

NEWS

Attempt to elude KHP results in arrest, county jail

An Ozawkie man has been arrested following a police chase in west Lawrence Tuesday, April 15.

Highway Patrol troopers were pursuing a black Kia Optima eastbound on Kansas Highway 10 and U.S. Highway 40 just after midnight, when the driver eventually ran from the vehicle on foot into the area near K-10 and Clinton Parkway.

The driver was identified as Benz Murray-Crawford, 20, of Ozawkie.

Douglas County deputies and Lawrence Police Department officers assisted KHP troopers in searching the area.

A Douglas County Sheriff deputy located a man early that morning in western Lawrence suspected of leading the vehicle pursuit.

Murray-Crawford was on foot and attempting to get into a vehicle near Langston Way and Bob Billings Parkway just after 3:15 a.m.

Douglas County deputies took the man into custody and turned him over to the Kansas Highway Patrol, who in turn turned him over to Jefferson County authorities.

Murray-Crawford was

booked into the Jefferson County jail April 18 where he is still being held on a charge of aggravated failure to appear.

The suspect has three pending cases in District Court dating back to April 2023 when he was arrested for domestic Battery. In June 2024, he was arrested for criminal threat, endangering a child, and deprivation of property. Last December he was arrested for fleeing and attempting to elude a police officer and possession of a controlled substance.

Those cases remain unresolved because of the defendant's failure to appear.

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Kansas storm season insurance claims cost \$612 million in 2024

Claims exceed \$4 million in Jefferson Co.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt recently released data on the amount paid by insurance companies for Kansas storm damage claims in 2024.

“The Kansas Department of Insurance calls on insurance companies for yearly data to better understand the impact of storm events across the state,” said Schmidt. “The Department uses this data as a tool to monitor trends in the marketplace.”

In 2024, reported storm claims totaled 56,778 and the amount paid out on those claims by insurance companies was \$612,069,643.50.

Johnson County saw the highest amount totaling \$186.6 million, while Greeley County saw the lowest with \$34,873. Claims in Jefferson County totaled \$4,590,099. A county-by-county breakdown of the data can be found on the department's website.

The department collected data from companies writing property and casualty insurance in Kansas. This data includes the number of total claims as well as the amount

paid for those claims across several types of storm losses including hail, wind, water damage, and other weather-related claim losses for homeowner and automobile policies.

“These numbers serve as a reminder that catastrophic weather events do not just happen on the coasts,” said Schmidt. “Check in with your insurance agent and make sure you are ready for this storm season.”

This storm season, if you or someone you know is having trouble with an insurance claim, contact the Kansas Department of Insurance's Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071, by email at KDOI.complaints@ks.gov or online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.

Deadline for
News & Ad Copy is

Monday,
before
noon.

Sheriff presides at officers' CPOST hearings

by Clarke Davis

Jefferson County Sheriff Jeff Herrig spent April 23 in Wichita holding hearing as head of the investigative arm of the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training.

CPOST is a 12-member body appointed by the governor that oversees law enforcement training in the state of Kansas. Among its many duties is that of approving the basic core training curriculum for all Kansas law enforcement and police officers and granting certification to all Kansas full and part-time officers who meet the prerequisites for certification.

Herrig's five-member committee has three investigators and serves much like a court concerning complaints about law officers that come from the public, the hiring agency, or news accounts.

The committee may publicly or privately censure, reprimand, or place on probation a police or law enforcement officer or an applicant for certification for violations of the Training Act and may also suspend, revoke, or deny, the certification of any such officer or applicant.

The committee's most recent session contained 45 cases, 10 of which were filed against provi-

sional officers who had not been to the academy.

Herrig said that was a common case load for the committee, which meets quarterly. The committee decides the fate of the officer accused after which their attorney draws up the final papers to be set to Herrig for his signature. The decision can be appealed.

The committee also processes the “racial profiling” cases that go to the Attorney General's office and conducts the “fit for duty” or psychological exam hearings for those who failed or had to take it again.

The commission's website states that CPOST is committed to providing the citizens of Kansas with qualified, trained, ethical, competent, and professional peace officers. It is also dedicated to adopting and enforcing professional standards for certification of peace officers to promote public safety and preserve public trust and confidence.

SHOP
LOCAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Published in The Oskaloosa Independent May 1, 2025)It **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-001** AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO BRIGHTSPEED OF EASTERN KANSAS, LLC, F/K/A UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF KANSAS D/B/A CENTURYLINK., ON BEHALF OF ITSELF AND ITS OPERATING AFFILIATES (“BRIGHTSPEED”) TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (“THE SYSTEM”) IN THE CITY OF NORTONVILLE, KANSAS (“THE CITY”).

