



INTRODUCTION

The City of Lawrence was founded in 1854 by the New England Emigrant Aid Company of Massachusetts, whose treasurer was Amos A. Lawrence of Boston for whom the City is named. On September 18, 1854, the Lawrence Association was formed and a City constitution was adopted. The territorial legislature incorporated the town in 1855, but Lawrence citizens never organized under the act. On July 13, 1857, a Charter was approved establishing a Mayor, and a Board of Aldermen who governed the City, however, this Charter was never put into effect as a pro-slavery territory. The governor considered this an act of treason and it was not until free-state forces gained control of the territorial legislature that a Charter for Lawrence was adopted. On February 11, 1858 the territorial legislature passed a Charter for the City and it was accepted February 20, 1858. The Charter created a Mayor and a board of 12 council members. The current City Commission-City Manager form of government was established in February 1952.

The City of Lawrence operates under the City Commission-City Manager form of government. The voters of the City of Lawrence elect the City Commission, which is composed of five members elected from the City at large on a nonpartisan basis. The mayor is elected by the City Commission on an annual basis. The City Commission is the governing body, and is responsible for the appointment of the City Manager.

The City Manager is responsible for administering policies and enforcing all City laws and ordinances enacted by the City Commission. Every employee in the City organization is responsible ultimately to the City Manager. The City Manager answers directly to the City Commission.

The Department Directors are appointed by the City Manager. The Director performs such duties related to the specific department as prescribed by the City Commission, City Manager, City ordinances, and State statutes. Directors are responsible for making work assignments, explaining regulations concerning hours of work, the lunch period, vacations, sick leave, and all aspects of a job. Department Directors are directly responsible to the City Manager for the conduct and performance of all the employees of the department. Responsibility for implementation of departmental and City policies may be delegated to an Assistant Director or supervisory personnel in the department.