



Annual Report 2023

Western Arkansas Planning
& Development District



*Proudly serving the six counties
of Western Arkansas*

WWW.WAPDD.ORG

2023 has been an outstanding year here at the district! We are thrilled to highlight our team's achievements and share how the future is bright for Western Arkansas!



Annual Report 2023

Since 1966, proudly serving the six counties of Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian.

CONTENTS

05

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

06

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

28

SUPPORT STAFF

10

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

12 Crawford County

14 Franklin County

15 Logan County

16 Polk County

17 Scott County

18 Sebastian County

20 Project Pictures

24

WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

28

FRONTIER MPO

32

911/GIS

34

WAIA

36

2023 CAPTURED



Executive Committee

Mayor Daniel Rogers, Past President
 Mayor Gary Baxter
 Mr. Sandy Sanders
 Mr. Rusty Myers
 Mr. Alex Sanchez
 Mr. Gary Briley
 Judge Steve Hotz
 Mayor David Millard
 Judge Brandon Ellison

Thank you for your years of service!

WAPDD was able to recognize and thank Joe Earp, Gary Briley, and Billy Dooly for 29 plus years of dedicated service to our board.

Officers



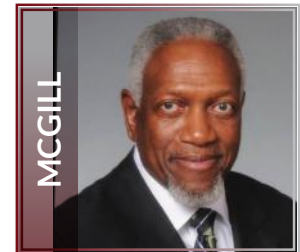
PRESIDENT
 JUDGE RICKEY BOWMAN



VICE PRESIDENT
 JUDGE RAY GACK



SECRETARY
 MRS. JULIE MURRAY



TREASURER
 MAYOR GEORGE MCGILL

WAPDD Board of Directors

Crawford County

Judge Chris Keith
Mrs. Julie Murray

City of Alma

Mayor Jim Fincher

City of Mulberry

Mayor Gary Baxter

City of Van Buren

Mayor Joe Hurst
Mr. Rusty Myers

Logan County

Judge Ray Gack
Mr. Joe Earp
Mrs. Tonya Fletcher

City of Booneville

Mayor Edgar Baker

City of Paris

Mayor Daniel Rogers

Scott County

Judge Brian Jones

City of Waldron

Mayor David Millard

Franklin County

Judge Rickey Bowman
Mr. Gary Briley

City of Charleston

Mayor Mike Baumgartner

City of Ozark

Mayor Roxie Hill

Polk County

Judge Brandon Ellison

City of Mena

Mayor Seth Smith
Mrs. Melanie Wade

Sebastian County

Judge Steve Hotz
Mr. Billy Dooly
Mr. Sandy Sanders

City of Barling

Mayor Greg Murray

City of Fort Smith

Mayor George McGill
Mr. Carl Geffken
Mr. Eddie Lee Herndon
Mr. Mitch Minnick
Mr. Kevin Settle
Sister Judith Keith
Mr. Alex Sanchez
Mr. Shea Foldvary

City of Greenwood

Mayor Doug Kinslow

City of Lavaca

Mayor Hugh Hardgrave

City of Mansfield

Mayor Buddy Black



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



SASHA GRIST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we compiled this 2023 Annual Report, I reflected upon the past year with increasing pride and admiration for what Western Arkansas Planning and Development District (WAPDD) staff have accomplished and put into action. I also felt enormous gratitude to our WAPDD Board Members, elected officials, and local, state and federal partners for always connecting with us, providing support for us, and trusting us. WAPDD strongly values the relationships that we have with our members and partners. As always, we look forward to more opportunities to work together to better our communities.

2023 has been a great year for WAPDD and our region! This past year our organization helped secure over \$24,937,286 in federal and state grant funds through our community and economic development department, our intermodal authority, and our Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as well as many additional planning and technical assistance grants. This stated total grant funding does not include how our workforce department facilitates federal and state funding to our workforce participants, creates partnerships and increases our program's capacity as well as conducts career events and business outreach to assist in future economic development outcomes. Our GIS department also works alongside many of our communities in assisting in infrastructure improvements in utilities, services, and parks and trails. Not only is our district participating in securing beneficial amounts of funding in our area, but we are also connecting the right people to facilitate successful projects and to increase participation in relevant technical assistance and projects with the goal of continuing to move forward in our region's future development. We look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead of us with continual new grant possibilities, additional infrastructure improvements such as I-49 and the new inland port development, and the increased passion and participation for developing new ideas and projects in areas such as community and economic development and quality of place making. It is truly an exciting time for us!

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

2023 has been a great year for WAPDD and our region!