The City hereby ordains that it is in the public interest to grant Brightspeed a Non-Exclusive Franchise to operate the System pursuant to the terms and conditions contained herein.

SECTION 1. Grant of Franchise. The City hereby grants to Brightspeed the non-exclusive right, privilege and authority to construct, install, maintain, operate, upgrade, replace, renovate, adjust, protect, support, raise, lower, disconnect, remove and relocate its cables, poles, pedestals, boxes, wires, conduits, conductors, pipes and related appurtenances (“Facilities”) for its System in, under, along, over and across the present and future streets, alleys and public ways of the City (“Public Ways”), for the purpose of providing telecommunication services to the City's inhabitants and businesses. As a condition of this franchise ordinance, Brightspeed is required to obtain and is responsible for maintaining any necessary permit, license, certification, grant, registration or any other authorization required by any appropriate governmental entity, including, but not limited to, the City, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), subject to Brightspeed right to challenge in good faith such requirements as established by the FCC, KCC or other City Ordinance. Brightspeed shall also comply with all applicable laws, statutes and/or ordinances, subject to Brightspeed right to challenge in good faith such laws, statutes and/or ordinances.

SECTION 2. Acceptance by Brightspeed. Within sixty (60) days after the passage of this Ordinance by the City, Brightspeed shall file a signed copy thereof with the City Recorder, otherwise the Ordinance and the rights granted herein shall be null and void.

SECTION 3. Term. The Term of this Franchise is fifteen (15) years commencing on the date of Acceptance by Brightspeed as set forth in Section 2, above. This Franchise will automatically renew for one additional five (5) year terms, unless notice of non-renewal is provided within 60 days of the original termination date.

SECTION 4. Franchise Fee. Within sixty (60) days after the date of Brightspeed's Acceptance of this Ordinance and until its expiration, Brightspeed will pay the City a franchise fee of \$100. Payment shall be made annually within sixty (60) days after the end of each year during the Term of this Franchise.

SECTION 5. Records Inspection. Brightspeed shall make available to the City, upon reasonable advance written notice of no less than sixty (60) days, such information pertinent only to enforcing the terms of this

Ordinance in such form and at such times as Brightspeed can reasonably make available. Subject to applicable laws, any information that is provided to the City and/or that the City reviews is confidential and proprietary and shall not be disclosed or used for any purpose other than verifying compliance with the terms of this Ordinance. Any such information provided to the City shall be immediately returned to Brightspeed following review. The City will not make copies of such information.

SECTION 6. Non-Exclusive Franchise. The right to use and occupy the Public Ways of the City shall be non-exclusive, and the City reserves the right to use the Public Ways for itself or any other entity. The City's use, however, shall not unreasonably interfere with Brightspeed's Facilities.

SECTION 7. City Regulatory Authority. The City reserves the right to adopt such additional ordinances and regulations as may be deemed necessary in the exercise of its police power for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and their properties consistent with applicable federal and state law.

SECTION 8. Indemnification. The City shall not be liable for any property damage or loss or injury to or death of any person that occurs in the construction, operation or maintenance by Brightspeed of its Facilities. Brightspeed shall indemnify, defend and hold the City harmless from and against third party claims, demands, liens and all liability or damage of whatsoever kind on account of Brightspeed's use of the Public Ways. The City shall: (a) give prompt written notice to Brightspeed of any claim, demand or lien with respect to which the City seeks indemnification hereunder; and (b) permit Brightspeed to assume the defense of such claim, demand, or lien. Brightspeed shall not be subject to liability for any settlement made without its consent. Notwithstanding the other provisions contained herein, Brightspeed shall in no event be required to indemnify the City for any claims, demands, or liens arising from the negligence or wrongful actions or inactions of the City, its officials, boards, commissions, agents, contractors, and/or employees.

SECTION 9. Insurance Requirements. Brightspeed will maintain in full force and effect for the Term of the Franchise, at Brightspeed's expense, a comprehensive liability insurance policy written by a company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Kansas, or will provide self-insurance reasonably satisfactory to the City, protecting it against liability for loss, personal injury and property damage occasioned by the operation of the System by Brightspeed. Such insurance will be in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00. Brightspeed will also maintain Worker's Compensation coverage throughout the term of this Franchise as required by law. The City may review the status of Brightspeed's insurance at www.Brightspeed.com/moi.

SECTION 10. Annexation. When any territory is approved for annexation to the City, the City shall within ten (10) business days provide by certified mail to Brightspeed: (a) each site address to be annexed as

recorded on City assessment and tax rolls; (b) a legal description of the proposed boundary change; and (c) a copy of the City's ordinance approving the proposed annexation.

