

## Bobbie Walthall

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**To:** Porter Arneill  
**Subject:** RE: Raising city water bill -----to the City commission

**From:** Joan Stevenson [<mailto:js702014@att.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** City Hall email <[CityHallemail@lawrenceks.org](mailto:CityHallemail@lawrenceks.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Raising city water bill -----to the City commission

Please forward this email to [Lsoden@lawrenceks.org](mailto:Lsoden@lawrenceks.org). I tried to send it and its been returned as NOT her current address????  
Thank you

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Joan Stevenson](#)  
**Date:** 7/10/2017 3:21:14 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients  
**Subject:** Raising city water bill -----to the City commission

Folks its time to go slower on this spending money. Every paper seems to have the poor taxpayers being taxed to the hilt. Lawrence is going to run people like me who live on a fixed income out of town or to a tent down by the river!!!! Those of us on Social Security havent had a raise is so long cant remember when!!!!

Now the School is raising our real estate taxes, the county decided it should, and now you the city commissioners are on the verge of raising it all, including one for a new police building. Yet no new industry to help pay in the city, low paying jobs only.

My money tree died years ago, and its not going to grow ever again. PLUs even if we have savings its going fast to taxes and interest rates have bottomed out ten years ago. So we cant get a whole lot of help there. I go to the county to get my taxes cut back because for years they have OVER priced 90% of property here in Douglas cty, they lower it but when my tax bill comes its higher than before got the appraisal rate down!!!!!! All because of increase in just what is listed in the above paragraph. Some of this is not needs but wants in the city. Why right now do we need auto reading water meters? Good paying jobs are scarce as it is!!!! Soon humans wont be needed for any job, will all be done by robots!!!! We don't need a tunnel off 19th, cant some of this expense wait a tad?

On another note, since I am on this tangent called money: why paper bags for yard clippings? It sure isn't good for the trees of America, for how many trees have to be cut for a paper bag for yard junk here in Lawrence? When we could use our own old trash containers, they were recycled for years, but nope not now, those plastic cans are obsolete. Of course I imagine the main thought was all those stupid taxpayers will just purchase another cart from you for \$60.00!!!! After all it's just money. So now the paper takes over and Lawrence sure isn't thinking ecology. Nope those trash haulers just didn't want to lift those plastic cans anymore. Sad it is!!!!

They should have thought that, cause soon they will be obsolete too and looking for another job, cause automation is taking over their jobs too.

Thanks for letting me write this griping letter!!!!

Sincerely,  
Joan Stevenson  
A poor taxpayer



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JUL 10 2017

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS

Mayor Leslie Soden  
PO Box 708,  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Ms. Soden,

I am writing to ask for your support. Women's Fresh Start Project (WFSP) is a social enterprise that has been in existence in Lawrence for 3 years. Our mission is to lead women to self-sufficiency through employment.

It takes a village to make the lasting difference we envision for the disadvantaged women we serve. We have worked hard to develop a program that gives women employment opportunities while also giving them life/work skills training. We work closely with a network of referral partners to identify women at risk who can benefit from our program. Family Promise, DCCCA First Steps, The Jail Reentry Program, Willow, and Ballard have all sent us referrals. The cost to train each woman is approximately \$15,000.00. Unfortunately, the sale of our products does not cover the cost of the training class. While our goal is to see our dependence on donations and grants decrease as our business grows, it will take time to build our revenue to the point we can operate independently. Our production facility, located in the basement of First United Methodist Church at 946 Vermont, is a work lab which is designed to give the women in our program a safe work space, where they learn punctuality, team work, conflict management and computer skills. It is a place we teach work ethics and the importance of becoming self sufficient through employment. At the end of each 6 month class, the women are given opportunities to interview with our business partners in the community. It is our goal that each woman find meaningful employment that provides her with a living wage. The end-result is that we are breaking the cycle of poverty for our graduates and their families. The economic impact is measurable when the woman and her family no longer need services from other not for profit organizations in the community. Instead, they become contributing members of the community. Just imagine in 5 years Lawrence having 25 fewer families who need assistance! WFSP is literally giving Lawrence families a hand up out of poverty.