The highlights of 2023 include watching our staff grow as they have increased their knowledge and experiences and attained goals that they have made for themselves. Shannon Scott, from our GIS team, won Arkansas Floodplain Administrator of the Year. She has worked so hard to learn everything that she can in floodplain administration and has found new ways to assist our member organizations in the floodplain and emergency management area. Our Frontier MPO and WAPDD were chosen to receive the 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. It was an amazing honor to watch our MPO Director, Reese Brewer, accept this award. Our MPO and Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority partnered together to go after many new grants that we have never submitted before, and for the first time,

\$24,937,286.75
Total funds secured this year!

we were awarded a federal Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant in the amount of \$15,096,000. We have also had many workforce members complete workforce certifications to increase their program understanding, as well as attain additional credentials. Many of our team members are using their expertise and leadership to expand their networks by joining boards, volunteering, and attending programs such as the Community Development Institute. One of our submitted photographs that represented an image from Logan County and the downtown area of Paris won the People's Choice award from the NADO photo contest. It has been extremely rewarding this year to watch our staff and community projects be acknowledged for great work and innovative ideas. I feel that we are just getting started, and I look forward to the future of WAPDD and of all of the communities we serve.

Granted, we have also faced tremendous challenges this year, such as plant closures in our area and more stringent grant eligibility requirements that make grant competitiveness more difficult, but our staff and community leaders have come together during these tough times and have looked for innovative solutions and opportunities. Our workforce department immediately shifted to assistance mode for dislocated workers and held many job fairs, as well as met with our chambers, local elected officials, area companies, and state agencies to develop opportunities and plans for all who had been affected. Our community and economic development departments are gaining experience in new grant programs and looking for ways to become more competitive in federal programs, thereby opening the door to many new opportunities for our communities. Even though we have experienced some difficulties this year, we continue to look for ways to better our services, increase our ability to connect with all of our members, and find meaningful ways to assist our counties and cities.



I encourage you to review this report and share in our successes of this past year. I also encourage you to brainstorm with us to generate new ideas, new programs, or new directions that the WAPDD Team should look into to gain even more momentum this next year and provide additional services and assistance to our region. I am extremely grateful for our supportive board members and elected officials; WAPDD's successes would not be possible without the positive contributions and complete willingness of our board to allow us to serve our region.

MEET THE TEAM

Support Staff



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SASHA GRIST



**ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/
DIR. OF ECONOMIC DEV.**
ASHLEY GARRIS



FINANCIAL OFFICER
AMANDA MOSES



**SENIOR FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTANT**
KIM BARTLETT



RECEPTIONIST
EMILY JOHNSON



Every successful team has players in the background. The ones that make everything else just flow. We wouldn't be where we are today without this crucial team.



Behind the Scenes

While many of our support staff team are not working outside of the office and being able to meet with our community leaders and attending public meetings, they are showing up every day at the office, working behind the scenes to ensure that our District has the ability to meet the needs of our organization and our communities. One might not hear a lot about these staff members or see them doing outreach, but their positions are an integral part of our organization. Support staff work very hard in the day-to-day operations of our District and ensuring the success of our programs. Emily sets up and assists at every board meeting that our organization has and assists each staff member in our office daily. She greets every visitor with a huge smile and makes he or she feel welcome. Amanda and Kim in our finance department keep track of all our different grant awards and sources of funding. They make certain that we are meeting all financial requirements and obligations as well as assisting each department to be performing in a way to ensure financial sustainability

over time. WAPDD simply couldn't and wouldn't be as successful for our communities without the hard work that our support team does!

Sasha and Ashley are far from being just in the background, but some of their duties are not always seen. They are meeting with our elected officials, listening to what their needs are and communicating with the right team members to follow through on projects. These two are always looking for new ways to serve our members and provide additional, relevant services such as now assisting the Fort Smith Regional Alliance with their meetings and services. Sasha and Ashley are also members of professional boards to increase their professional development and being a part of community services by participating with the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education student interviews as volunteer community interviewers. They have so many roles to fill, yet still find time to always have an open door for any employee who needs to meet with them.

MEET THE TEAM

Community & Economic Development



**ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/
DIR. OF ECONOMIC DEV.**
ASHLEY GARRIS



**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**
TRACEE MCKENNA



**PROJECT & COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR**
MICHAEL ROSENBERG



“
Michael was chosen by his Community Development Institute (CDI) classmates as the Year Two Class Champion!



Making an Impact

What a year 2023 has been for our Community and Economic Development Department! With 30 applications submitted to various funding entities, almost \$6.5 million in grant funds secured, and 17 more grant applications still pending, things across our region are only getting better from here. We are ever striving to improve the quality of life for every citizen of Western Arkansas...We are just getting started!



THE PROOF IS IN THE DOLLARS!



