

# SEEDS OF GROWTH

A Newsletter from the Crossett  
Economic Development Foundation

## From the Director's Desk

An Update from Mike Smith

The Crossett Economic Development Foundation has cultivated relationships with organizations keen on bringing new jobs and economic opportunities to Crossett. This past year we have benefited from these relationships.

In the last 12 months, national and international companies have visited Crossett. Other companies have requested information about our community. Local companies and state organizations have supported these visits, as we have worked to make the best information available to support development in Crossett.

As we continue to work locally to make our community as attractive as possible for future development, these same efforts are supporting our existing businesses and population today. While I cannot guarantee you a new business or industry will choose to locate in Crossett on any given day, I can assure you we have companies considering our community, and I promise you, we are working diligently to support these development opportunities.





## Preserving the Crossett Municipal Auditorium

The current state of the Crossett Municipal Auditorium has certainly not gone unnoticed. Early in March, an application was submitted to fund the replacement of the current HVAC system. We know this is only the beginning of the list of things that need to be done, but it is certainly a top priority to preserve this historic building.

Due to inflation and the complexities behind replacing the HVAC system, the project will be split into two phases. Major construction will need to be done to the basement to accommodate the space required for a new, modern HVAC unit. The funders are still in the thick of the decision-making process and awards are still pending.

# Ouachita River Valley Association February Board Meeting in Crossett



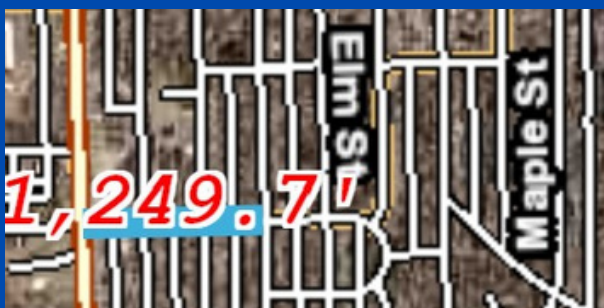
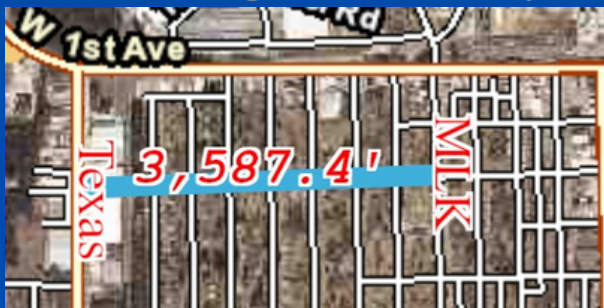
The City of Crossett had the honor of hosting the Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) February Board Meeting. The event was held at the Crossett Community Center on West 2nd Avenue. Members traveled from various locations from the Ouachita River Valley region to discuss ways to maintain the health of the river as well as increasing commercial activity on the river. The ORVA meets in various locations within their

region so they can better stay connected to the land and communities that rely on the Ouachita's waters.

Yansee Kyle, a representative of Congressman Westerman, joined the meeting as an honored guest to demonstrate the support the organization has from congress. Topics discussed included the benefits of dredging and keeping Congress informed of the funds needed to maintain the system. The organization does the best they can to preserve both the river's functionality for industrial growth, recreational activities and the flora and fauna that thrive in its waters.



## Improving Our City Streets!



The City of Crossett is excited to have the opportunity to make major improvements to more of Our city streets. This year we plan to focus on the area of 9th Street between Main Street and Beech Street, and the area of 3rd Street between Martin Luther King Drive and the old railroad crossing. Funds for this project are from the Arkansas State Aid City Street Program, and the grant award amount is \$300,000. Crossett has been very successful with this program and already has plans to apply for the next grant cycle.

# A Progress Report on the Community Center

We are working hard to improve and maintain the Crossett Community Center, which has proven to be a vital asset to our small town. Our foundation is adding a dishwasher and 3-compartment sink to the existing kitchen area as well as adding a heat and air system to service the smaller event room. We want those visiting the community center to be comfortable when using this venue and we want our guests to have the best amenities we can offer. We also applied for outside grant funding to replace the existing siding which has deteriorated over the years. This grant will also cover the cost of removing the



decorative structure from the front of the building. Approval for this funding is still pending. We are hopeful that the funders see the Community Center for the treasure it is and consider our application accordingly. The facelift will also improve the appearance of the entire downtown area of Crossett.

## An Update on the City Wastewater Project

Everyone involved with the City Wastewater Project has been working hard to get through the pre-construction phase. Our foundation has worked alongside the city in these efforts. Crossett Economic Development has been instrumental in securing easement agreements, rights-of-way, and other items concerning this project to bring it to bid. Weekly meetings have been held with Christ Engineers and city officials to ensure that everyone is working through the various complications systematically to achieve the best outcome for our community.

Once completed, Crossett will have a gravity fed wastewater system. This will eliminate the need for businesses to have private lift stations. This will not only be a more efficient and economical approach to handling the city's sewage but will increase our compacity to allow for industrial expansion.



