhance Economic Development Plan**

- ◆ Review current plans and strategies, reports, and goals
- ◆ Evaluate current program
- ◆ Explore areas for improvement
- ◆ Evaluate options for City-focused Economic Development
- ◆ Coordinate efforts to support existing and new businesses
- ◆ Explore marketing options for Baker City/County (i.e. promotional video)

## **Implement an Asset Maintenance Schedule**

- ◆ Identify funding
- ◆ Prioritize needs

# 2017-18 Council Goals

## **Increase Citizen Involvement**

- ◆ Greater communication with Boards and Commissions
- ◆ Improve audio/visual system in Council Chambers
- ◆ Expand on recruitment efforts for Boards and Commissions

## **Maintain and Enhance Water Security**

- ◆ Continue to make water security a priority through pursuit of fuel reduction, fencing, fire breaks, and adequate funding
- ◆ Establish a water rate structure that is not a burden on residents but that will provide adequate funding for future infrastructure needs
- ◆ Make the communication of water rates and water projects a priority
- ◆ Explore e-billing options
- ◆ Pursue an additional ground water source for safe drinking water
- ◆ Partner with NRCS and landowners on fuel reduction methods

## **Promote Government Integrity**

- ◆ Encourage educational and training opportunities for staff and councilors
- ◆ Promote a regional meeting with other Eastern Oregon Council members
- ◆ Promote Government integrity and professionalism

## **Require Cost Effective Budget Management**

- ◆ Evaluate all current contracts and MOUs for cost savings
- ◆ Identify efficiencies and seek areas for improvements, including options for increasing cost recovery on ambulance billing
- ◆ Approve and oversee capital plans
- ◆ Require cost effective budgets
- ◆ Re-explore plan to move to LED lighting
- ◆ Explore 911/EMS/Fire Special District



The Human Resources Department is dedicated to the recruitment of diverse and talented candidates looking for career opportunities with the City of Baker City. HR works directly with all City departments providing guidance and support through hiring, performance management, professional development, training, classification, compensation, contract administration, collective bargaining, benefits administration (including health promotion) and compliance with state and federal regulations. Additionally, HR assists with risk management as part of the Administration Department wherein staff assists with health and safety, workers' compensation and ADA accommodation. HR strives to create an environment that builds lasting employee relations while demonstrating excellent public service.

2017 was a busy year in the Human Resources department. With ten combined recruitments the City welcomed several new candidates to the organization. A recent Society for Human Resource Management report forecasted a 3.2% growth in salaries in 2017. The pool of job applicants is shrinking, which is why so many companies are increasing salary offers. Those that are not adjusting to the new workforce issues are having a hard time finding top talent. The summer of 2017, the City created a webpage where interested applicants can sign up for notifications when a position opens up that they are interested in applying for. In addition to that recruitment strategy, the City has three bargaining units within the organization so COLAs have maintained salaries. Relatively speaking though, with Baker City being a rural community, salaries are often much lower than their counterparts throughout the State of Oregon. Bargaining concluded early in 2017 with all three represented units maintaining benefits and cost of living adjustments ranging from 1.25%-to 1.5%.



2017 was one of the safest years the City has seen. We have reduced the number of job injuries compared to the last several years. The Safety Committee, comprised of members from all departments, created a program that focused on preventing injury and recognizing risks associated with their jobs. First responders, police and fire, come with anticipated safety risks and the City

concentrates on preventing and identifying risk. The Human Resource Manager attended Gordon Graham's training in Boise on identifying and preventing risk within public safety. Mr. Graham is a renowned risk strategist that teaches companies how to prevent risk even in the most dangerous cases.

In addition to the safety program implemented, the Safety Committee also organized a health fair on site. The health fair was focused on bringing awareness to healthy lifestyles and providing explanation of benefits to reduce burnout and increase overall wellness. Local vendors were invited to participate and we appreciated the partnership they provided during the health fair. It is not surprising that individuals who maintain a healthy lifestyle perform at their best. The Human Resources Department has also organized two retirement planning sessions where employees met with a representative to analyze and plan financial needs for retirement.

Baker City also ensures that the working environment for all employees is safe and respectful and ensures that anti-harassment training is completed by all staff each spring. Human Resources also attended the Bureau of Labor and Industries training regarding legal hiring, documentation, discipline and discharge as a refresher and to discuss changes that went into effect. Human Resources also attended several CIS presentations throughout the year regarding Veterans Preference, FMLA/OFLA, ADA and Workers Compensation.

Human Resources also provided a leadership course to the Fire Department reviewing perceptions of what makes a good leader, leader function compared to manager function, defining values and vision, fostering a culture of motivation and engagement, how to improve team work, managing change and assisting personnel with professional development. The second seminar advancing these skills will begin late spring of 2018.

The performance evaluation system that was previously utilized, NeoGov, was not providing the functionality that was originally hoped for, so the City ended services with that provider and created an internal evaluation system that was more customized to the department and the organization. Overall creating an internal system saved an annual amount of \$1,464.

Open enrollment was a success in the fall where once a year employees can make changes to their elected insurance benefits. One new feature that will be utilized in 2018 is a new fitness and health app, provided through CIS, that will challenge employees to continue to improve health through daily, weekly, and monthly fitness goals.

At the end of 2017, Human Resources began updating the employee handbook, which incorporates state and federal employment law, and the organization's policies. It was then sent to CIS's pre-loss attorneys for legal compliance and is anticipated to be adopted in the spring of 2018.

2018 will be an election year and the City Recorder/Human Resources Manager looks forward to working with citizens interested in running for the office of City Councilor.



Community Development's role is to encourage and support local initiatives that better our community's quality of life. In 2017 the Community Development Department had the opportunity to participate and support a number of groups that are doing just that.

In 2017 Baker City welcomed a new downtown organization—Baker City Downtown (BCD). BCD is focused on following the Main Street Approach and actively engaging the downtown merchants and residents. The Community Development Department worked closely with BCD throughout the year. As a member in the Oregon Main Street Program Baker City was able to participate in the 2017 Main Street Awards and Grant Programs. Baker City received four Oregon Main Street "Excellence in Downtown Revitalization" awards: The Birdcage, by Tom Novak, Mann Block redevelopment by Robert Anders, Baker Technical Institute for their outstanding partnership and work with downtown Brownfield sites, and Barbara Sidway for Main Street Hero. As a member of the Oregon Main Street Program, downtown property owners in Baker City also have the opportunity to apply for grants. We were very successful and received the Revitalization Grant (\$100,000) and a Diamonds in the Rough Grant (\$20,000) in 2017. BCD was also awarded a Leo Adler Grant of \$12,500 towards matching funds for a RARE Coordinator through the University of Oregon. A lot of volunteer work is going into this organization and we are excited to see it grow.



A second application was submitted to the Federal EPA for a community wide Brownfield assessment grant. This was accomplished in partnership with the BTI Natural Resource/Brownfield Class. Through this partnership students have gathered and shared business data from over 50 local businesses. Information collected has proven to be very valuable in the City's efforts to support local businesses. EPA grant awards will be announced in the spring of 2018.

The Community Development Department also provided grant writing support for the Junior League Golf Program. Two grants were awarded totaling \$12,200. This program is a great opportunity for youth to learn the game and enjoy team play.

Bicycle Rides NW paid a visit to Baker City in 2017 and decided to designate our community as a layover city. This group of 300+ riders are eager to learn about our area and will be coming through Baker City and the surrounding communities in July of 2018. They will be spending time in our communities, restaurants and stores.



Outdoor events are a huge draw in every community and “Movies In the Park” in 2017 proved that. By working together, the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition and the Local Community Advisory Council was able to put on a family friendly movie each week throughout the summer under the stars! This event is scheduled to continue in Central Park in 2018.

