

Data Analysis of WaKeeney Citizens Survey 2018



By

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Mission:

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

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Introduction and Methods

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs (Docking Institute) at FHSU was contracted by the City of WaKeeney to conduct data analysis for the 2018 City of WaKeeney Citizen Survey. On April 4, 2018 or so, 1,491 questionnaire were sent to potential respondents through “Western Kansas World”, the local newspaper of WaKeeney. Respondents were asked to return their completed questionnaires to City offices. Data collection ended May 4, 2018. Data from the 200 questionnaires delivered to the city by May 4th are included in this report.

The response rate was 13.4% ($1,491 / 200 = .134$). Because random sampling techniques were not employed (all newspaper customers received the questionnaire), a margin of error is an inappropriate measure of the representative nature of the 200 completions to the larger group as a whole (1,491). It may be safe assume that if another questionnaire was sent to the same 1,491 potential respondents, however, the findings from that second attempt would approximate the first. The margin of error for 200 completed questionnaires from a pool of 1,491 potential respondents is +/- 6.45%.

The Docking Institute obtained from the City of WaKeeney the 200 completed questionnaires for data entry and analysis. Institute student staff members entered data into SPSS statistical software. Luis Montelongo, Docking Institute Research Coordinator, supervised data entry and coordinated the development of this report.

Analysis of “closed-ended” (quantitative) questions begins on Page 3. Many respondents provided comments to two “open-ended” (qualitative) questions. Analysis of these two questions begins on Page 10. In addition, citizens also mailed or email comments directly to the City. These comments are included in this report. Some are incorporated in the bullet points for the open-ended comments, while the last age of this report includes a letter from a citizen.

Findings from the Survey

The questionnaire contained 40 items. The response options for each included Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied, and Don't Know. Answer options were coded as the following:

Very Satisfied = 1

Satisfied = 2

Neutral = 3

Dissatisfied = 4

Very Dissatisfied = 5

Don't Know = 9

Figures starting on the next page group items by category. Categories include maintenance, utilities, city government, recreation, housing, living facilities, and WaKeeney in general. Each item is ranked within each figure by combined "Strongly Dissatisfied" and "Dissatisfied" responses. It should be noted that many questionnaire respondents were "Satisfied" and "Very Satisfied" with each item, but it was determined that highlighting those areas of potentially needed improvement would be beneficial to reviewers.

The figures also show the number of respondents providing answers to each question. The number of respondents is shown by "(n=x)" for each item within each figure. Answer option 9 (don't know) was not included in the analyses. Additionally, some respondents did not provide a response to every item. As such, no individual item shows an "n" of 200.

Questionnaire respondents also had two "open-ended" questions to answer, with spaces provided for comments. These questions included "Are there any services or projects you would like to see the city provide?" and "Would you be in favor of contracting law enforcement services with the Trego County Sheriff? Why or why not?"

Figures begin on the next page.