As Board President and a founding member of Women's Fresh Start Project I would like to thank you for considering WFSP as a worthy recipient of City of Lawrence funds. Your support is critical to our sustainability!

All my best,

Laurie Muder, RN, MSN, MBA  
WFSP Board President  
946 Vermont Street  
Lawrence Kansas 66044  
785-423-4388



# Lawrence City Commission

Before you raise taxes or mill levee, think about what you are doing to the people in Lawrence and Douglas County. When you raise taxes, you solve one problem and cause 1,000 more. You are taking money from people who cannot afford more taxes. Many of these people are out of work, have low paying jobs, or are seniors that make the ~~minimum~~ on Social Security. These seniors have less money in 2017 than they did in 2014. The economy is flat. Sears and Penny's are closing stores. I was in Kohl's recently and it was a ghost town. I have seen assistant managers at Walmart and HyVee pushing carts and stocking shelves. When you raise taxes, there is less discretionary money available, which in turn hurts small businesses. Small business owners are seeing smaller profit margins because consumers have to choose more carefully on how they spend. These same small business owners then have to pay their own higher taxes. Raising taxes takes cash from the consumers that would have been spent at businesses in Lawrence/Douglas County. Tax increases create a vicious circle, less consumer spending means less sales tax collected, less profit for small businesses which effects their operating capital. I know you have the power to raise taxes, but you have an obligation to the people who voted for you and are counting on you to spend wisely and consider the necessity of some spending projects.

You Ask which programs do we do with out to keep from Raising taxes.

Tax payers have to eliminate programs At there home to be able to pay the higher taxes.

Scott Henderson  
4817 W 25th

Lawrence Kansas 66047

842-6874

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JUN 26 2017

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS



PO Box 708, Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
(785) 764-5509 or (785) 832-3202

## Memorandum City of Lawrence Employee Relations Council (ERC)

**TO:** Tom Markus, City Manager  
Leslie Soden, Mayor  
Stuart Boley, Vice Mayor  
**CC:** Mike Amyx, Matthew Herbert, Lisa Larsen; City Commissioners  
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager  
Casey Toomay, Assistant City Manager  
Brandon McGuire, Assistant to the City Manager  
Lori Carnahan, HR Manager, ERC Liaison  
**FROM:** Employee Relations Council  
**DATE:** June 20, 2017  
**RE:** 2018 Budget Considerations

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The Employee Relations Council (ERC) is requesting that the City Commission consider funding a 3-percent merit pool as previously budgeted (not 1-percent as proposed in the City Manager's Recommended Budget). The ERC does appreciate the recent update to the recommended budget to include longevity at \$4/month of service for all eligible employees. Longevity paid to employees at the end of the year is an important benefit that should not be overlooked. As Government employees, we are not able to receive bonuses as in the private sector. Longevity payments are a way to show appreciation for employees staying loyal year after year.

The majority of City employees live within the City limits of Lawrence. Over the past few years and into the near future there will continue to be significant increases in costs for residents of Lawrence. Rate increases are planned for utility services as well as parking downtown. In addition, County property taxes have sharply increased. A merit increase of 1-percent for Non-MOU employees does not keep up with these increases to basic cost-of-living expenses.

Departments have voiced concern that through attrition other employees have needed to pick up the slack without additional pay. One way to show support to employees having to shoulder a heavier workload would be to keep the merit pool strong.

Last year we had a 2-percent merit pool, decreasing that to 1-percent is not good for employee retention and morale. Having an increasing merit pool is an attractive benefit for current employees and to any potential applicant.

Historical merit pool percentages for Non-MOU employees from the last five years:

2013, 1%  
2014, 2.5%  
2015, 2%  
2016, 3%  
2017, 2%  
2018, 1% proposed

We ask that you invest in your greatest and strongest asset, the employees of the organization. Although we may not understand all of the complexities involved in establishing a budget, we ask that the City Commission continue to support City employees by considering these recommendations.