The Elkhorn Industrial Park is one our greatest assets for businesses. In 2017, signage was installed at the property and applications to the Oregon Regional Infrastructure Fund as well as Business Oregon’s Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot Project were made. If awarded, these funds will cover costs to install both electric and fiber along the industrial park. In 2018 Community Development will be working with Business Oregon to recertify the site as well. All of these steps will increase our ability to market the ground to potential businesses.

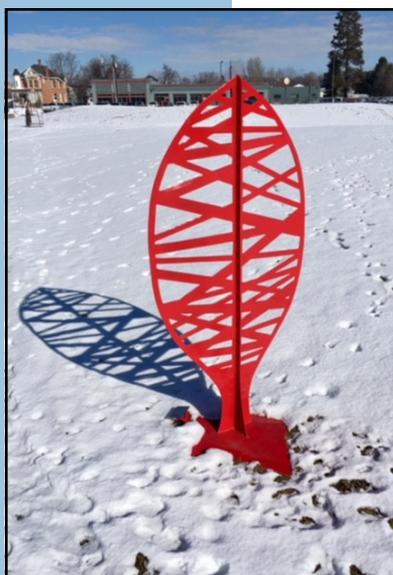
**FOR SALE OR LEASE**  
**Elkhorn View Industrial Park**  
**1-64 Acres**

Gas, Electric, Water & Sewer Available  
 Environmental Assessment Work Completed



**For More Information:**  
**541-524-2040**

Work continues with a group of leaders wanting to develop a Youth Activity Center in Baker City. Their mission is to help youth find and reach their potential by being all-encompassing, providing a safe place and environment, addressing the need in the community, and investing in the future of our youth. Community Development will continue to participate in this endeavor and support the group as they seek community support.



Public Art can be a powerful tool in a community and it is quickly gaining momentum in Baker City. The first and second pieces from the Art on Loan Program are located in Central Park. We encourage you to visit them and get ready for more to come!

Don’t forget, the City publishes a weekly newsletter. Thanks to all of the efforts made by City Departments, we are able to share current information to our readers on a weekly basis. It is a great resource for those wanting to know more about what the City is up to. People throughout the world are reading about Baker City!

Newsletters can be viewed on our website as well as via email. Baker City is truly an amazing community and we are looking forward to what 2018 will bring.

## Financial Condition

Baker City's June 30, 2017 financial statements were presented at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The auditors reported a clean opinion with no reportable conditions.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, Baker City purchased and/or constructed \$2,320,060 in capital assets (reported on page 13 of the June 30, 2017 financial statements). There was no new long-term debt issued during the corresponding fiscal year. As of June 30, 2017, the City of Baker City assets exceeded liabilities by \$49,595,826, net position for the City as a whole increased by \$970,670. The City's summary of net position as reported on page 7 of the June 30, 2017 financial statements is reported below:

**City of Baker City  
Summary of Net Position  
June 30, 2017**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>		<u>Business-type Activities</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Current and Other Assets	\$ 6,410,491	\$ 6,674,676	\$ 5,628,337	\$ 4,192,157	\$ 12,038,828	\$10,039,555
Capital Assets	19,715,110	19,203,775	25,129,738	25,196,943	44,844,848	44,400,718
Total Assets	\$ 26,125,601	\$ 25,051,173	\$ 30,758,075	\$ 29,389,100	\$ 56,883,676	\$ 54,440,273
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	2,875,402	534,313	927,523	191,527	3,802,925	725,840
Total Assets & Deferred Outflows	29,001,003	25,585,486	31,685,598	29,580,627	60,686,601	55,166,113
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Long-Term Liabilities	-	-	1,623,687	1,687,472	1,623,687	1,687,472
Other Liabilities	6,893,639	2,891,658	2,070,271	1,133,750	8,963,910	4,025,408
Total Liabilities	6,893,639	2,891,658	3,693,958	2,821,222	10,587,597	5,712,880
DEFERRED INFLOWS	380,455	609,572	122,723	218,505	503,178	828,077
Total Liab & Deferred Inflows	7,274,094	3,501,230	3,816,681	3,039,727	11,090,775	6,540,957
<b>NET POSITION</b>						
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	\$ 19,715,110	\$ 19,203,775	\$ 23,414,799	\$23,399,435	\$ 43,129,909	\$ 42,603,210
Restricted	1,082,914	1,726,058	-	-	1,082,914	1,726,058
Unrestricted	928,885	1,154,423	4,454,118	3,141,465	5,383,003	4,295,888
Total Net Position	\$ 21,726,909	\$ 22,084,256	\$ 27,868,917	\$ 26,540,900	\$ 49,595,826	\$ 48,625,156

Net position for the City as a whole increased by \$970,670 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The following is an analysis of this increase.

**City of Baker City**  
**Summary of Changes in Net Position**  
**June 30, 2017**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Program Revenues						
Charges for Services	\$ 934,784	\$ 999,932	\$ 4,172,356	\$ 3,741,164	\$ 5,107,140	\$ 4,741,096
Operating Grants/Contrib.	742,520	752,309	-	-	742,520	752,309
Capital Grants/Contrib.	871,322	601,966	-	34,575	871,322	636,541
General Revenues:						
Property Taxes	3,231,766	3,142,015	-	-	3,231,766	3,142,015
Franchise Taxes	864,235	826,833	-	-	864,235	826,833
Investment Earnings	58,355	36,669	49,246	22,170	107,601	58,839
SAIF Refunds	31,428	20,490	-	-	31,428	20,490
Unrestricted Grants/Contrib.	264,424	247,035	-	-	264,424	247,035
Rental Income	34,701	32,684	47,625	47,217	82,326	79,901
Miscellaneous	56,804	43,650	340,170	78,420	396,974	122,070
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 7,090,339</b>	<b>\$ 6,703,583</b>	<b>\$ 4,609,397</b>	<b>\$ 3,923,546</b>	<b>\$ 11,699,736</b>	<b>\$ 10,627,129</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
General Government	\$ 510,986	\$ 743,968	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 510,986	\$ 743,968
Public Safety	4,571,634	5,468,852	-	-	4,571,634	5,468,852
Transportation and Streets	1,527,443	1,706,843	-	-	1,527,443	1,706,843
Culture & Recreation	361,946	321,200	-	-	361,946	321,200
Economic Development	113,492	45,647	-	-	113,492	45,647
Cemetery	144,721	144,689	-	-	144,721	144,689
Airport	161,989	165,920	-	-	161,989	165,920
Hydro-Electric Plant	6,294	8,177	-	-	6,294	8,177
Interest on Long-Term Debt	3,181	3,458	-	-	3,181	3,458
Water	-	-	1,770,350	2,304,231	1,770,350	2,304,231
Wastewater	-	-	1,160,967	1,367,199	1,160,967	1,367,199
Golf Course	-	-	67,893	62,720	67,893	62,720
Building Department	-	-	328,170	284,326	328,170	284,326
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,401,686</b>	<b>8,608,754</b>	<b>3,327,380</b>	<b>4,018,476</b>	<b>10,729,066</b>	<b>12,627,230</b>
Operating Transfers	(46,000)	(60,500)	46,000	60,500	-	-
Change in Net Position	(357,347)	(1,965,671)	1,328,017	(34,430)	970,670	(2,000,101)
Net Position—Beginning of Year	22,084,256	24,114,009	26,540,900	26,606,903	48,625,156	50,720,912
Restatement of Beg Net Position	-	(64,082)	-	(31,573)	-	(95,655)
<b>Net Position—End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 21,726,909</b>	<b>\$ 22,084,256</b>	<b>\$ 27,868,917</b>	<b>\$ 26,540,900</b>	<b>\$ 49,595,826</b>	<b>\$ 48,625,156</b>

## Payroll

As of December 2017, the City had 63 full time employees; 2 part time employees; and 12 volunteer firefighters. As of December 2016, the City had 61 full time employees; 4 part time employees; and 16 volunteer firefighters. On September 1, 2017, the City was awarded a SAFER grant to hire three firefighter/EMS positions in order for the City to maintain its current ambulance service area (ASA) which covers approximately 1,600 square miles. The SAFER grant pays 75% of the cost of the three firefighter/EMS positions the first year, 75% the second year and 35% the third year. Since the City covers the ASA for Baker County as well as Baker City the County Commissioners agreed to provide up to \$99,000 over three years to help cover the grant match. These three positions were filled shortly after the first of the year.