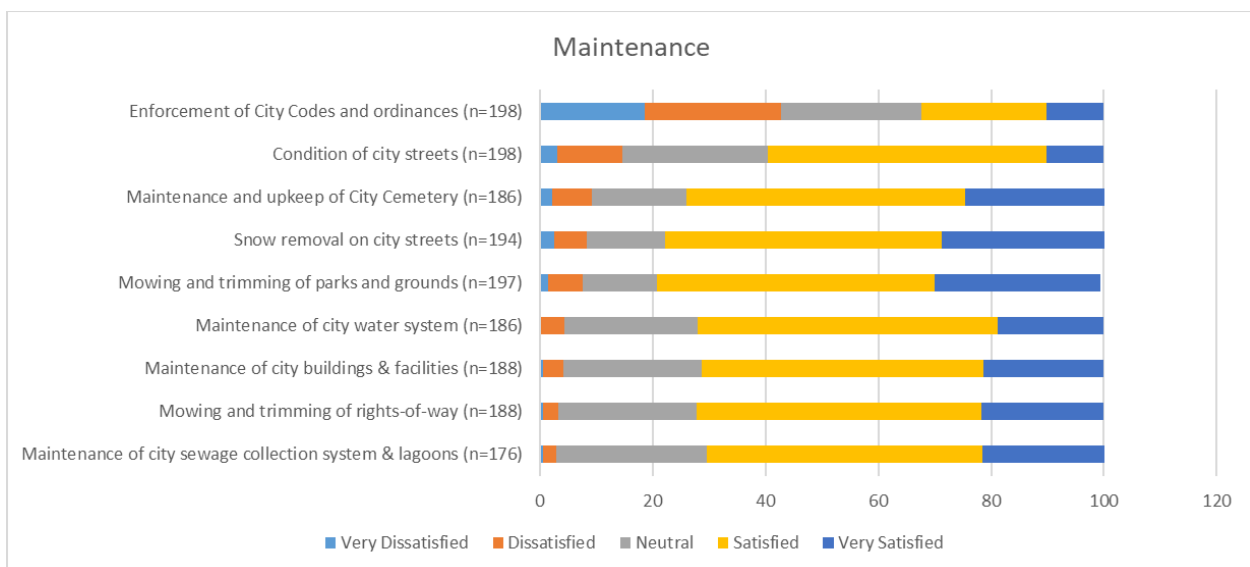
The figure below shows that almost a fifth (18.5%) reported being “Very Dissatisfied” and a quarter (24.3%) reported being “Dissatisfied” with the enforcement of city codes and ordinances (for a total of 42.8%). As such, more than two-fifths (42.8%) of the respondents were *at least* dissatisfied with the enforcement of city codes and ordinances.

On the other hand, about a third (32.3%) of the respondents were also *at least* satisfied (22.2% “Satisfied” and 10.1% “Very Satisfied”) with the enforcement of city codes and ordinances.

The item with the next highest combined dissatisfaction ranking was the condition of city streets. About 3% of the respondents were “Very Dissatisfied” and about 12% were “Dissatisfied” with the condition of city streets, for a total of about 15% being *at least* dissatisfied with this item. On the other hand, 60% were *at least* satisfied with the condition of city streets. (About 26% were neutral.)

At the other end of the spectrum, the items receiving the highest ranking of satisfaction was the mowing and trimming of parks and grounds. More than three-quarters (78%) were *at least* satisfied with this item (49.2% “Satisfied” and 29.4% “Very Satisfied”).

Snow Removal on city streets follows closely with about 78% of the respondents reporting *at least* satisfaction. More than a quarter (28.9%) reporting being “Very Satisfied” and 49% reporting being “Satisfied” with this item.

