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Wednesday, June 3, 2009

### London awarded \$5.2 million for sewer system

Story date: June 3, 2009

By Cindi Nobles Reporter

LONDON — The city was awarded \$5.2 million in grants in 2008 through Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and Rural Development to install a new sewer system throughout most of the city along with a treatment plant that will be located at the end of Bewley Lane. The city will have to borrow the an additional \$750,000 to complete the job.



THE COURIER / Joshua Mashon

London Mayor Eddie Price said health officials contacted city officials several years before being elected into office, and notified officials the property in the city would not "perk" without a sewer system. Currently, London residents use septic tanks.

Price said after he became mayor of the city 10 years ago, Bill Sorrells, a member of what was Perkins Engineering, applied for grants several times before services were turned over to West Central Planning Development of Hot Springs. The grant money was approved after the ninth year of submitting applications. During the application process, engineers from the local office of Crafton, Tull and Sparks began drafting plans for the sewer system.

Soon the residents of London won't use septic tanks and their property values will increase, Price said.

"We had to pursue getting a sewer system. The people of London wanted this well before I became mayor, but we had to have grants in order to do it," Price said. "If we had part of a sewer system to begin with, it wouldn't have been a big thing. We did all the surveys and with the help of Rep. John Boozman we became eligible. He made sure they were able to secure extra funds."

There are three projects involved with the new sewer system, and bids were opened three months ago for lines and a gathering system, treatment plant and lift stations.

Bids were accepted with Palidino Construction from Conway for the lines and gathering system (\$1,832,200), B3 Construction of Beebe for the lift stations (\$343,560.74) and Crossland Heavy Contractors from Kansas for the treatment plant (\$1,622,000). Work has started in the city, and the longest contract has a projected length of 274 working days. The treatment plant is an odorless plant that will have a bagging system without ponds.

"About half way through the project, West Central Planning Development will send out letters. Those who feel they may qualify,

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which is low-to moderate-income, can apply for a grant for hook up to the sewer system," Price said. "We won't know... how much it will cost each home to be added to the system until we put bids out for someone to get everyone hooked up."

\$1.2 million was eliminated from the plans before the project began due to lack of funding. Residential areas east of the First Baptist Church and east of Mill Creek Ridge will not be included in the city sewer system.

For more information, call 293-4513.

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