

County releases plans to upgrade bridges

Written by Ty Albin, The Lawton Constitution
Monday, 07 April 2014 04:11 -

Comanche County has released its five-year plan for the replacement of bridges between 2015 and 2019. Western District Comanche County Commissioner Don Hawthorne said there are six bridges on the list over the next five years, which is an average number for the regular five-year plan. Those bridges are: Western District n Bridge over a tributary to Blue Beaver Creek on Airport Road. Estimated cost, \$625,000. n Bridge over Post Oak Creek on Bishop Road that will replace a low-water crossing. Estimated cost, \$924,000.

- Bridge over Persimmon Creek on Paint Road south of Faxon. Estimated cost, \$850,000.
- Eastern District n Bridge over Numu Creek near the intersection of Railroad and Bishop roads. Estimated cost, \$943,420.
- n Bridge over East Cache Creek on Coombs Road. Estimated cost, \$1,151,000.
- Bridge on Trail Road, about 7.5 miles south of Oklahoma 17. Estimated cost, \$5,011,500.

There are two bridges still being completed on the old fiveyear plan. In the Western District, a bridge over Boulder Creek on West Gore Boulevard is still under construction. It will replace a low-water crossing at an estimated cost of \$767,026. In the Eastern District, bids have been awarded for construction to begin soon on a bridge over Little Beaver Creek on Woodlawn Road. It will replace a lowwater crossing at an estimated cost of \$1,102,453.

The process for replacing a bridge is arduous, and involves a lot of steps, Hawthorne said.

Every two years, all the bridges in the county are inspected by representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). The five-year plan is initiated by the Circuit Engineering District No. 6, which includes Comanche County. It must be approved by the engineering district, ODOT and the county commissioners. The worst bridges in the county are chosen for the five-year plan.

County releases plans to upgrade bridges

Written by Ty Albin, The Lawton Constitution
Monday, 07 April 2014 04:11 -

All state and federal funds for bridges are issued through the engineering district, Hawthorne said.

After a bridge is put on the approved plan, the county must acquire utilities and right-of-way information and rights for the bridge. Then an engineering plan is put together and approved, contracts are bid and finally, construction can begin. It can be a several-year process to replace a single bridge. Even once the plan is in place, it is subject to annual revisions based on funding and other factors that can affect a bridge project.

“It’s an ongoing process,” Hawthorne said.