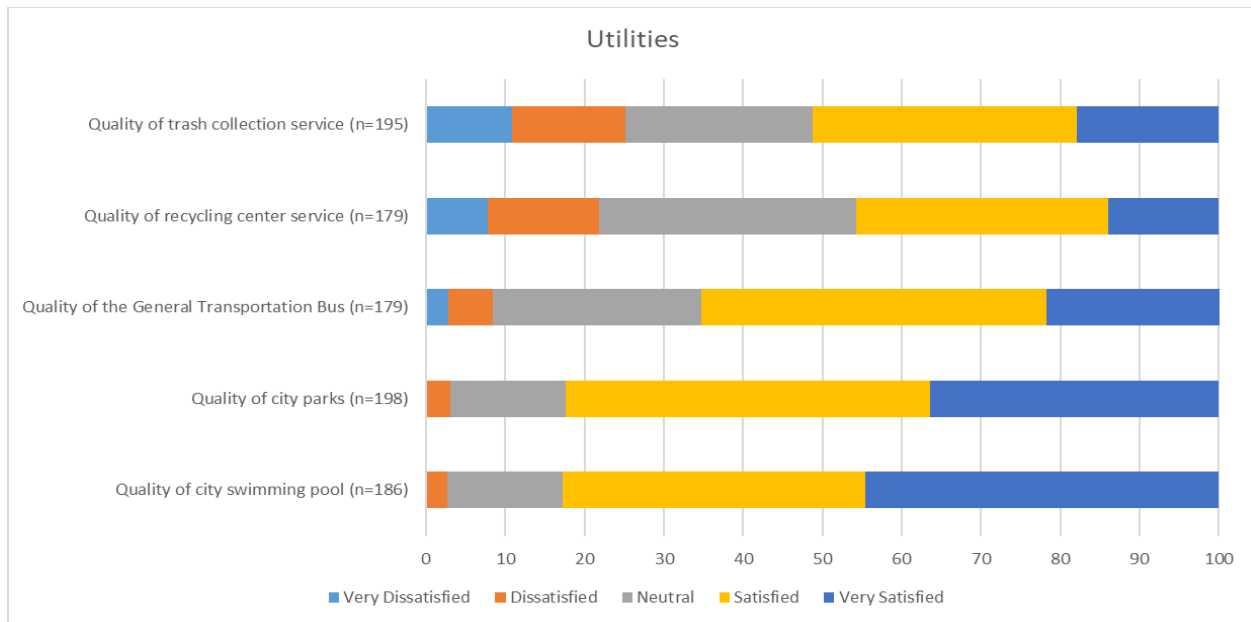


Another set of items asked for respondents' options about utilities provided in WaKeeney.

About a tenth (10.8%) of those respondents were "Very Dissatisfied" with the quality of trash collection service, while another 14.4% responded with "Dissatisfied." As such, about a fifth (25.2%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with the quality of trash collection services. On the other hand, about half (51.2%) reporting being *at least* satisfied with trash collection services.

At the other end of the spectrum, the item receiving the highest ranking of satisfaction was the quality of the city swimming pool. More than four-fifths (82.8%) of respondents report being *at least* satisfied with this item (38.2% "Satisfied" and 44.6% "Very Satisfied").

The quality of city parks were also viewed favorable, with a vast majority (82.4%) reporting *at least* satisfaction with this item. Specifically, almost half (46% being "Satisfied" and 36.4% being "Very Satisfied") with city parks.



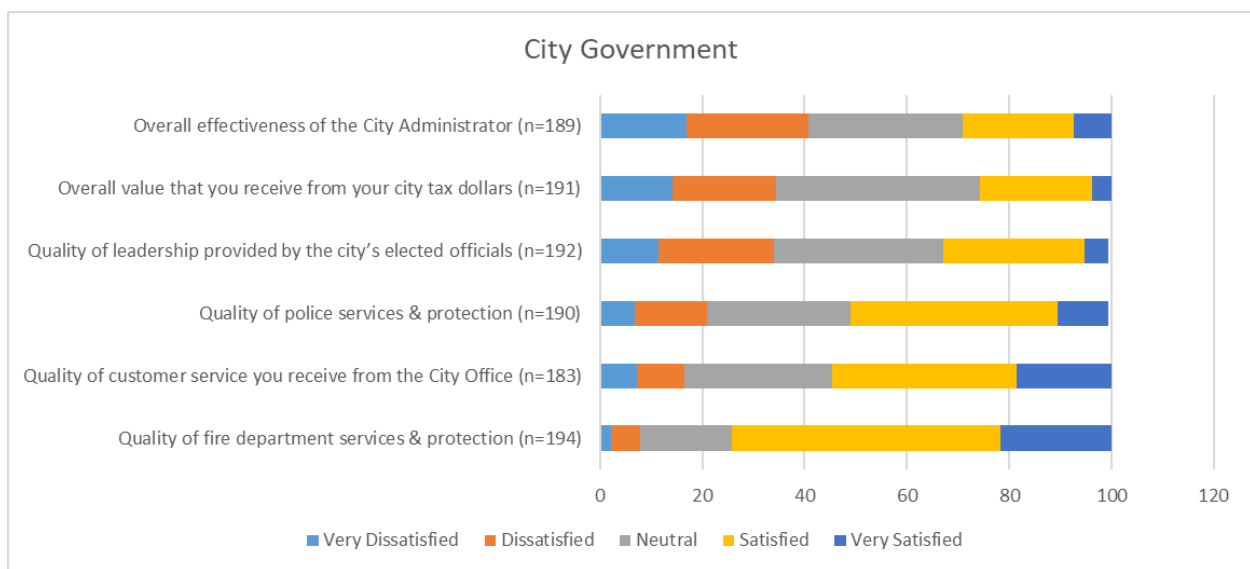
The third set of questions for the survey asks the respondents' about how they viewed the city government in WaKeeney.