36

Applications Submitted



\$9,031,286.75

Funds Secured



2

Pending Applications



CRAWFORD COUNTY

Alma | Cedarville | Chester | Kibler | Mulberry | Van Buren

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
Turner Community - Rural Services New HVAC	\$7,068.65	\$7,068.65	Yes
Kibler - Rural Services Walking Trail Expansion	\$14,590.00	\$14,590.00	Yes
Crawford County - AEDC Water Line Extension	\$1,075,750.00	\$12,434,900.00	Yes
Cedarville - AEDC New Senior Center	\$527,700.00	\$884,000.00	Yes
Van Buren Drainage FEMA	\$918,938.10	\$96,770.90	Yes
Alma - ORGP Playground and Restrooms at Christello Park	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00	Yes
Crawford County - ORGP Walking Trail at Diamond Center Complex	\$135,705.00	\$135,705.00	Yes
Kibler - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No
Chester - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No
Dyer - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No
Cedarville - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
RECEIVED 2023

\$2,889,751.75

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
PENDING 2023

\$0.00

TOTAL ON-GOING
PROJECTS 2023

2

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Van Buren Boys & Girls Club Renovation	AEDC	Complete
Mulberry/Pleasant View School Safe Room	FEMA	Complete
Mulberry Pickleball Courts	ORGP	Complete
Mulberry Food Pantry	AEDC	Complete
Cedarville Boys & Girls Club Renovation	AEDC	Complete
Crawford County Courthouse Restoration	AHPP	Complete
Mulberry Water Treatment Plant	AEDC	On-Going
Alma Senior Center	AEDC	On-Going

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Branch | Charleston | Ozark

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
Branch - Rural Services Generators	\$13,140.00	\$13,140.00	Yes
Ozark - AEDC Food Pantry	\$531,590.00	\$0.00	Yes
Charleston - ARDOT Crosswalk Improvements	\$60,000.00	\$15,084.00	Yes
Ozark - ORGP Westside Park Improvements	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	Yes

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Branch Water Tower	AEDC	Complete
Franklin County Learning Center	AEDC	Complete
Franklin County Senior Center	AEDC	On-Going

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
RECEIVED 2023

\$684,730.00

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
PENDING 2023

\$0.00

TOTAL ON-GOING
PROJECTS 2023

1

LOGAN COUNTY

Booneville | Caulksville | New Blaine | Paris | Scranton

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
New Blaine - Rural Services Generator	\$15,000.00	\$40,782.00	Yes
Paris - AEDC Boys & Girls Club	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	Pending
Logan County - AEDC Senior Center	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	Pending

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Paris - RTP	ARDOT	On-Going
Scranton - Park Improvements	ORGP	On-Going
Caulksville - Park Improvements	ORGP	On-Going
Paris - Food Pantry	AEDC	On-Going
Scranton - Food Pantry	AEDC	On-Going
Scranton - RTP	ARDOT	On-Going
Booneville - Sidewalks	AEDC	On-Going
Booneville - Park Improvements	ORGP	On-Going
Booneville - Senior Center Expansion	AEDC	Complete

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
RECEIVED 2023

\$15,000.00

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
PENDING 2023

\$1,000,000.00

TOTAL ON-GOING
PROJECTS 2023

8

POLK COUNTY

Cove | Hatfield | Mena

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
Cove - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	Yes

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Mena - Sidewalks	ARDOT	On-Going
Mena - Senior Center Improvements	AEDC	On-Going
Mena - Ward Lake Trails	EDA	On-Going
Hatfield - Street Improvements	AEDC	On-Going
Mena - Park Improvements	ORGP	On-Going
Polk County - Senior Center Vehicles	AEDC	Complete

<p>TOTAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED 2023</p> <p>\$100,000.00</p>	<p>TOTAL GRANT FUNDS PENDING 2023</p> <p>\$0.00</p>	<p>TOTAL ON-GOING PROJECTS 2023</p> <p>5</p>
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SCOTT COUNTY

Waldron

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
Scott County - ORGP Sodie Davidson Pickleball Courts	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	Yes
Waldron - ORGP Park Improvements	\$101,2200.00	\$101,220.00	No

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Waldron - Sidewalks	AEDC	On-Going
Scott County - Boles Park Improvements	ORG	Complete
Scott County - Senior Center Vehicles	AEDC	Complete
Scott County - Old Courthouse Assessment	AHPP	Complete

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
RECEIVED 2023

\$90,000.00

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
PENDING 2023

\$0.00

TOTAL ON-GOING
PROJECTS 2023

1

SEBASTIAN COUNTY

Barling | Fort Smith | Greenwood | Hackett | Hartford | Huntington | Lavaca

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN 2023

Application	Grant Funds	Local Funds	Funded
WAIA - EDA Cultural Resources	\$125,000.00	\$31,250.00	Yes
UAFS - EDA University Center	\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00	Yes
Greenwood - FEMA Property Acquisition	\$1,072,345.00	\$335,115.00	Yes
Sebastian County - ARDOT Trails at Bob Boyer Park	\$108,000.00	\$27,016.00	Yes
Lavaca - ARDOT Sidewalks Along Highway 96	\$339,000.00	\$84,922.80	Yes
Sebastian County - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan	\$34,675.00	\$3,650.00	Yes
Fort Smith - FEMA Property Acquisition	\$1,863,615.00	\$196,170.00	Yes
Greenwood - AEDC Senior Center Renovation	\$534,750.00	\$880,503.00	Yes
Hackett - AEDC Pumpstation for Wastewater Facilities	\$524,420.00	\$0.00	Yes
Sebastian County - ORGP Ben Geren Park Improvements	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	No
Greenwood - ORGP Park Improvements	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	No
Barling - ORGP Park Improvements	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	No
Hackett - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No
Huntington - ORGP Park Improvements	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	No
Hartford - AEDC General Assistance	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	No

