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NEWS

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LARRY OELRICH WINS HATFIELD AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM IN THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FIELD

Hot Springs, Ark. – Larry Oelrich, director of public works and administrative services for the City of Prairie Grove, was named this year's recipient of the William D. Hatfield Award for outstanding performance and professionalism in wastewater treatment. The award was presented recently at the annual Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA) Conference in Hot Springs.

This award marks the second year in a row that Oelrich has been recognized by the AWW&WEA. He was named the Mike Thomason Wastewater Manager of the Year at the 2016 conference.

Oelrich, a 38-year city employee, is responsible for the day to day operations of the Prairie Grove Water & Wastewater Utilities, supervision and operation of Street Department, Solid Waste and Recycling Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Building & Inspection Department, Planning and Zoning Administrator, and Business & Administrative Coordinator.

He began his career with Prairie Grove in 1979, and in five short years, he was appointed manager at the age of 25. He was given responsibility of managing all public works departments and assisting the mayor.

Oelrich has been instrumental in the numerous continued improvements to the city's wastewater facilities, including the new wastewater treatment plant that went online in 2011 and was the first in the state to use federal stimulus funding made available by the American Recovery Reinvestment Act.

His numerous awards include:

- 1991 NW District AWW&PCA nominee Water Works Outstanding Achievement
- 1994 NW District AWW&PCA nominee Waste Water Manager of the year
- 1995 NW District AWW & PCA nominee Water Works Outstanding Achievement



- 1996 Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association Individual Outstanding Achievement Award for Water Works, State of Arkansas, utilities serving <5000 population.
- 1995 Prairie Grove Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year
- 2000 Prairie Grove Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year
- 2001 NW District AWW&WEA nominee for Waste Water Outstanding Achievement
- 2002 Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association Individual Outstanding Achievement Award for Waste Water Utilities, State of Arkansas, Serving <5000 population.
- Numerous System Recognition Awards
- Inducted to the Arkansas Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers, 2013
- Quarter Century Operator's Club, WEF