Two-fifths report being *at least* dissatisfied with the overall effectiveness of the City Administrator, with about 17% being "Very Dissatisfied" and almost 24% being "Dissatisfied." On the other hand, 29.1% report being *at least* satisfied with the overall effectiveness of the City Administrator.

Two items shown in the chart below follow closely behind with regard to general dissatisfaction and satisfaction. The first is the overall value that you receive from your city tax dollars. About a third (34.5%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with the value received from tax dollars. Alternatively, about a quarter (25.7%) report being *at least* satisfied with the value received from tax dollars.

The second is the quality of leadership provided by the city's elected officials. About a third (33.9%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with elected leadership, and about a third (32.3%) report being *at least* satisfied with elected leadership.

The item that received the highest ranking of satisfaction was the quality of fire department services and protection. Almost three-fourths (74.2%) of respondents were *at least* satisfied, with 52.6% "Satisfied" and 21.6% "Very Satisfied".

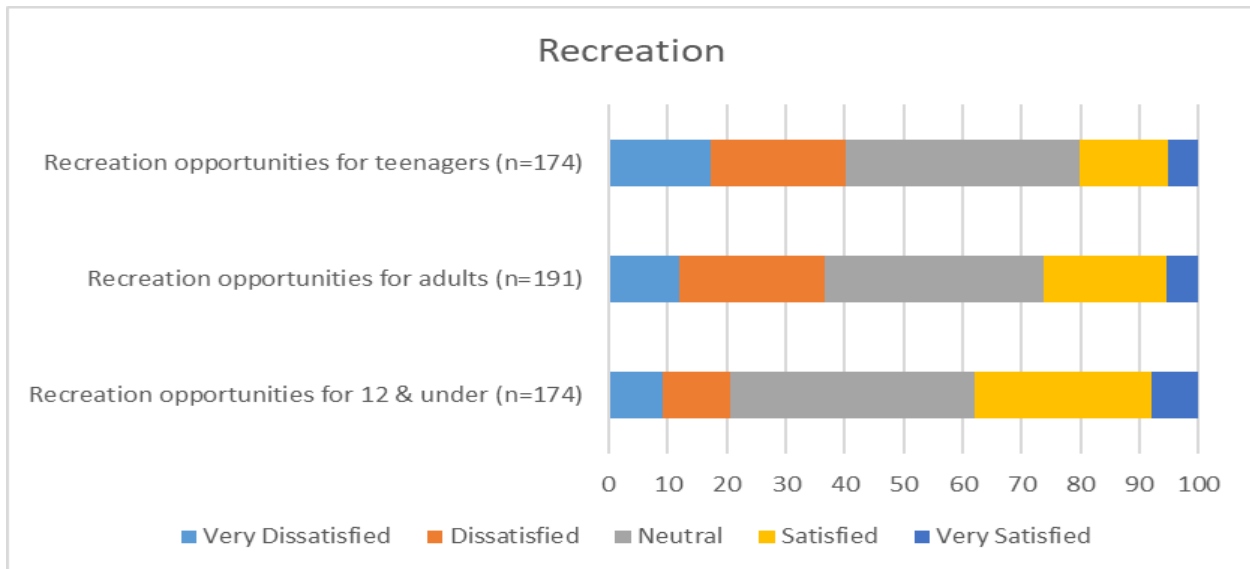


Another set of items addressed recreation.