STATUS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS

Project	Funding Agency	Status
Fort Smith - Brownfields	EPA	On-Going
Greenwood - RTP	ARDOT	On-Going
Sebastian County - RTP at Bob Boyer Park	ARDOT	On-Going
Sebastian County - Senior Center	AEDC	On-Going
Barling - Mercy Crest Walking Trail	AEDC	On-Going
Greenwood - Splashpad	ORGP	On-Going
Hartford - Park Improvements	ORGP	Complete
Huntington - Fire Truck	Rural Services	Complete
Fort Smith - Excelsior Drive	EDA	Complete

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
RECEIVED 2023

\$5,251,805.00

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS
PENDING 2023

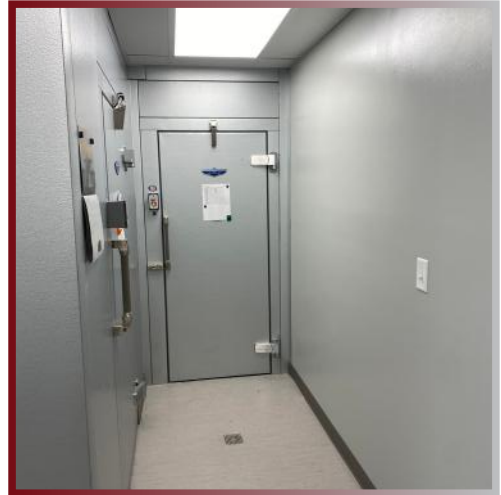
\$0.00

TOTAL ON-GOING
PROJECTS 2023

6



SCOTT COUNTY MUSEUM (OLD COURTHOUSE)



**BOONEVILLE SENIOR CENTER
WALK-IN FREEZER ADDITION**



HUNTINGTON FIRE TRUCK



HACKETT WASTEWATER GRANT SIGNING



HARTFORD PARK RIBBON CUTTING



**CRAWFORD COUNTY WATER
PROJECT GRANT SIGNING**



BRANCH WATERTOWER



OZARK FOOD PANTRY GRANT SIGNING



BOLES FUN PARK



HARTFORD PARK RIBBON CUTTING



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
SENIOR CENTER**



CEDARVILLE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB RENOVATION



FRANKLIN COUNTY LEARNING CENTER



FORT SMITH EXCELSIOR DRIVE



BARLING - MERCY CREST TRAIL



BOONEVILLE SENIOR CENTER ADDITION



CEDARVILLE SENIOR CENTER GRANT SIGNING



MULBERRY/PLEASANT VIEW SAFEROOM



**PARIS CHRISTIAN CENTER -
DINING HALL**



MULBERRY PICKLEBALL COURTS



GREENWOOD SENIOR CENTER GRANT SIGNING



FORT SMITH EXCELSIOR DRIVE



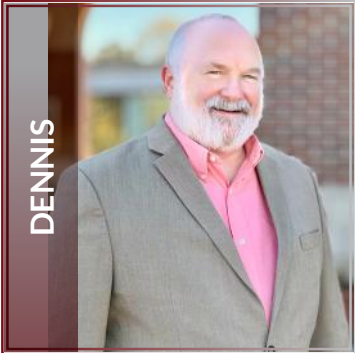
SCRANTON FOOD PANTRY



VAN BUREN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB RENOVATION

MEET THE TEAM

Workforce Development



DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DENNIS WILLIAMSON



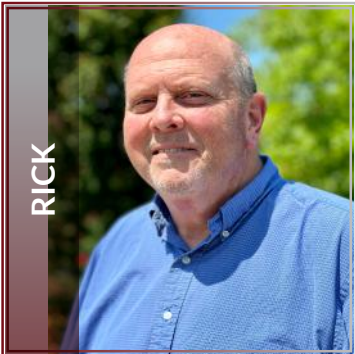
QUALITY ASSURANCE LEAD
ASHLIE ROSS



WORKFORCE PROGRAM MANAGER / EEO OFFICER
ANGIE OLIVER



WORKFORCE CAREER ADVISOR
EDITHA MORA



WORKFORCE CAREER ADVISOR
RICK BURKE



WORKFORCE ASSISTANT
DESARAY FUENTES



Training Our Future

This has been an industrious year for our Workforce Department! The student driven job fairs are expanding and receiving much attention, with six schools participating this year across four events. In addition to this, the team assisted with a series of workshops for the justice involved community. These workshops focused on learning important interview skills such as how to explain their time in