## Utilities

During December the City had 4,186 active utility accounts. Accounts are divided into eight billing zones and are billed every month. Although invoices are now being sent out monthly, the meters are still read every other month during the time period when meters are read. Water usage charges are divided equally and billed over two billing periods.

## CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE CITY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION

The following are currently known facts, decisions, or conditions that are expected to have a significant impact on the City's financial health:

- Measure 50, a tax limitation measure, established a permanent property tax rate of \$6.3314 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Growth in existing assessed value is limited to a maximum of three percent per year plus new construction's assessed value. In addition, Measure 5 limits the combined property tax rates to \$10 for all local governments except schools. City property taxes not assessed due to this \$10 limit (compression) decreased in 2017-18 for the first time in the past ten years from \$138,997 to \$115,781. The annual increase in property taxes is not enough to keep up with annual salary, health insurance and PERS benefits cost increases discussed below. On June 13, 2017, the City enacted an ordinance to create a public safety fee to help overcome this shortfall. Effective July 1, 2017 the public safety fee was set at \$3.00 per month for residential and \$6.00 per month for commercial properties. The ordinance which enacts the public safety fee will sunset on June 30, 2020.



- AFSCME Local 2175 Baker City Employees Association, Baker City Police Association and Baker City Professional Firefighters labor contracts were negotiated for periods of three-plus years. Increases for non-represented staff have not been set for future years. The known impacts of these actions are listed in the table below.

	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>	<u>AFSCME</u>	<u>Non-Represented</u>
July 1, 2017 Salary Increase	1.5%	1.5%	1.25%	TBD
July 1, 2018 Salary Increase	1.5%	1.5%	1.25%	TBD
July 1, 2019 Salary Increase	1.5%	1.5%	TBD	TBD

The PERS rates are set for a period of two years and are listed in the table below. Currently it is anticipated that the July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021 PERS rates will continue to increase significantly.

	<u>Tier 1 &amp; Tier 2</u>	<u>OPSRP General Service</u>	<u>OPSRP Police &amp; Fire</u>
Rates for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019	22.77%	13.63%	18.40%

- Street fund resources (mainly state gas taxes and property taxes) are not sufficient to maintain the City's streets in good condition. If the City's streets are not properly maintained (i.e. overlays, chip sealing, fog sealing, crack sealing) they will continue to deteriorate. The 2017 pavement management plan highlighted this need with 41.7% of the City's streets listed as fair condition and 1.73% listed as poor condition.
- On March 8, 2016, Council adopted the Water Facilities Master Plan prepared by Murray, Smith & Associates (MSA). This plan included a comprehensive review and evaluation of the City's water systems and consideration of needed capital improvement for the transmission, treatment and distribution systems. MSA identified the need for \$6.2 million in capital improvement projects over the 5-year horizon and a potential of \$33.4 million over the 6-to-20 year horizon due to an aging infrastructure. Although the City Council increased water rates by 11.2% as of July 1, 2016 and 10% as of July 1, 2017 these infrastructure needs will not be met without the continuation of significant annual water rate increases or other funding mechanisms in the future.
- Due to state and federal regulatory requirements the City's wastewater system will require significant modifications and improvements in the future. The City recently received a DEQ approved plan which includes the requirement for the City to switch from its current effluent disposal method of discharging into the Powder River to a land application disposal method. The current wastewater reserves and user rates will not be sufficient to fund these required enhancements. City staff estimates that up to \$12,000,000 in project costs may need to be financed resulting in an estimated annual debt payment of approximately \$450,000. Current wastewater rates are not sufficient to cover the debt repayment and would, therefore, need to be increased in order to repay the debt financing.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department responded to a total of 1856 emergency alarms in 2017. This represents a decrease of 3.98% in total call volume from 2016.

### FIRE OPERATIONS

- ◆ General Alarms: 20
- ◆ Dispatched Alarms: 206
- ◆ Total Fire Responses: 226
- ◆ Fire Mutual Aid Provided: 25
- ◆ Fire Mutual Aid Received: 17
- ◆ Public Service/Assist Responses: 71

Fire responses are broken down as follows:

- ◆ Good Intent Calls: 103
- ◆ False Alarms: 17
- ◆ Structure Fires: 19
- ◆ Excessive Heat: 3
- ◆ Smoke or Odor Problem: 8
- ◆ Steam, Other Gas: 10
- ◆ Fire-Other: 4
- ◆ Vehicle Fires: 9
- ◆ Unauthorized Burning: 13
- ◆ Grass, Vegetation or Rubbish Fires: 3
- ◆ Rescues: 32

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL OPERATIONS

Ambulance responses are broken down as follows:

- ◆ Responded to 293 emergency medical incidents outside the City limits and 1266 inside the City for a total of 1559 emergency medical incidents.
- ◆ Of 1559 emergency medical incidents, approximately 1004 required advanced life support care from department paramedics and 510 required only basic life support. The remaining 45 required assistance only.
- ◆ 218 instances of simultaneous emergencies (2 or more medical/fire incidents at the same time).

Most frequent ALS emergencies are expressed as a percentage of ALS responses:

- ◆ Medical Emergencies (include seizures, diabetics, OD's poisonings, etc.): 18%
- ◆ Cardiac/Stroke: 12%
- ◆ Traumatic Injuries: 10%
- ◆ Respiratory Distress: 12%
- ◆ General Illness: 48%



## TRAINING

The Baker City Fire Department completed 1278 hours of training consisting of numerous Fire and EMS related topics.

### Fire

- ◆ Leadership Development Training
- ◆ All full time staff are NIMS compliant
- ◆ All full time personnel completed the Office of State Fire Marshal Company Inspector course
- ◆ Hosted District 13 Training Association meeting
- ◆ Engine Company evolutions/skills maintenance

### EMS

- ◆ Department personnel maintained their Advanced Cardiac Life Support training and recertification
- ◆ EMS Physician Advisor contract maintained
- ◆ Annual CPR certification and recertification for all department personnel
- ◆ Annual ambulance and agency licensing completed through the Oregon Health Authority



Fire



### **MAINTENANCE**

The Baker City Fire Department completed 2416 hours of station and equipment maintenance ensuring the upkeep of our station and that our equipment remains in a response ready condition.

Annual maintenance activities that were performed in 2017 included:

- ✓ Self Contained Breathing Apparatus fit testing (OSHA required) for Fire Department and Public Works personnel.
- ✓ SCBA breathing air testing completed.
- ✓ SCBA flow testing completed.
- ✓ Pump testing completed.
- ✓ Hose testing completed.
- ✓ Ladder testing and certification completed.
- ✓ Radio programming completed.
- ✓ Defibrillator maintenance and certification completed.
- ✓ Air compressor maintenance completed.



## **FIRE PREVENTION**

The Department received and installed 63 residential smoke alarms in conjunction with the Oregon State Fire Marshal Smoke Alarm Program. These alarms are provided free of charge to the residents of Baker City.