Two-fifths (40.2%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with the recreational opportunities for teenagers, with about 17% being “Very Dissatisfied” and 23% being “Satisfied.” On the other hand, a fifth (20.1%) report being *at least* satisfied with the recreational opportunities for teenagers, with 14.9% being “Satisfied” and 5.2% being “Very Satisfied.”

The item with the next highest level of dissatisfaction was recreational opportunities for adults (36.6% being *at least* dissatisfied), with more than a tenth (12%) of respondents report being “Very Dissatisfied” and a quarter (24.6%) being “Dissatisfied.” On the other hands, about a quarter (26.1%) report being *at least* satisfied with recreational opportunities for adults, with 21% being “Satisfied” and 5.2% being “Very Satisfied.”

The item receiving the highest ranking of satisfaction was recreational opportunities for children 12 years of age or younger. Almost two-fifths (37.9%) report being *at least* satisfied with recreational opportunities for children 12 years of age or younger, with almost 30% being “Satisfied” and 8% being “Very Satisfied.”

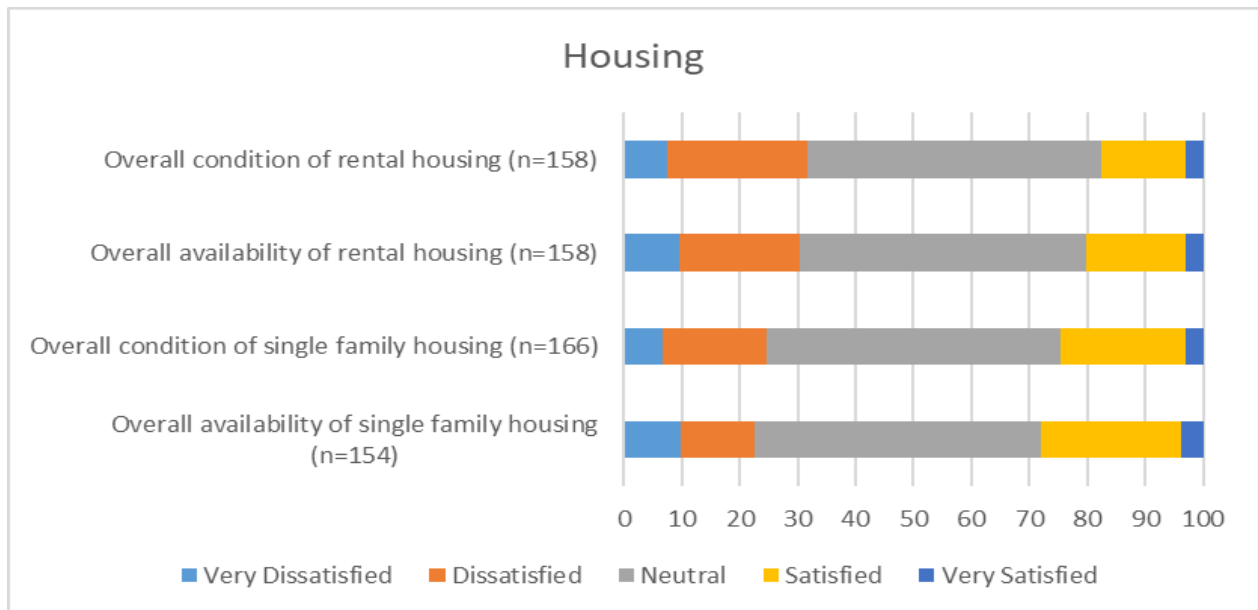


Another set of items addressed housing.

