

FILE PHOTO

TRASH

From **PAGE 1**

Efficient operation, insufficient revenue

The assessment did not identify widespread overstaffing or excessive equipment as the source of the utility's financial problems.

Consultants described collection staffing as lean, with managers filling in on routes when employees are absent. They recommended additional backup staffing rather than cuts.

A review of switching commercial routes to front-loading trucks also found obstacles. Narrow alleys, overhead power lines and other access limitations would prevent those trucks from serving some customers. Purchasing both a primary truck and a backup for one route would add costs.

The central problem, consultants said, is that charges have not kept pace with the cost of service.

Emporia's residential solid waste rate is $18.85 per month, compared with a calculated 2026 service cost of $27.50.

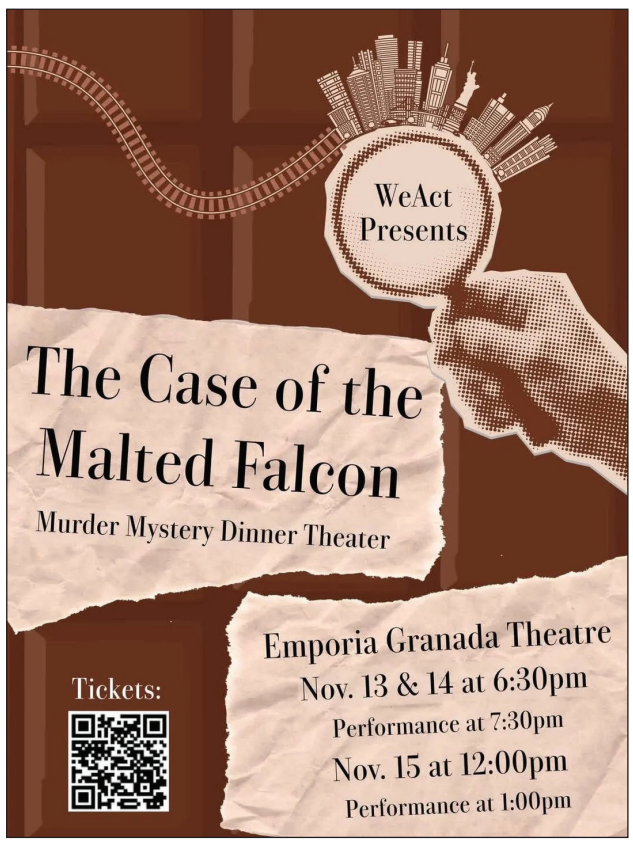
One proposed approach would increase the monthly residential rate to $27.33 in 2027, followed by annual increases of 3% through 2032.

Another would raise it to $21.68 initially, with subsequent increases phased in and larger immediate increases for commercial collection and disposal services. Consultants also presented a third approach combining elements of the first two.

Commissioners asked City Manager Trey Cocking and staff to calculate how county contributions, Sunday closures and other changes could affect the increases needed.

The commission did not adopt new solid waste rates at the study session. The agenda materials anticipate a proposed rate ordinance for discussion Nov. 25 and a final consultant assessment in December.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER IS COMING TO THE EMPORIA GRANADA THEATRE FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY



Riley King
riley@emporia.com

Murder mystery dinner theater "The Case of the Malted Falcon," directed by Lucas Perez-Leahy, is coming to the Granada Theatre Nov. 13-15. This is We Are Emporia Area Community Theatre's fourth murder-mystery-themed production.

The show is based on the "Malted Falcon" statue that has been stolen. By the end of the show, one character will end up murdered and the audience members will have to guess who did it after the show. Audience members who guess correctly have the chance to win a prize basket full of goodies from local businesses.

Friday and Saturday meals will be catered by Gourmet to Go. Sunday's lunch will be Bobby D's. Meals are included in the ticket price if a meal ticket is purchased with a buffet served before the show. Tickets cost $35 and full reserved tables for six tickets are 10% off. Balcony seats are $15 but don't include a meal.

Doors and dinner on Friday and Saturday are at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. For the Sunday matinee, doors and lunch are at noon and the show is at 1 p.m.