Additional fire prevention work completed in 2017 included:

- ✓ Issued over 540 residential burn permits.
- ✓ Participate as members of the Baker County Interagency Fire Prevention Team.
- ✓ Completed 75 local business fire inspections.
- ✓ Assisted the State Fire Marshal by completing inspections of fireworks stands.
- ✓ Interagency Prevention Team booth at Miner's Jubilee.
- ✓ Brooklyn Elementary presentation for Wildfire Prevention Week.
- ✓ Provided Fire Extinguisher Training to Public Works, City Hall, Federal Building and Baker House employees.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Baker City Fire Department continues to provide community public education and participate in community events.

Fire

### 2017 Education and Community Events Included the following:

- ◆ Provided numerous fire department tours and on-site fire safety/public education presentations for more than 300 children and chaperones
- ◆ Provided several on-site fire safety/public education presentations to area businesses and groups for over 100 adults
- ◆ Donated four “Firehouse Birthday Parties” for charity
- ◆ Provided “Job Shadowing” opportunities for High School students
  
- ◆ Hosted Blue Mountain Community College EMT-Basic course
- ◆ Hosted 20 CPR/First Aid courses for local businesses
- ◆ Hosted EMT student ride-a-longs
- ◆ Baker Middle School Career Day
  
- ◆ Head Start Program
- ◆ Miner’s Jubilee
- ◆ Downtown Christmas Parade
- ◆ Downtown Halloween Event
  
- ◆ Carnegie Art Center Kid’s Day
- ◆ Hell’s Canyon Motorcycle Rally
- ◆ Shrine Parade
- ◆ National Night Out
  
- ◆ Relay for Life
- ◆ Kiwanis Parent Resource Fair
- ◆ Delivered Salvation Army Christmas food baskets
  
- ◆ Provided medical coverage for: Baker High School football games, Oregon Department of Forestry employee pack tests, Shrine All-Star football game, Baker Elks’ Bull and Bronc Blow-out, Elkhorn Classic Bicycle Race, Haines 4th of July Rodeo and Demolition Derby



## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

### **SAFER Grant**

The department applied for and was awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Resources (SAFER) grant. The grant award was \$426,099.00. The SAFER grant funded three additional 40hr firefighter positions. The increase in daily staffing has improved our level of service by reducing response times and increasing unit availability.

### **Active 911**

The department tested and approved an internet based notification system that provides emergency incident information to first responders over their hand held mobile device. Once alerted our first responders can read all the incident information, simply press a button to respond and then access a map with the fastest route to the call.

### **Remodeled Fire Station**

In cooperation with the Powder River Correctional Facility, the department painted the interior of station and completed the exterior, by painting the apparatus doors red. Department personnel re-arranged the interior space to improve functionality and to better reflect a more professional image. Firefighters also de-cluttered the inside of the station and removed old items and files using "State of Oregon Records Retention Schedule"

### **Adopt-A-Hydrant**

Due to the overwhelming amount of snow fall at the end of 2016 the department maintained its "Adopt-A-Hydrant" program that encouraged members of the community to shovel out buried hydrants and enter a photo to win gift certificates from local businesses.

### **Leo Adler Grant**

The department applied for and was awarded a Leo Adler Community grant for \$11,000. The department used the grant monies to purchase much needed equipment such as:

- 4 Thermal Image cameras and truck mounted chargers
- 17 new upgraded portable radios and chargers
- 17 high gain antennas
- Installed a new mobile radio into Command Vehicle
- New cardiac monitor batteries
- New "Smart Cot" technology batteries
- 2 new EMS field care bags

### **Target Solutions**

All personnel were enrolled in "Target Solutions" to improve our current training regimen. The program is internet based and allows the Training Officer to assign classes and training that can be accomplished any time on or off duty. The system tracks the training and provides for valuable data to demonstrate the effectiveness of the training. The new system meets all industry standards and complies with State and Federal training requirements.

### **Blue Card Training**

The "Blue Card" training program provides a training and certification system that defines the best Standard Command Practices for common, local, everyday strategic and tactical emergency operations conducted on NIMS Type 4 & Type 5 events. The training and certification program trains Incident Commanders to make better decisions that will potentially eliminate the lethal and/or costly mistakes that cause injury, death, and unnecessary fire losses in the local response area.

## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

### **Self Inspection Program**

The new “Self-Inspection” program allows fire personnel greater time to ensure life safety inspections are thorough and complete. It also provides for better education and interaction between fire inspectors and the public.

### **Paper-Less Fire Inspection Form**

Developed in Baker City by BCFD personnel, the new computerized fire inspection form allows fire personnel the ability to carry a hand held device that records the inspection information in the field and can then be downloaded later and the form emailed to the business owner. The new system reduces paper, time and improves service to our business partners.

### **Asset Management Tagging**

The department has implemented a computerized asset management system to track all equipment valued at over \$5,000. The accounting process tracks fixed assets for financial accounting, location, quantity, condition, maintenance and depreciation. Our approach to tracking fixed assets uses serial numbered asset tags, which are labels with bar codes for easy and accurate tracking. Emergency equipment is valuable to firefighters but it’s also valuable to taxpayers. At BCFD we want to ensure that we get the most life out of our equipment before we have to replace it.

### **Mission, Vision and Values**

Reviewed and revised our “Mission, Vision and Values” statement to better identify who we are and what our responsibilities are and how we can better serve our community.

### **Social Media Presence**

Increased the department’s social media presence by maintaining our Facebook page more often, added more relevant news and stories about the department and produced community posters to increase Paid Part-Time employee recruitment potential.

### **Upgraded I.T. Capabilities**

The department purchased a new “Fit Testing” laptop computer for SCBA testing to better comply with state mandated regulations. The department also purchased 6 new computer monitors for offices and the training room. These new monitors replaced small outdated monitors that were handed down from other agencies. In order to help with the new asset management capability, the department purchased bar coding hardware for inventory system.

### **Solar Eclipse**

Due to the planning complexities of the Solar Eclipse event fire personnel attended multiple planning and preparedness meetings leading up to the eclipse. The Fire Department FOC was opened and BCFD personnel managed the Alpha (A) Division consisting of approximately 750 square miles of Baker County under the Baker County Emergency Management plan.

### **City / County MOU**

Currently the Baker County Emergency Management Fire Division Coordinator is located in the fire station. This relationship serves to enhance the capabilities and efficiency of both organizations and results in the improvement of services to the citizens and our interagency partners.

### **Incident Action Plans**

In 2017 the Baker City Fire Department continued to develop Incident Action Plans to more effectively manage the many special events that occur in Baker City. These plans greatly improve our response capabilities and result in enhanced service levels to our community, visitors, and event participants.

## CITY AND COUNTY INSPECTIONS



The Building Department is operating with a fulltime multi-certified Building Official, Ken Hall and a fulltime Permit Technician, Monday through Friday. The office hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. to Noon.

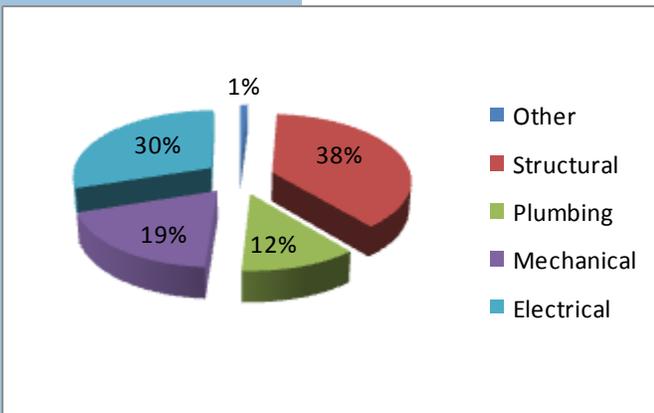
Rick Newman is contracted by the City to perform electrical inspections and commercial plan review.