# A Fantastic Learning Opportunity For Our Grants Team



On March 9th, Hali McNeice and Mayor Marshall attended a workshop hosted by Caran Curry with the Municipal League. The event featured speakers with expertise on a range of topics including department of transportation grants, foundation grants, grant research tools, and navigating equity and inclusion in grant applications. The event also provided participants with the opportunity to network with others involved in the field of grant writing and grant management.

## The 75th Anniversary of the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce

On February 2nd, a banquet was held in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce at the Crossett High School gymnasium. Members of the community gathered to celebrate this milestone and all the Chamber's accomplishments leading up to it. Speakers across three generations shared some of the highlights of their time with the Chamber.



Crossett has been added to the mailing brochure the Economic Development Commission sends to all prospective entrepreneurs. This keeps Crossett in the forefront of the minds of the decision-makers when looking for a new location for their business.



# Need a Revamp Grant?

We offer a unique opportunity for business owners in Crossett. We want to help you grow your business by creating a more attractive store front. Just fill out our Revamp Crossett grant application to get started! If awarded, the Crossett Economic Development Foundation will match up to \$2,500 on projects that focus on the business facing exterior. Applications can either be dropped off at our office or emailed to Hali McNeice at [hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net](mailto:hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net).



*before*



*after*



*before*



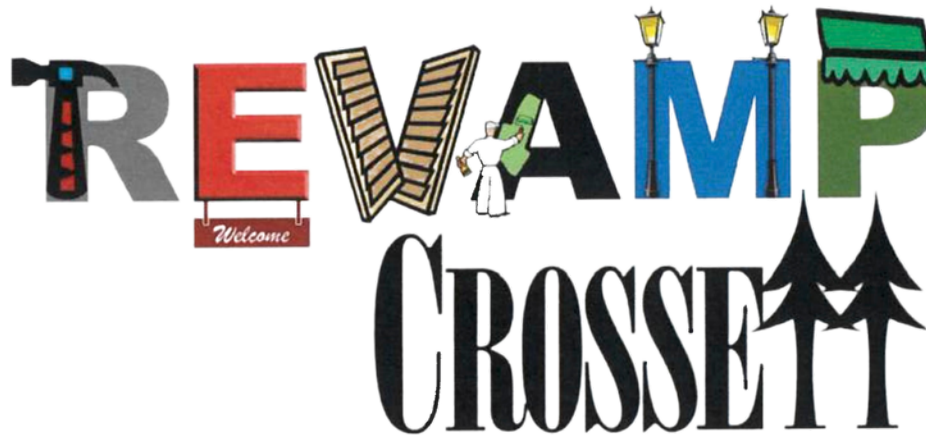
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## Grant Application

### SECTION I

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required) \_\_\_\_\_

The Applicant is \_\_\_\_\_ Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Business Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify)

Do you lease/rent? ( ) Yes ( ) No If yes, when does your lease expire? \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time doing business at your present address? \_\_\_\_\_

Building Owner (if different from applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount requested from Revamp Crossett Grant \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION II

The following are required with your application. Please check that you have included them.

\_\_\_\_\_ Two color photos showing the existing building and/or property conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Any sketches of the proposed project such as measured plans, site plans, etc.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Paint color samples, if painting is part of the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Awning colors and materials, if part of the project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed Project Form (attached).
- \_\_\_\_\_ A one to three page description of the project (please attach).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of signed permit or permit exemption letter from City Building Inspector.

**SECTION III**

Please check which improvements you will make under this grant:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Removal of old materials - Please specify what will be removed \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Safe cleaning of brick or stone exteriors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repainting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repair/replacement of exterior doors or windows
- \_\_\_\_\_ Installation of canvas awnings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repainting of brick facades
- \_\_\_\_\_ Historic reconstruction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Landscaping
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sidewalks
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paving of parking areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Removing old concrete foundations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Replacing concrete or asphalt with green space
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install, repair or replace exterior lighting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_



**SECTION IV**

How much do you estimate the total project will cost? \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you estimate it will be until you start the project? \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you estimate it will be until you complete the project? \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that CEDF must pre-approve project design characteristics? ( ) Yes ( ) No

I understand that CEDF must pre-approve changes made during construction? ( ) Yes ( ) No

**SECTION V**

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Building Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from applicant)

Return the original, completed application, along with all necessary attachments, to  
**Crossett Economic Development Foundation**  
**125 Main Street**  
**Crossett, AR 71635**

No fax or email applications will be accepted.

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact Cherub Alford,  
Crossett Economic Development Foundation, (870) 364-8745.

# Project Budget

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address \_\_\_\_\_

List of Eligible Project Expenses (include materials, supplies, paid labor and rented equipment)

VENDOR	EXPENSE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total Expected Project Invoices \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's Amount (Minimum of 50%) \_\_\_\_\_

CEDF's Amount (Maximum of 50% or \$2,500 whichever is less) \_\_\_\_\_