

City of Ottawa Named 2022 Kansas Municipal Utilities, Safe City Award Winner

Ottawa, KS. - Kansas Municipal Utilities, the statewide association for municipal utilities, announced today that the city of Ottawa, Kansas was named the recipient of the 2022 KMU Safe City Award. This award is given to the one city in Kansas that best exemplifies the philosophy that one injury is too many and every injury is preventable.

“It is my honor to present this award to the employees of the city of Ottawa. For the past 3 years, the employees of Ottawa have made strides to become the safest city in Kansas. Since 2018, the city has worked to reduce its workers comp liabilities and cut their injury rates in half.” said Brian Meek, Director of Energy Services at Kansas Municipal Utilities. “Understanding that in order to do a job safely you must do it well, the city leadership has embraced a continual learning philosophy by participating in various leadership, technical, and safety trainings and seminars.”

This award is given annually to one city in the state of Kansas. In order to be nominated, the city must meet a lengthy set of criteria that includes a commitment to safety as a core value, managing a program to positively reinforce good safety practices, holding employee-led monthly safety committee meetings, a 3-year rolling OSHA Recordable Injury Rate in the top 25% for municipal organizations, and displaying a culture of proactive safety management. All nominations are reviewed by safety experts and one candidate is chosen as the award recipient.

“We think it is important to recognize individuals and organizations that are doing exceptional work in their community and for their employees” said Brad Mears, Executive Director of Kansas Municipal Utilities.

About Kansas Municipal Utilities

Kansas Municipal Utilities is the statewide association representing Kansas cities and other public or not-for-profit agencies involved in the ownership and operation of municipal utilities. Formed in 1928, KMU provides assistance and information to members with regard to legislative and regulatory issues, training and educational programs, and numerous other services towards the advancement of municipal utilities and to achieve maximum benefits for the customer-owners served by our utilities.