Rick Newman, along with Tim Jaensch and Steve Sharlow also provide emergency inspection services in the absence of the Building Official.

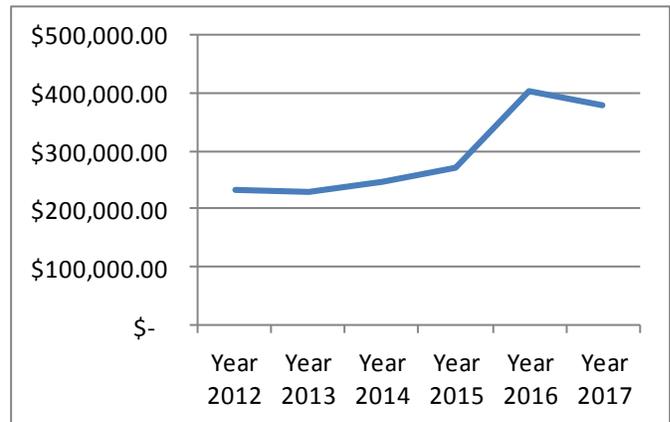
Residential Plan Review is performed within the 10 day timeframe as mandated by the State of Oregon, and the three week timeframe for Commercial Review. Plan review begins upon receipt of zoning/planning approval. Inspections for both the City and the County have also been maintained to be within the time required by the State of Oregon.

The revenue received from the sale of building permits stayed steady for 2017, and was on the rise at the close of the year.

2017 Inspections Performed



Building Permit Revenues



**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

The Baker City Planning Department provides daily services for property owners working to build new structures, divide property or move property lines, change the use of a property, start, move or expand a business, and more. The Planning Department is also tasked with administration of the Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the long term planning vision for the City, and the Development Code, which contains current policies for development.

During the 2017 planning year, staff completed work for updates to the Baker City Development Code’s (BCDC) **Freeway Overlay Zone (FOZ)** and **Sign Code chapter**. Staff also reviewed 24% more applications than in 2016 (and 2016 application reviews were a 17% increase over the previous year).

In 2017, the Planning Department completed reviews and decisions on **148** projects, presented matters for **11** public hearings before the Planning Commission, hosted **10** open houses or work sessions, and held **12** pre-application meetings for applications and projects with a higher level of complexity.

Our staff works hard to provide service and solutions to Baker City. We look forward to another year of service in 2018.

**Holly Kerns**, *Planning Director*

**A THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS....**

The Planning Commission consists of seven members with 4-year terms. The role of the Planning Commission is to develop, maintain and implement the Baker City Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, to protect the integrity of the community's planning process, and to foster the community's long-term interests. The Planning Commission is a decision-making body with legal authority to make decisions on requests for land use and development. The Planning Commission also makes recommendations to City Council for zoning and code amendments, and any other matter relating to the planning and development of the City.

*Alan Blair, Commission Chair*  
*Ken Rockwell, Vice Chair*

*Brandy Bruce*  
*Tim Collins*  
*Don Herman*

*Shem Carlson*  
*Aaron Still*

## 2017 UPDATES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CODE

**SIGN CODE:** The Baker City Development Code (BCDC) was amended in 2015. During the adoption process, a court decision was released identifying principles that needed to be incorporated into the sign chapter. City Council adopted all of the proposed changes in 2015 except for the sign chapter, and in 2016, the Planning Commission began work to revise the sign chapter. After many months of careful review, the revisions were finalized and adopted in 2017.

- ◆ Mailed a total of **4,065** notices to every landowner within the city of Baker City.
- ◆ Posted **35** informational posters throughout the city to inform citizens of proposed updates and how to participate in the process.
- ◆ The Planning Director and Senior Planner hosted **1** public open house relating to the proposed updates and were able to discuss concerns with those in attendance.
- ◆ Sent **9** press releases to local media outlets to garner public interest and input.
- ◆ Held **9** work sessions with the Baker City Planning Commission relating to the proposed updates.
- ◆ Provided information and answered questions for approximately **52** people by phone, email or at the counter.
- ◆ Published a webpage detailing all proposed BCDC updates, which received **147** views over a one month period.
- ◆ Held **1** public hearing before the Planning Commission.
- ◆ Presented **3** public hearings before the City Council.
- ◆ Notified the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) about all proposed updates and adoption.

## 2017 UPDATES TO THE DEVELOPMENT CODE

**FREEWAY OVERLAY DISTRICT:** Incorporated into the Baker City Sign Code, the Freeway Overlay District includes an area surrounding Interstate 84 where property and/or business owners are given greater flexibility when siting signs, with the intent of attracting freeway traffic. A recent increase in sign permit requests highlighted ways the existing Code was out of sync with the needs of freeway-oriented businesses, and the Planning Department initiated revisions to the standards and boundaries of the Freeway Overlay District.

- ◆ Mailed a total of **67** notices to every landowner within the Freeway Overlay Zone.
- ◆ Held **1** public open house relating to the proposed updates. The Planning Director and Senior Planner hosted the open house, and were available to discuss the proposed changes one-on-one with citizens.
- ◆ Sent **3** press releases to local media outlets to garner public interest and input.
- ◆ Held **2** work sessions with the Baker City Planning Commission relating to the proposed updates.
- ◆ Maintained a webpage detailing proposed FOZ updates.
- ◆ Held **1** public hearing before the Planning Commission.
- ◆ Presented **3** public hearings before the City Council.
- ◆ Notified the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) about all proposed updates and adoption.

## STANDOUT PROJECTS IN 2017

- ◆ Approval of a ±20,000ft<sup>2</sup> addition to Marvin Wood Products
- ◆ Approval of the conversion of the Western Motel at 2533 10<sup>th</sup> Street into apartment units
- ◆ Approval of the vacation of an undeveloped, dead-end portion of Allen Street

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In preparation for the 2017 Solar Eclipse, the Planning Department approved a total of 6 Temporary Use Permits for temporary RV and/or tent camping within the city limits. These Temporary Use Permits evaluated several aspects of the proposal, including access to and from the site, fire protection and prevention measures, parking plans, anticipated noise, odor and light levels, and waste disposal.

After last winter's heavy snowfall, eight (8) Floodplain Determinations were completed for Baker City residents in response to expected flooding during snow melt. These determinations allow residents to provide additional information to their insurance or mortgage companies in an effort to decrease insurance premiums.

The Planning Department utilized GIS resources to improve customer service capabilities, making transportation files available online, and creating a zoning layer compatible with Google Earth to provide more rapid information when helping someone who comes to the Department to inquire about a property.

**130**  
**TYPE I PERMITS**  
 (review and permits approved by staff which do not require public notifications or public hearing)

**11**  
**Public Hearings held before the Baker City Planning Commission**

**7**  
**TYPE II PERMITS**  
 (reviews and permits which require public notification and are approved by staff)

**9**  
**TYPE III PERMITS**  
 (reviews and permits which require both public notifications and a public hearing)

**2**  
**TYPE IV PERMITS**  
 (legislative matters which require the creation or revision of large-scale public policy)



# Police

## A Message from the Chief of Police

On behalf of the men and women of the Baker City Police Department, I want to welcome you to our 2017 Annual Report.

The fifteen men and three women, who make up our paid staff, are dedicated professionals who are honored to serve our great community. We hope that you find this report informative and that it will give you an insight into the service we have provided to our community this past year.

The Baker City Police Department (BCPD) is the only law enforcement agency within the 3088 square miles of Baker County to have 24 hour per day staffing, every day of the year. Our primary commitment to our community is to have patrol staff available to respond to the needs of our citizens at any time of the day or night.