the justice system, how to dress for success, and most importantly...how to be confident and job ready! Dennis was invited to speak about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) on a national panel through WorkforceGPS as part of the Next Level Now initiative. More of our counties are taking the steps to become ACT Work Ready Communities. This year, we saw two counties "light up" with Crawford and Franklin Counties joining our already certified Scott County! Polk County is currently 98% of the way in completing their goals and will soon be certified as well. This year also met challenges with some unfortunate business/plant closures. These events are never easy for the communities and employees who are affected. While we never enjoy having to experience this, we are very proud of the work our team put in to ensure these dislocated workers had as many opportunities as possible to get them back on their feet and reemployed as quickly as possible.

SOME OF OUR OUTCOMES



126

Participants Served



93

Enrolled this Year



20

In-Demand
Occupations Trained
In.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The 2023 Career Connect Events were a great success across our region! This year we saw six schools and 172 students participate at four events with 100 businesses in attendance.

These Career Connect Events are an amazing opportunity for both the students and businesses. They offer a unique approach to the career fair model in that the students setup their tables and the businesses go around speaking to them, not the other way around! Here are some highlights:



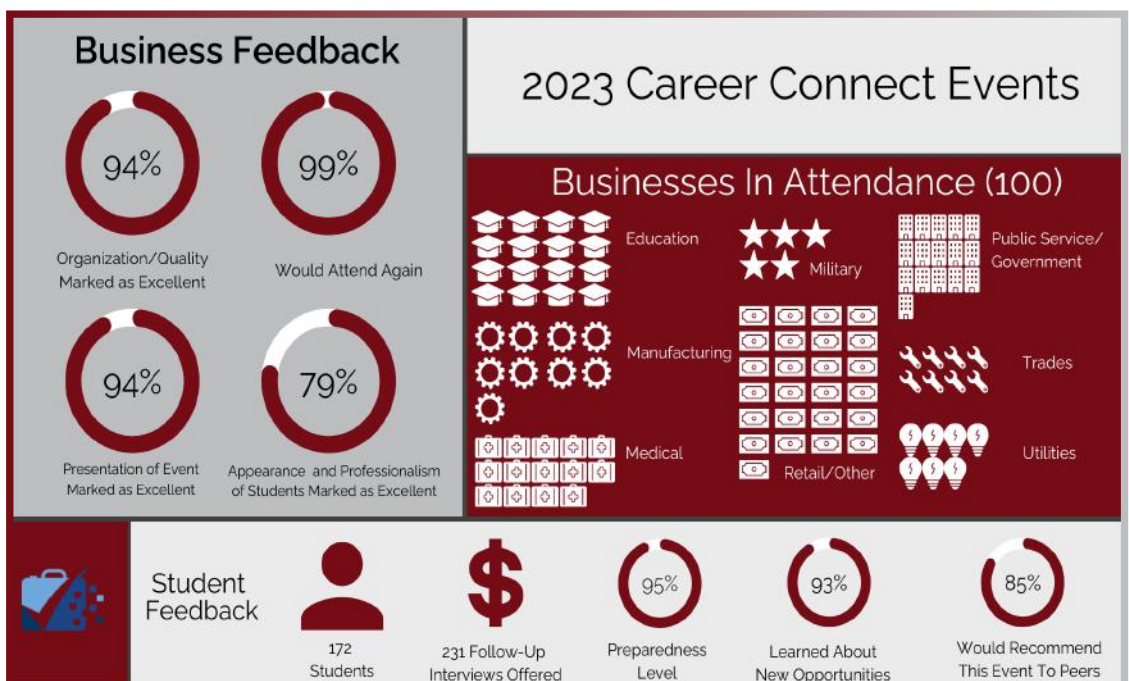
SCHOOL PARTICIPATION



Waldron Career Connect was a massive success this year!

