



Champions For Effective Local Government

OKLAHOMA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, INC.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALLISAW HONORED FOR TOP INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

OKLAHOMA CITY(September 15, 2016) – The City of Sallisaw was the recipient of the 2016 Municipal Innovations Award for population under 10,000 for their “Dirt Jockeys Saves the City over Two Million Dollars” project during today’s Oklahoma Municipal League Annual Awards Breakfast.

As the budgets have tightened across the state the City of Sallisaw was feeling the pinch as well. Budget issues along with capital improvement projects left the City of Sallisaw looking to make very tough choices including cutting city staff. City staff presented a plan that resulted in the completion of the capital improvement projects at a fraction of the cost and maintained all current city employees. The plan maximized the skill set and efficiency of existing City employees who were being underutilized. This plan created a newly formed heavy equipment construction crew.

The new construction crew, the Dirt Jockeys, will complete several major capital improvement projects, including the new leachate lagoon, the opening of a new cell at the landfill as well as dirt work and construction of a new flow equalization basin at the wastewater treatment plant. Estimated savings will be over two million dollars in the next three years.

The City of Sallisaw came together with the city council and the city manager to solve their budget crisis and saved jobs and tax payer dollars. The entire community benefits from this new construction crew and the construction crews are able to gain more experience using heavy equipment and working on multi-million dollar construction projects.

About Oklahoma Municipal League

The mission of the OML is to provide services and programs required by municipal officials to assist them in better serving their citizens, and to act as the representative of Oklahoma municipalities in interactions requiring a united voice. Since 1913, the League has served as the individual and collective voice of local officials on the state and national level.