This past year, we dedicated considerable overtime hours to narcotics enforcement. We saw our Reserve Program continue to save our community thousands of dollars while providing a high level of service and we saw our Citizen on Patrol Program continue to serve the department and our community in many ways. Our enhanced efforts to improve livability through code enforcement efforts have proven to be challenging, but rewarding on many occasions. Our code enforcement officer is easily the busiest employee working for the citizens of Baker City.

This coming year, two of our top goals will be to continue focusing strong efforts on drug-related crimes and to continue addressing the various livability issues with code enforcement. We have been grateful of our supportive community throughout 2017 and are hopeful that 2018 will be another great year for our department and the community we serve.

*~Wyn Lohner, Chief of Police*

## PERSONNEL~THE WOMEN AND MEN WHO SERVE

In 2017, the Baker City Police Department had two staffing changes. Officer Dan Vile, a recent retiree from California with a vast law enforcement career spanning four decades came to the Baker City Police Department for a brief period before retiring permanently and moving to the Salem area to be closer to family.

Following the departure of Officer Vile, the Department successfully recruited and hired Officer Michael Durr. Michael Durr, originally from John Day, began his law enforcement career with the Oregon State Police Department and most recently, brings his extensive experience working in a small town, rural area as a former John Day Police Department patrol officer. We welcome Officer Durr and look forward to his contribution the Department and the citizens of Baker City.



*(Pictured left to right)* Chief Wyn Lohner and Officer Mike Durr.



*(Pictured left to right)* Officer Chris Sells and Officer Blake Hawkins

In the course of his duties, Officer Blake Hawkins was recognized for his actions on June 5, 2017, when he went into a smoke-filled room and assisted a disabled citizen out of the burning apartment complex at 1490 Resort Street in Baker City.

Officer Hawkins received the Medal of Valor presented by the Oregon Peace Officers' Association. Officer Hawkins was nominated for the award by Sergeant Wayne Chastain, after details of Officer Hawkins actions were brought to the attention of the department by Officer Hawkins' partner, Officer Chris Sells, and Baker City citizens who were also on scene at the fire.

Officer Hawkins said that although he is "very appreciative of the award, he feels that he was just doing his job." He feels that "police officers are often put into extraordinary circumstances that necessitate immediate action and that this was no different for him."

## **RESERVE PROGRAM~THE WOMEN AND MEN WHO SERVE**



(Pictured above, left to right) Reserve Officer Dan Koopman , Reserve Commander Jerry Boyd, Reserve Officer Ruthie Pelayo and Patrol Officer Lance Woodward.



(Pictured to the right, left to right) Reserve Officer Mark Powell, Reserve Officer Ruthie Pelayo, Reserve Commander Jerry Boyd and Citizen On Patrol volunteer Dick Pedersen during the Twilight Parade.)

Police

The Baker City Police Department Reserve Program started 2017 with nine Reserve Officers; however, two Reserve Officers resigned and one requested to be placed on inactive duty.

Currently, the Reserve Program consists of the following active personnel:

- Reserve Commander Jerry Boyd, active since 2012.
- Reserve Officer Daniel Batchelor, Level III (solo patrol), active since 2012.
- Reserve Officer Ruthie Pelayo, Level II, active since 2012.
- Reserve Officer Justin Phlaum, Level II, active since 2012.
- Reserve Officer Mark Powell, Level II, active since 2014.
- Reserve Officer Jacob Hobbs, Level II, active since 2016.
- Reserve Officer Daniel Koopman, Level II, active since 2016.

The majority of time donated by Reserve Officers is spent assisting sworn patrol officers.

During 2017, Reserve Officers, were involved in the following activities:

- Bicycle and foot patrol.
- Assistance with investigations, scene security, security of mental holds, service of search and arrest warrants, evidence processing, staffing during training, serving as role players during department and regional SWAT training.
- Additional security during special events included Reserves working independently, alongside full-time officers and in partnership with Citizen on Patrol (COPS) volunteers.

Some of the special community events reserve officers assisted with included:

- Various parades.
- Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally.
- Miner's Jubilee including the Broncs and Bulls event.
- Downtown Trick-or-Treat.
- National Drug Take Back events held at the police department.
- National Night Out event held at the Geiser –Pollman Park.
- Annual BCPD K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser.
- Solar eclipse related activities and duties.

It is the overall goal of the reserve officers to continue to make a positive contribution to the Baker City Police Department and to the citizens of Baker City. Currently, several applicants are working through the application process and if accepted, will be trained and made available to assist in all the ways our current reserve officers contribute to the success of the program.

## CITIZENS ON PATROL~THE WOMEN AND MEN WHO SERVE



(Pictured back row, left to right) COP Volunteers, Linda Hudson, Marc Mansholt, Jim White, Dick Pedersen and (Pictured front row, left to right) COP Volunteers, Edith Richerson and Marlene Rogers during the Annual Easter Hunt at the Geiser-Pollman Park.



(Pictured left to right) COP Volunteers Edith Richerson and Marlene Rogers ringing a bell for Salvation Army in front of Bi-Mart during the Christmas Holiday Season.

Police

The COPs (Citizens on Patrol) program features volunteers from various walks of life who assist the Department in a variety of ways. This past year has been a busy one for the COPs (Citizens on Patrol).

They were present in the park during community events. They manned the newly remodeled outbuilding where they greeted park-goers, handing out stickers, coloring books and crayons, informational brochures, and other information. Moving forward, the COPs hope to have the Child Identification Program up and running, providing parents with a copy of their child's fingerprints to keep on file.

Other events and activities COPs assisted with included:

- \* Delivered stuffed Easter Eggs for the Annual Easter Egg hunt.
- \* Patrolled the Geiser-Pollman Park during the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- \* Participated in National Night Out.
- \* Served lunches at two elementary schools.
- \* Patrolled Main Street during the Downtown Halloween Trick-or-treat event.
- \* Participated in the Christmas Twilight Parade with the COP car as an entry.
- \* Provided front counter assistance as needed and during absences of regular administrative staff.
- \* Assisted in the evidence room, cataloging and sorting items.
- \* Performed elder in-home checks as assigned.
- \* Visited with citizens during the annual Car Show in the park.
- \* Assisted the Salvation Army as bell ringers in front of Bi-Mart during the Christmas season.

The COPs continue to find new and inventive ways to serve the Baker City Police Department and the community. We are open to new members who wish to volunteer time to further the livability of Baker City.

## **NORTHEAST OREGON S.W.A.T.**

At the end of 2017, the NEO Regional SWAT Team was staffed by 33 operational members. Membership is comprised of personnel from four law enforcement agencies, two fire departments and one dispatch center. The participating agencies are the Baker City Police Department, Baker County Sheriff's Office, La Grande Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, Baker City Fire Department, La Grande Fire Department and Baker County Consolidated Dispatch.

There are four individual elements within the team structure: Tactical, TEMS (Tactical Emergency Medical Services, CNT (Crisis Negotiations Team) and Support. The four elements collectively make up the team. Baker City Police Department is represented by three members, two that serve as tactical and one that serves as a member of the CNT team.

The team was not called upon for any operational deployments during 2017. The lack of a need to activate SWAT during the past year is excellent for our communities; however, requires steadfast dedication on the part of the team in order to maintain operational readiness. High risk, low frequency, police functions (such as SWAT) demand frequent, relevant and quality training to maintain proficiency.

During this past year, NEO Regional SWAT has made a dedicated effort to work on attrition planning within the leadership and command structure of the team. A number of command responsibilities were shared with subordinate leadership, with the intent of providing training and mentoring opportunities for the future leadership of the team to ensure that NEO Regional SWAT is a viable asset for all partnering agencies, well into the future.

NEO Regional SWAT has been operational for 5.5 years. The men and women, from their collective agencies, continue to be the team's most valuable asset. These members represent a collection of the most capable and experienced public safety employees from Baker and Union Counties.