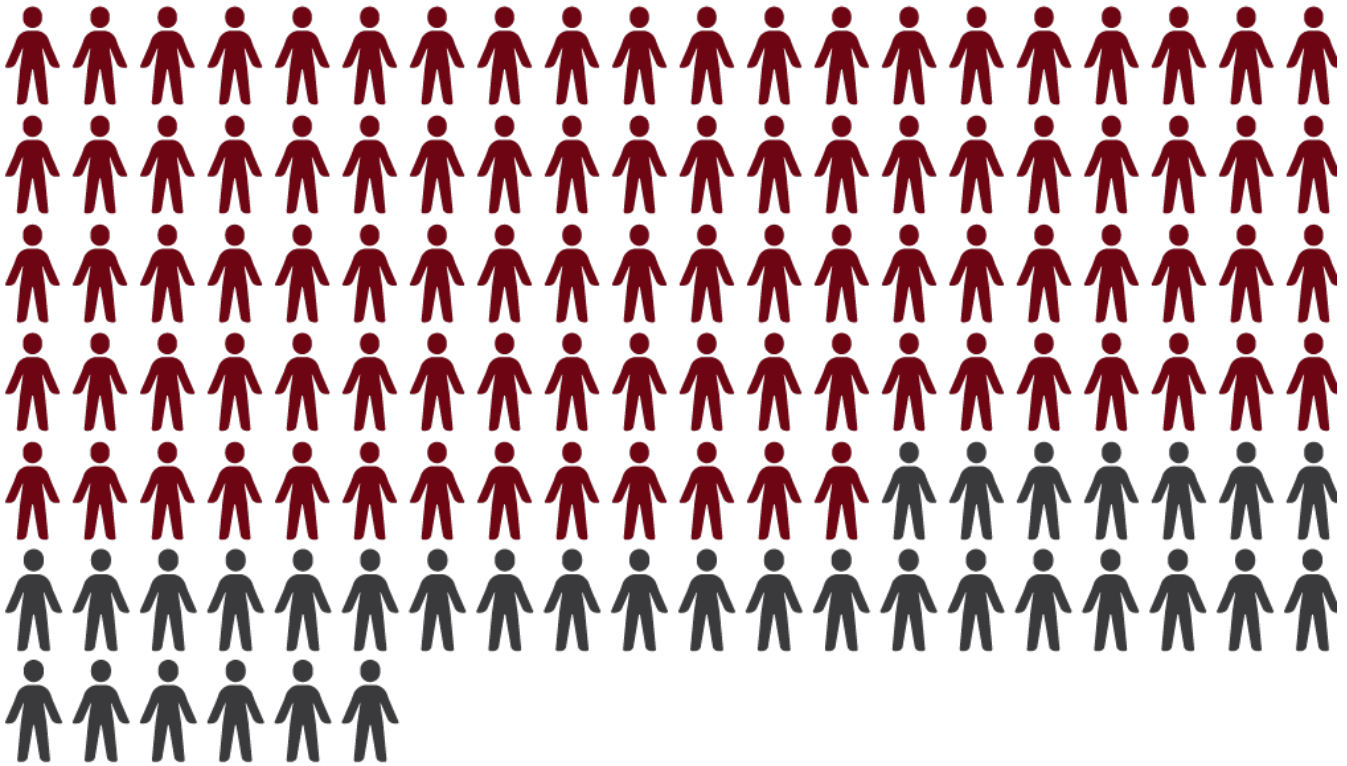


THE RESULTS

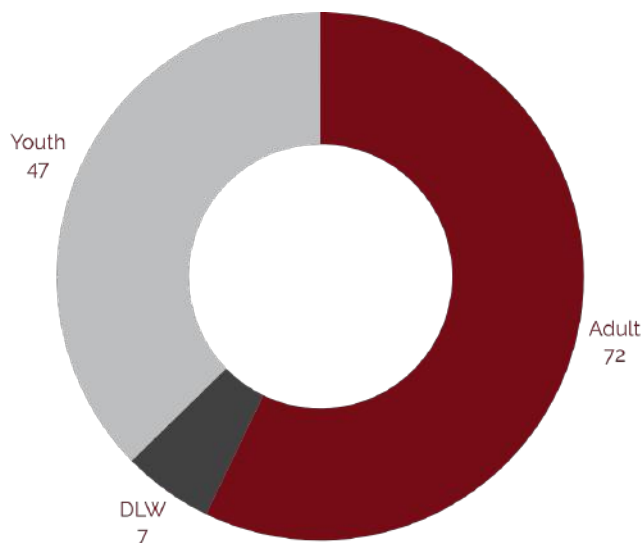


126 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

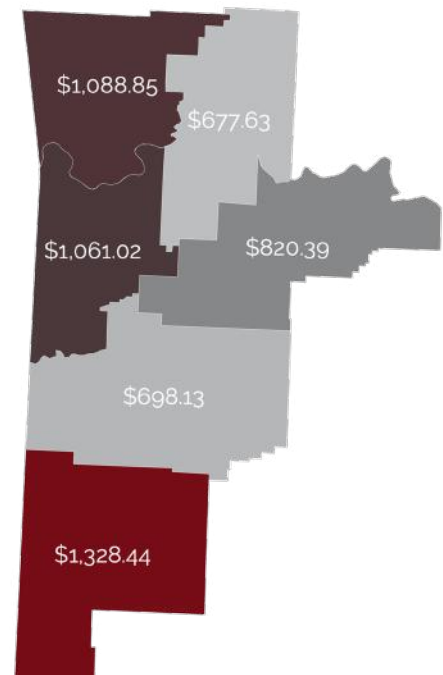
93 ENROLLED THIS YEAR



PARTICIPANT BREAKDOWN



AMOUNT SPENT PER PARTICIPANT



MEET THE TEAM

Frontier MPO



MPO DIRECTOR
REESE BREWER



TRANSPORTATION PLANNER
DESARAY FUENTES



Reese Brewer represented WAPDD/Frontier MPO and accepted the 2023 NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award!



