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Press Release

City Requests State of Emergency Declaration from County **Declaration to Expedite Shipment of Critical Infrastructure**

Osawatomie, KS (October 26, 2023) – The City of Osawatomie is formally requesting a State of Emergency be declared by the Miami County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners considering ongoing electrical distribution complications within the city’s utility grid.

By issuing a state of emergency at the county level, City of Osawatomie officials will be able to petition for expedited processing for the state-level permits that are necessary to transport a large piece of critical electric infrastructure from Garden City, Kansas, to Osawatomie. Without the expedited permits, the transformer may be delayed overnight due to state heavy-haul and oversized-load trucking statutes. The transformer is the last remaining piece of infrastructure necessary to repair the city’s energy grid and return regular electric service to all residents and businesses.

City officials have been working closely with Garden City and area legislators, including Senators Molly Baumgardner and Caryn Tyson and Representatives Samantha Poetter and Fred Gardner, all of whom are in support of the City’s request for emergency assistance. Other area agencies, including many from Miami County, have been providing support and relief for the temporarily displaced residents of Osawatomie. At the time of this release, an estimated 250-300 people are still without power.

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