

We were glad to get the ½ inch of rain recently, but we all are well aware that much more is needed to break this long drought. According to a recent report, we have a deficiency of over 50 inches of rainfall during the last 7 years.

I mentioned last month that we had 35 bridges out of 133 that were identified as needing some type of maintenance to keep them serviceable. The crew has repaired about half of those on the list, including replacing the wing wall on the bridge on old Cache Road where it passes under the railroad tracks.

We received the final bridge inspection report on the five truss bridges that we have in District 3. All except one were determined to be in safe condition. The only one that rated a poor condition was over Medicine Creek at Medicine Park. That rating was due to the condition of the deck. This bridge is in the Town of Medicine Park, but the County has responsibility for inspections. We have notified the City officials in Medicine Park.

We have been clearing out dead trees and limbs upstream from bridges to ensure the creeks and draws can handle high water, with hope the rains will come this spring.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation gave the County the beams from the I-44 overpass. The beams are over 50 feet long and can be used in future bridge projects.

On March 10, 2014, the ODOT Commission approved \$960,000 for the paving of Phase 2, which is the north end of the 112th Street project. The road crew has completely recycled the asphalt and we have acquired the needed right of ways. The engineers will be meeting with the utilities companies concerning those that need to be moved.

At the request of the Fire Chief of the Paradise Valley Fire Department, we added gravel to their driveway from where a water meter had been removed.

The construction has begun by H K Builders, Inc. on putting a bridge on Gore Blvd. between Paint and Airport Roads to replace the low water crossing on Boulder Creek. The total cost of the project is \$692,000 and completion date is the 1st of June, depending upon the weather.

The road crew has recycled the old black top on 197th Road from State Highway 36 to Coffee Road. This road is on our list to oil and chip this summer.

The bar ditches were cleaned on 197th Road between Woodland and Coombs Roads. This was done to improve drainage and move the water away from the roadway.

With a fleet of trucks, graders, backhoes and loaders, it takes a lot of work to keep them serviced and running properly. Wayne Cassell, and Kenneth Roach are the dedicated mechanics that we depend on to see to it that all the equipment is in tip top running order. We appreciate being able to depend on these two guys to get the job done!

If you have questions or concerns, I can be contacted at don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us or you may phone the Courthouse or County Barn.