Planning for the Future

Our MPO department has made tremendous efforts to continue planning for growth and strategizing on how best to serve their area in an equitable way. This year our MPO continued to seek out grant opportunities, as well as assist cities with their grants. They partnered closely with the Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority (WAIA), WAPDD, the Maritime Administration, and Five Rivers Distribution.



STATS FROM 2023



23

Miles of Sidewalk



\$810,000.00

Funds Secured



7

National Committees





What is old can also be new!

One of Frontier MPO's quarterly board meeting's was held in Greenwood where they were able to take a tour on the city's "new" trolley!



Frontier MPO assist WAIA in securing a \$15.096 Million Grant from MARAD!

Reese served as the primary grant writer for the MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program grant on behalf of WAIA and Five Rivers Distribution. The total slackwater harbor project will be about \$20 million. The team effort included: WAPDD, Mickle Griffin Engineers which provided the cost/benefit analysis, Marty Shell (Five Rivers Distribution), and WAIA.

Utah State University Pilot Program:

- ➔ Utah State University, Frontier MPO, and Fort Smith Transit signed an agreement to work together to create a transit assessment using both Google learning and local residents. This data will help to create a transit assessment plan that analyzes proximity of social agencies, food banks, jobs, medical centers, shelters, benches, etc. to transit stops throughout the city.

Safe System Implementation Guidance:

- ➔ Reese was selected to serve on the technical group reviewing the draft document. Safe System approach is different from conventional safety practices by "being human-centered, i.e., seeking safety through a more aggressive use of vehicle or roadway design and operational changes rather than relying primarily on behavioral changes..."

National Summit on Rural Road Safety:

- ➔ Reese presented at the National Center for Rural Road Safety and the NADO National Summit on the Parsons Engineering Smart Intersections prize and project. Also, Reese spoke about the Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare program.

Rural Safety Equity Grant:

- ➔ The University of Arkansas' Dr. Sarah Hernandez, and Dr. Seri Park from the University of Nevada, Reno sought Frontier MPO as a partner for a National Science Foundation grant opportunity to work on Rural Safety and Equity.

Frontier MPO & WAPDD chosen to receive a NADO 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award!

Frontier MPO/WAPDD was selected to receive the NADO 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award for its role and efforts in the Ride 4 Smilies Bikeshare program in Fort Smith. The University of Arkansas, Civil Engineering Department's Dr. Suman Mitra partnered with Frontier MPO to implement the bikeshare pilot program funded by the National Science Foundation. We are honored to receive this award. Frontier MPO acted as the Co-Civic Principal Investigator.



Electrification of the River Vally

Reese M. Brewer has been selected to attend the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) pilot peer learning cohort titled "Planning and Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment." This program is supported by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and World Resources Institute (WRI).



Fort Smith Health Council - Mobility Sub-committee

Frontier MPO and WAPDD have been leading the Fort Smith Health Council's Mobility Sub-committee and facilitating meetings on a monthly basis within the WAPDD office. These have led to a range of initiatives and priorities including the MPO's assistance in winning a Safe Streets 4 All grant that was worth \$350k.



On-going work with Fort Smith Transit

The MPO has been gathering survey responses from residents who travel via the Fort Smith Transit Network and will continue this project into 2024. The goal is to see which routes work best, and where improvements need to be implemented to see equitable access to work, shopping, and other essential destinations.