<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TACTICAL</b>	<b>TEMS</b>	<b>CNT</b>	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Baker City Police Department	2		1		3
Baker City Fire Department		1			1
Baker County Sheriff's Office	1				1
Baker County Consolidated Dispatch			2		2
La Grande Police Department	8		6		14
La Grande Fire Department		4			4
Union County Sheriff's Office	8				8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>33</b>

## Code Enforcement

### PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Crime prevention specialists know that property neglect sends a negative message which perpetuates further decay, lowers property values, and attracts the criminal element. Intervention through partnerships within the community, local law enforcement and fire safety officers, are a golden opportunity to build long-term relationships while educating residents, ensuring property code compliance, and helping individuals in need of assistance. We feel this is especially true today and this is reflected in our vision for code enforcement which is to optimize all available resources in order to foster positive relationships with Baker City's community residents and local businesses.

Some notable cases opened in 2017:

- \* 25 property maintenance cases with 19 cases resolved, including 23 citations issued for nuisances affecting the public and one property abated through court order.
- \* Citations issued for parking violations went from 172 issued in 2016 to 332 issued in 2017, an increase of 52%. In addition, citations involving unlawful storage of dismantled vehicles and/or storage of vehicles on private property increased from 19 issued in 2016 to 34 issued in 2017.



### ANIMAL CONTROL

- \* 34 dog at large citations were issued in 2016, a slight decrease from 2015. Other animals, including chickens, ducks, pigs, sheep and the occasional horse were also found to be running at large within the city limits in 2017.
- \* Three Allowing a Dog to be a Nuisance (barking) citations were issued.
- \* 23 no dog license citations were issued.
- \* 48 other animal violations were issued in 2017.
- \* 11 dangerous and/or vicious dog ordinance citations were issued in 2017.
- \* Five potentially dangerous and/or vicious dog cases and two problem pet owner cases were brought before the Hearings Officer in 2017. Of these cases, one case was found to meet the designation of a dangerous dog and one meet the designation of a vicious dog with both potential problem pet owner cases found to meet this designation.
- \* 652 dogs were licensed thru the 2017 calendar year. At the end of 2017, 159 dogs were licensed thru 2018 and 143 dogs were licensed thru 2019.
- \* Four livestock permits were issued.
- \* Eight kennel permit applications were received in 2017. Of these applications, five were approved for households with more than four dogs, one was approved for a household with more than four cats and two were not approved and/or issued.

### WEED ABATEMENT

127 weed abatement complaints were addressed during 2017. The majority of these complaints came into compliance upon receipt of written notification. Of the properties not brought into voluntary compliance, two were hired out to local contractors by Baker City at the expense of the property owner and four were issued a written citation for failure to comply.

## ***SPECIAL EVENTS, COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS AND OTHER NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS***

Some of the events and functions our staff assisted with or participated in included:

- \* BCPD full-time officers and Reserve Officers assisted with traffic control and general safety during the 2017 Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally and the Miner's Jubilee celebration.
- \* Purchased with funding donated by Baker City Rotary Club, bicycle helmets were distributed to students at Head Start and Harvest Christian School as well as to children on a walk-in basis at the department. This celebrates our fifth year partnering with Baker City Rotary in providing local children with free bicycle helmets.
- \* BCPD staff, including COP (Citizens on Patrol) volunteers and Reserve Officers participated in National Night Out.
- \* Three BCPD full-time and three Reserve Officers participated in the annual Tip-a-Cop fundraiser, benefitting Special Olympics, held at Barley Browns. This fundraiser set a record, raising \$2,850 for Special Olympics!
- \* Sergeant Wayne Chastain presented Lynette Perry (*pictured to the right*) with a donation raised by BCPD staff who participated in "No Shave November" event. The donation was given in contribution towards the purchase of a service dog for a local woman who suffers from severe seizures.
- \* Administrative Assistant Phoebe Wachtel and SRO Lance Woodward participated in a bicycle safety event at Harvest Christian School.
- \* BCPD personnel, along with citizen assistance, conducted a garage sale fundraiser for the Department's Drug K9 Program, raising almost \$1,000.00.
- \* Held the second Annual BCPD K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser, raising over \$30,000.00, benefiting the K9 program! Over 200 people were in attendance at this event.
- \* BCPD, hosted, in partnership with the Salvation Army, an Angel Tree and a non-perishable food donation barrel to benefit the less fortunate during the holiday season.
- \* Hosted a National Drug Take Back event which netted approximately 58 pounds in unwanted or expired prescription drugs. This event, tentatively scheduled to take place twice a year, replaces the 24-hour collection/drop-box that was located in the lobby of the police department.
- \* Sergeant Chastain and K9 Capa gave demonstrations, depicting how Capa works in alerting to illegal narcotics, for various community groups.
- \* SRO Officer Woodward participated in the National Walk and Bike Day held for Brooklyn Students.
- \* SRO Lance Woodward, Lieutenant Dustin Newman and Chief Wyn Lohner attended a presentation given to Middle School and High School students by Natalie Marti. Ms. Marti is a motivational speaker and author who speaks about losing her husband and 5-month-old daughter to a DUII driver.



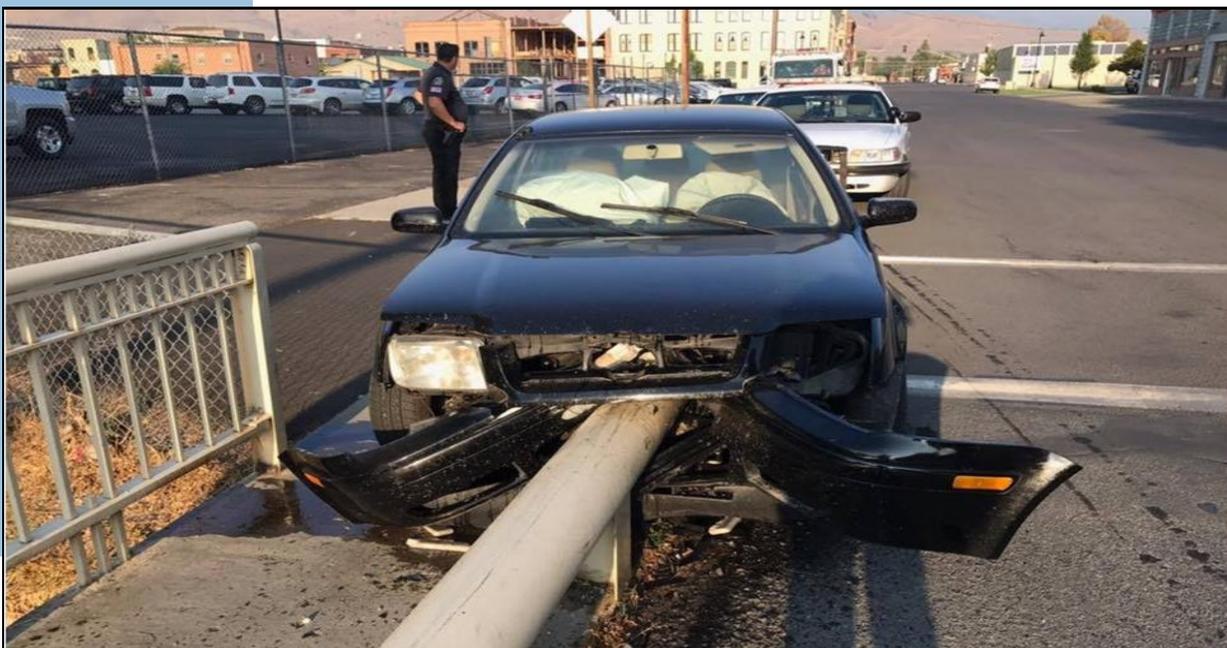
## CRIME RATES AND POLICE STATISTICS

Crime rates for the most part are cyclical and will vary based on numerous factors which relate to demographic and economic factors, but also, the criminal justice systems as a whole. Any breakdown in this system can have a significant impact on the types of crimes a particular community might encounter. An additional factor in small communities with low crime rates, such as Baker City, is “spree crimes.” One individual or group, participating in a criminal spree such as multiple burglaries committed in private homes or businesses, can greatly affect the statistics.