SECTION 11. Plan, Design, Construction and Installation of Brightspeed's Facilities.

11.1 All Facilities under authority of this Ordinance shall be used, constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable law.

11.2 Brightspeed shall, prior to commencing new construction or major reconstruction work in Public Ways or other public places, apply for any required permit from the City, which permit shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. Brightspeed will abide by all applicable ordinances and reasonable rules, regulations and requirements of the City consistent with applicable law, and the City may inspect the manner of such work and require remedies as may be reasonably necessary to assure compliance. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Brightspeed shall not be obligated to obtain a permit to perform emergency repairs.

11.3 To the extent practical and consistent with any permit issued by the City, all Facilities shall be located so as to cause minimum interference with the Public Ways and shall be constructed, installed, maintained, renovated or replaced in accordance with applicable and lawful rules, ordinances and regulations of the City.

11.4 If, during the course of work on its Facilities, Brightspeed causes damage to or alters the Public Way or other public property, Brightspeed shall replace and restore such Public Way or public property at Brightspeed's expense to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition that existed immediately prior to such damage or alteration.

11.5 Brightspeed shall have the right to excavate the Public Ways subject to reasonable conditions and requirements of the City. Before installing new underground facilities or replacing existing underground facilities, each party shall first notify the other of such work in accordance with applicable law. In no event will the City be required to secure Brightspeed's permission or consent to operate or construct in the City's Public Ways. To the extent practicable under the circumstances, each party may allow the other party, at its own expense, to share a trench for laying its own facilities therein, provided that such action will not unreasonably interfere with the first party's use of the trench or unreasonably delay project completion.

11.6 Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent the City from constructing, maintaining, repairing, or relocating its sewers, streets, water mains, sidewalks, or other public property. However, before commencing any work within a Public Way that may affect Brightspeed's Facilities, the City shall give written notice to Brightspeed in accordance with applicable law, and all such work shall be done, insofar as practicable, in such a manner as not to obstruct, injure, or prevent the free use and operation of either Party's Facilities. The two parties shall work together to ensure that all of their facilities are protected

and the project is completed.

11.7 Brightspeed shall not attach to, or otherwise use or commit to use, any pole owned by City until a separate pole attachment agreement has been executed by the parties.

SECTION 12. Relocation of Facilities.

12.1 Relocation for the City. Brightspeed shall, upon receipt of advance written notice of not less than sixty (60) days, protect, adjust, support, raise, lower, temporarily disconnect, relocate or remove any Brightspeed property located in a Public Way when required by the City consistent with its police powers. Brightspeed shall be responsible for any costs associated with these obligations to the same extent as other users of the respective Public Way and as otherwise required by applicable state or federal law. 12.2 Relocation for a Third Party. Brightspeed shall, at the request of any person holding a lawful permit issued by the City, protect, adjust, support, raise, lower, temporarily disconnect, relocate or remove any Brightspeed property located in a Public Way, provided that the cost of such action is borne by the person requesting it and Brightspeed is given reasonable advance written notice. In such situation, Brightspeed may also require advance payment. For purposes of this subsection 12.2, “reasonable advance written notice” shall mean no less than thirty (30) days for a temporary relocation, and no less than one hundred twenty (120) days for a permanent relocation.

12.3 Alternatives to Relocation. Brightspeed may, after receipt of written notice requesting a relocation of Facilities, submit to the City written alternatives to such relocation. Such alternatives shall include the use and operation of temporary transmitting facilities in adjacent Public Ways. The City shall promptly evaluate such alternatives and advise Brightspeed in writing if one or more of the alternatives are suitable. If requested by the City, Brightspeed shall promptly submit additional information to assist the City in making such evaluation. The City shall give each alternative proposed by Brightspeed full and fair consideration. In the event the City ultimately determines that there is no other reasonable alternative, Brightspeed shall relocate the components of the System as otherwise provided herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Brightspeed shall in all cases have the right to abandon the Facilities.

SECTION 13. Vegetation Management. Brightspeed shall have the authority to trim trees and other natural growth in the Public Ways in order to access and maintain the Facilities in compliance with applicable law and industry standards. This grant shall in no way impose a duty on Brightspeed; instead, this grant gives permission to Brightspeed should Brightspeed elect to conduct such activities from time-to-time in order to access and maintain its Facilities.

SECTION 14. Renewal. At least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration of this Franchise, Brightspeed and the City shall either agree to extend the Term or use best faith efforts to renegotiate a replacement Franchise agreement.

