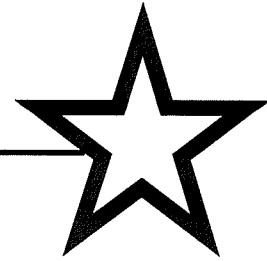


Walton, Kansas



Total Community Interest

PO Box 200/ 122 Main
Walton, Ks 67151

Phone (620) 837 - 3252
Fax (620) 837 - 3203

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development
From: Barry Wentz, Mayor
Date: March 3, 2021
RE: Testimony in Support of City Utility Low-Interest Program

House Financial Institutions and Rural Development

The City of Walton writes to you to urge you pass the proposed City Utility Low-Interest Loan Program legislation, where a city could borrow from the State to cover the extraordinary electric or natural gas costs incurred during the extreme weather crisis event of February 2021 from the State Ideal Funds. The loan would have to be paid back over 10 years with an interest rate that is 2% below the market rate as provide in K.S.A 75-4237.

Walton is expected to have a February 2021 Natural Gas invoice of \$230,000. Our annual budgeted commodities purchase for the year is \$50,000. Without relief the City would cease to function under this financial strain. More impending is the exorbitant cost of the bills we will have to pass on to our citizens. Citizens whom are living on fixed incomes. Bills that are projected to be \$2000 or more for the average user, 150% more than the monthly income of most of our residents.

While we understand FERC and many other government entities are investigating into the possible manipulation of prices during the most severe sub-zero weather our area has seen historically. The City of Walton needs a solution now to ensure our citizens and the City as a whole will not become buried in indebtedness that neither can pay back in a normal term of 30 days.

The City of Walton is a third class city with a population of 237. The City of Walton turns 150 years old this year.

Sincerely,

Barry Wentz
Walton Mayor