MEET THE TEAM

911/GIS



SENIOR 911/GIS ANALYST
TINA THOMPSON



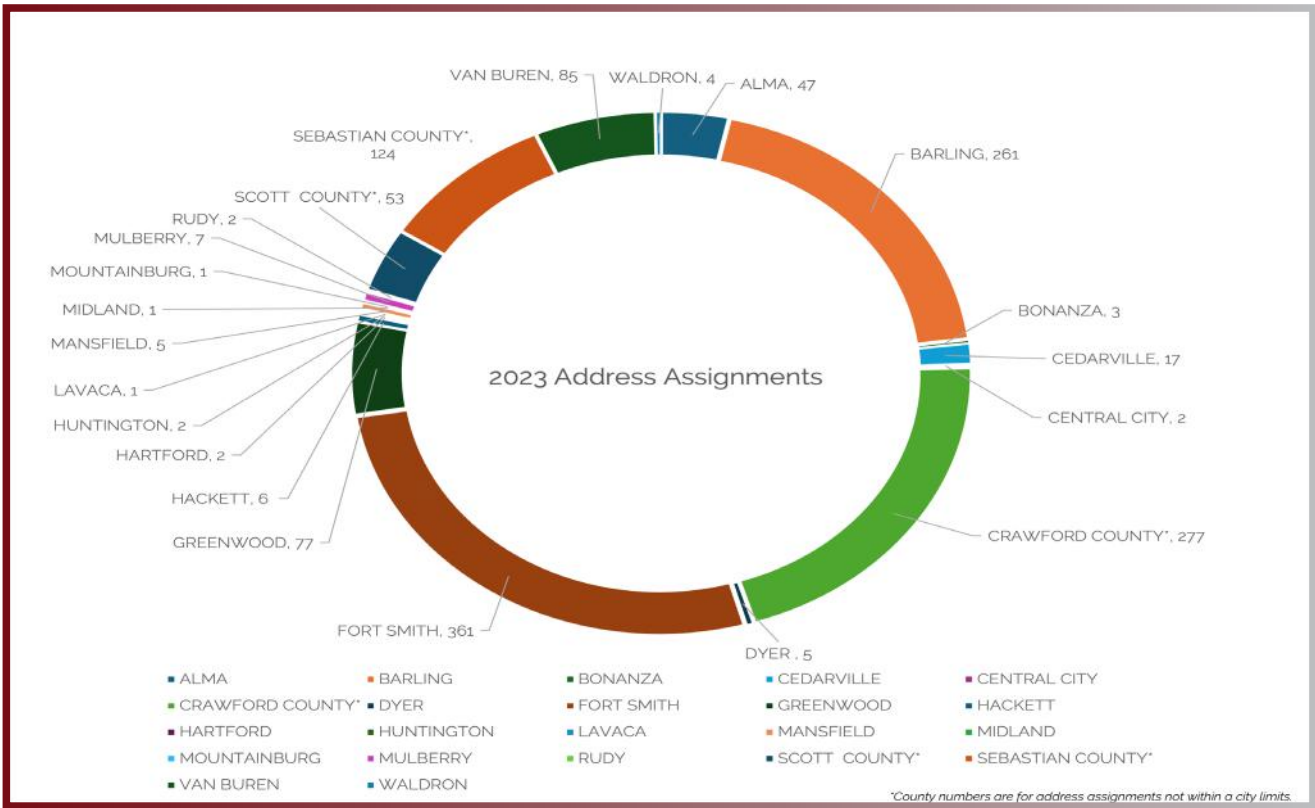
911/GIS ANALYST
SHANNON SCOTT



911/GIS FIELD TECHNICIAN
OLEN SMITH



“
**Shannon Scott
named Floodplain
Manager of
the Year by
the Arkansas
Floodplain
Management
Association.**




Mapping our Area

Our 911/GIS Department has had a busy year! A total of 1,343 addresses have been assigned throughout their coverage area. On top of this, they have a new project update with the James Fork Water District that includes the process of marking over 5,600 water meters with GPS coordinates. In addition to this contract, a total of seven new contracts mapping utility lines and zoning cities/school districts have

been secured with three additional contracts still pending. This year has also seen the team take on the role of Floodplain Managers for Sebastian County. This means any new development throughout the county will have to be checked at our office to ensure that it meets the proper permits, and we will evaluate the location in regards to susceptibility to flood damage and the project for conformance with "No Adverse Impact" principles.

BY THE NUMBERS


1,343
Addresses Assigned


7
New Contracts


3
Pending Contracts

The team is currently working with Solacom and AT&T to get ESInet services installed and configured in Crawford and Scott Counties. This will allow these counties to eliminate their usage of copper 911 trunks and save them the costs associated with these. The Scott County Circuit Clerk is also working with the team to develop a web app to eliminate their use of a paper map for registering voters.

WAIA

Western Arkansas Intermodal Authority

WAIA, with the assistance of Frontier MPO, has successfully applied for and been granted a **\$15.096 million** grant from MARAD!

HUGE OPPORTUNITY

With such a massive investment into the river valley, coupled with the ARDOT announcement of the expansion of I-49, our area will see a HUGE economic impact for both our residents and businesses alike.



WAIA hosted a MARAD Roundtable Event that was a huge success!

This year, WAIA, with assistance from Frontier MPO and WAPDD, held an amazing roundtable event where industry leaders from the area in trucking and maritime shipments came together to discuss the needs and issues they face and the possibilities to come. We thank Administrator Rear Admiral, Ann C. Phillips, US Navy (Ret.) for being our keynote speaker at this event and giving us an update from the administration.

Fantastic economic and community growth coming with the reception of a \$15 million grant from MARAD!





Incredible opportunity for our waterways!



Major win for our railways!

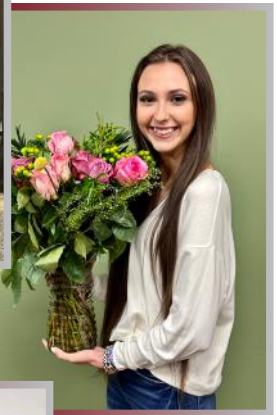


Huge news for our trucking industry!

2023 CAPTURED...











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