This year has seen a dramatic increase in Minor’s in Possession of Marijuana, which is a direct result of the legalization of Marijuana in Oregon. Fortunately, our community does not have dispensaries, which would most likely makes those numbers climb even higher. For further details of these cases and others, please see the itemized statistical list of incidents our officers have addressed this past year.

Notable statistics for 2017 reflect the following increases and/or decreases when compared with 2016:

- \* Overall arrests reflected a small decrease, 84 fewer arrests, from **1003** in 2016 to **916** in 2017. Arrests for Assault IV Domestic more than doubled, from **14** in 2016 to **31** in 2017, accounting for **3%** of all arrests. Arrests for Assault in the First Degree saw no change, while arrests for Assault in the Second Degree went from just **1** arrest in 2016 to **4** in 2017, an increase of **75%**.
- \* Overall citations issued remained virtually unchanged from 2016. Certain non-traffic related offenses such as citations issued for Minor in Possession (MIP) of Marijuana, with **17** in 2016, realized a steady climb in 2017 with **22** citations issued, an **23%** increase.
- \* The total number of traffic warnings issued reflected a **22%** increase over the previous year with **1,950** given in 2017, up from **1,599** in 2016.



### ***Auburn Street Reconstruction Project***



The Public Works Department accomplished some major projects in 2017, including a full-depth reclamation and asphalt paving project on Auburn from Main to 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and on five short blocks between Resort Street and Main Street downtown; Church, Baker, Madison, Washington and Valley. Additional preventative maintenance work involved chip sealing 67,523 yd<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Airport Apron Reconstruction Project***



Pictured above is the completed airport apron reconstruction and fuel storage expansion at the Baker City Municipal Airport. These improvements were made possible by funding from Connect Oregon and the Federal Aviation Administration. The \$1.8 million dollar project, funded entirely through grant dollars, was completed by the end of July, 2017.

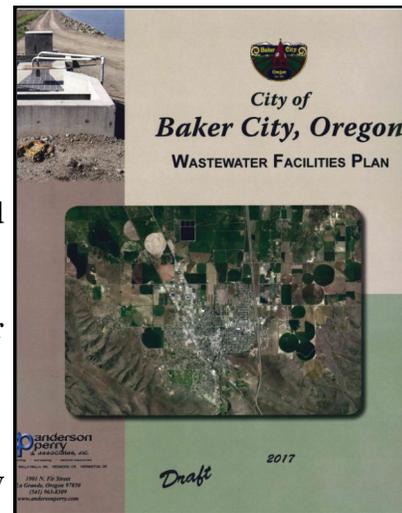
## Water

A new self-cleaning screen for the Mill Creek Diversion was completed. Public Works Crew constructed a new ductile iron pipeline connecting the new self-cleaning screen to the main mountain pipeline. Installing the new screen will improve the flow of clean water from Mill Creek into the pipeline coming to town.



## Wastewater

The City of Baker City currently disposes of treated effluent from our wastewater treatment lagoon into the Powder River. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) informed the City of upcoming new limits for discharge. These additional limits will require the City to modify its current disposal method. The City entered into a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with (DEQ) in January, 2017, which included a requirement to update our Wastewater Facilities Plan (WWFP) by the end of the year. The WWFP was completed and the full document can be viewed on the City's website: [bakercity.com](http://bakercity.com). The focus of this WWFP is on the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) and the disposal of treated effluent from the lagoon, including evaluating specific properties for use in land application. Wastewater system improvements as outlined in the WWFP will provide the City with a reliable, quality wastewater system that is anticipated to meet the needs of Baker City for many years to come.



## Leo Adler Memorial Parkway

The Leo Adler Memorial Parkway (LAMP) received much needed repair with grant funds from Cycle Oregon. Public Works saw cut, excavated and patched 18 damaged areas along the pathway. Tree roots were the main culprit causing damage to the pathway surface.



## Tree City



The City of Baker City was recognized as Oregon’s “Tree City of the Year” in 2017 by Oregon Community Trees and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Over the past 32 years, Baker City has grown a healthy urban forest for all citizens and visitors to enjoy. Pictured here City staff are working on a downtown tree planting project.



Tree Board volunteers also assist with tree planting events as well as many other tree-related activities on public land or within the public right-of-way.

In 2017, Tree Board members planted a tree in South Baker Park and in Central Park.

## Parks and Recreation

The Parks Department, with community support, realized several improvements to our neighborhood parks. New playground equipment was installed at Cedar Acres Park. The equipment purchase was funded entirely by a grant from the Ash Grove Charitable Foundation. The installation work was done by volunteers of the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association Maintenance and Construction Section. The local Lions Club provided the addition of a horseshoe pit.



Central Park was also enhanced during the year with the addition of the community Art on Loan program and construction of the Baker City Labyrinth. In addition, portable picnic tables were replaced with permanent tables at several of our parks and green spaces, including River Park Park and South Baker Park.

## Equipment

The Public Works fleet saw some new additions. Equipment purchased included a front-end loader, street sweeper, and a dozer. The new sweeper arrived early in the year and accounted for 91% of streets swept in 2017. The loader is used in daily public works operations and the dozer will be used primarily on the Mountain Line replacement project for the next several years.



## ***Other Interesting Facts:***

### WATER:

- ◆ 924,168,000 gallons of water was delivered to consumers.
- ◆ 66.14 MG (million gallons) of water was injected in the Aquifer.
- ◆ 98 water meters were replaced.

### WATERSHED:

- ◆ 147 watershed entry permits were issued for the 2017 hunting seasons.

### WASTEWATER:

- ◆ 460 MG of inflow was received at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ◆ 113,334 feet of wastewater main lines were jetted (cleaned).
- ◆ 40,686 feet of wastewater main lines were video inspected.
- ◆ 4,297 feet of CIPP (Cured In Place Pipe) lining was installed including Pipe Bursting.

### STREETS:

- ◆ 71 street signs were replaced, repaired or added to the system.
- ◆ 263 street lights were repaired (lamps/photo cells replaced).
- ◆ 9,865 street blocks were swept.
- ◆ 55,150 lbs. of salt used for snow and ice control.

### STORMWATER:

- ◆ 465 catch basins were cleaned.
- ◆ 1,879 feet of storm lines were cleaned or video-inspected.

### CEMETERY:

- ◆ 483 grave locates were performed.

### PARKS:

- ◆ 111 reservations were made at our City parks including 36 large events.

### TECHNICAL SERVICES:

- ◆ 916 utility locates were performed.
- ◆ 25 sidewalk grants were issued.

### EQUIPMENT

- ◆ 448 vehicle/equipment repairs were completed.
- ◆ 100 routine maintenance services were completed.

### OTHER

Public Works staff continue to maintain the appropriate certifications for drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, Commercial Drivers License, Professional Land Surveyor, Certified Water Rights Examiner, Professional Engineer, Certified Playground Inspector, Pesticide/Herbicide Applications.

The department was awarded grants for improvements at Baker City Municipal Airport, Cedar Acres Park, Central Park and Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. Grant funds were also received to conduct a water reuse feasibility study.

The City of Baker City received the 2017 Oregon Urban and Community Forestry Award for the Oregon Tree City of the year.

*January*



*February*



*March*



*April*



*June*



*August*



*September*



*July*



*November*



*October*



*December*