SECTION 15. Revocation of

Franchise for Noncompliance.

15.1 In the event that the City believes that Brightspeed has not complied with the terms of the Franchise, the City shall informally discuss the matter with Brightspeed. If these discussions do not lead to resolution of the problem, the City shall notify Brightspeed in writing of the exact nature of the alleged noncompliance.

15.2 Brightspeed shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of the written notice described in subsection 15.1 to either respond to the City, contesting the assertion of noncompliance, or otherwise initiate reasonable steps to remedy the asserted noncompliance issue, notifying the City of the steps being taken and the projected date that they will be completed.

15.3 In the event that Brightspeed does not comply with subsection 15.2, above, the City shall schedule a public hearing to address the asserted noncompliance issue. The City shall provide Brightspeed at least ten (10) days prior written notice of and the opportunity to be heard at the hearing.

15.4 Subject to applicable federal and state law, in the event the City, after the hearing set forth in subsection 15.3, determines that Brightspeed is noncompliant with this Ordinance, the City may:

A. Seek specific performance of any provision which reasonably lends itself to such remedy, as an alternative to damages; or

B. Commence an action at law for monetary damages or other equitable relief; or

C. In the case of substantial noncompliance with a material provision of the Ordinance, seek to revoke the Franchise in accordance with subsection 15.5.

15.5 Should the City seek to revoke the Franchise after following the procedures set forth above, the City shall give written notice to Brightspeed. Brightspeed shall have ninety (90) days from receipt of such notice to object in writing and state its reason(s) for such objection. Thereafter, the City may seek revocation of the Franchise at a public hearing. The City shall cause to be served upon Brightspeed, at least thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing, a written notice specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to revoke the Franchise. At the designated hearing, the City shall give Brightspeed an opportunity to state its position on the matter, after which the City shall determine whether or not the Franchise shall be revoked. Brightspeed may appeal the City's determination to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the City de novo. Such appeal must be taken within sixty (60) days of the issuance of the City's determination. The City may, at its sole discretion, take any lawful action which it deems appropriate to enforce its rights under this Ordinance in lieu of revocation.

15.6 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions in this Section 15, Brightspeed does not waive any of its rights under applicable law.

SECTION 16. No Waiver of Rights. Neither the City nor Brightspeed shall be excused from complying with any of the terms and conditions contained herein by any failure of the other, or any of its officers, employees, or agents, upon any one or more occasions to insist

upon or to seek compliance with any such terms and conditions. Each party expressly reserves any and all rights, remedies, and arguments it may have at law or equity, without limitation, and to argue, assert, and/or take any position as to the legality or appropriateness of any provision in this Ordinance that is inconsistent with State or Federal law, as may be amended.

SECTION 17. Transfer of Franchise. Brightspeed's right, title, or interest in the Franchise shall not be sold, transferred, assigned, or otherwise encumbered without notice to the City, except when said sale, transfer, assignment, or encumbrance is to an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Brightspeed, or for transfers in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of Brightspeed in the Franchise or Facilities in order to secure indebtedness.

SECTION 18. Amendment. Amendments to the terms and conditions contained herein shall be mutually agreed upon by the City and Brightspeed and formally adopted by the City Council as an ordinance amendment.

SECTION 19. Notices. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be deemed sufficient if given by a communication in writing and shall be deemed to have been received (a) upon personal delivery or actual receipt thereof or (b) within two (2) business days after such notice is deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, certified, and addressed to the Parties as set forth below:

City of Nortonville
407 Main
P.O. Box 177
Nortonville, KS 66060

Brightspeed:
1120 S. Tryon St., Ste. 700
Charlotte, NC 28203

SECTION 20. Publication. In accordance with Kansas Statute, the City shall be responsible for publication of this Ordinance, and any amendments thereof. Brightspeed shall be responsible for payment of all necessary and reasonable costs of publication of this Ordinance, and any amendments thereof.

SECTION 21. Severability. If any section, sentence, paragraph, term or provision hereof is for any reason determined to be illegal, invalid, or superseded by other lawful authority, including any state or federal regulatory authority having jurisdiction thereof, or unconstitutional, illegal or invalid by any court of common jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such determination shall have no effect on the validity of any other section, sentence, paragraph, term or provision hereof, all of which will remain in full force and effect for the term of the Franchise or any renewal or renewals thereof.

CONSIDERED AND APPROVED this 9th day of April, 2025.

CITY OF NORTONVILLE
By: Raymond Brown, Mayor
ACCEPTED BY BRIGHTSPEED:
BY: Patrick Holston
TITLE: Project Manager,
Engineering & Construction
DATE: April 10, 2025