More than a quarter (31.7%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with the overall condition of rental housing, with 7.6% being “Very Dissatisfied” and 24.1% being “Satisfied.” On the other hand, almost a fifth (17.8%) report being *at least* satisfied with the overall condition of rental housing, with 14.6% being “Satisfied” and 3.2% being “Very Satisfied.”

Regarding the overall availability of rental housing, 30.4% of respondent report being *at least* dissatisfied, with 9.5% being “Very Dissatisfied and 20.9% being “Dissatisfied.” On the other hands, about a fifth (20.3%) report being *at least* satisfied with recreational opportunities for adults, with 21% being “Satisfied” and 5.2% being “Very Satisfied.”

The item receiving the highest ranking of satisfaction was the overall availability of single family housing. Almost two-fifths (27.9%) report being *at least* satisfied with the overall availability of single family housing, with 24% being “Satisfied” and 3.9% being “Very Satisfied.”

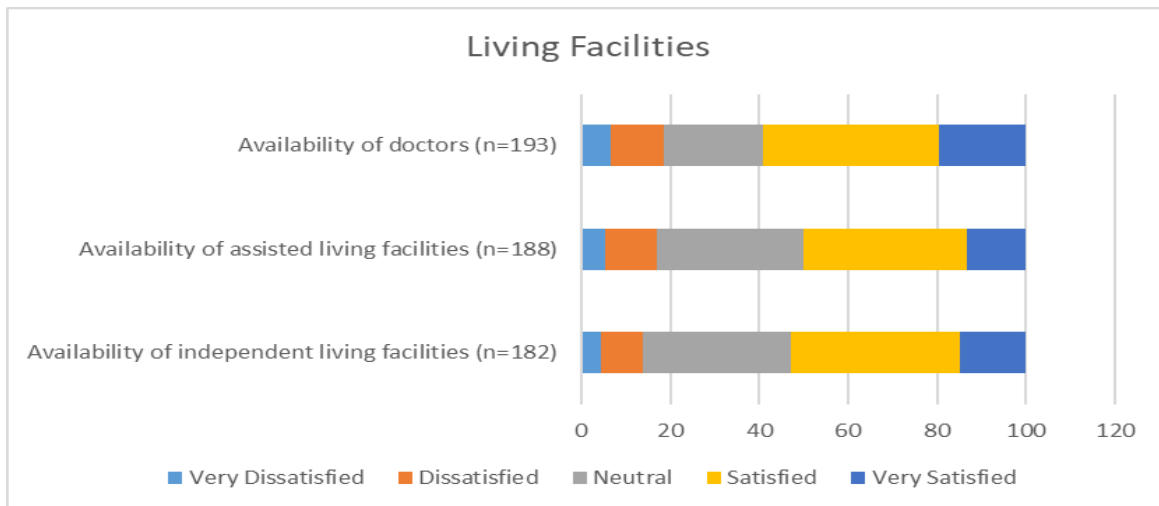


Another set of items addressed living facilities (both independent and assisted) and medical providers.

Almost a fifth (18.6%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with the availability of doctors, with 6.7% being “Very Dissatisfied” and 11.9% being “Satisfied.” On the other hand, more than a half (59.1%) report being *at least* satisfied with the availability of doctors, with 39.4% being “Satisfied” and 19.7% being “Very Satisfied.”

Regarding the availability of assisted living facilities, 17% of respondent report being *at least* dissatisfied, with 5.3% being “Very Dissatisfied and 11.7% being “Dissatisfied.” On the other hands, half (50%) report being *at least* satisfied with the availability of assisted living facilities, with 36.7% being “Satisfied” and 13.3% being “Very Satisfied.”

Finally, 13.7% of respondents report being *at least* dissatisfied with the availability of independent living facilities. On the other hand, more than half (52.7%) report being *at least* satisfied with the availability of independent living facilities.

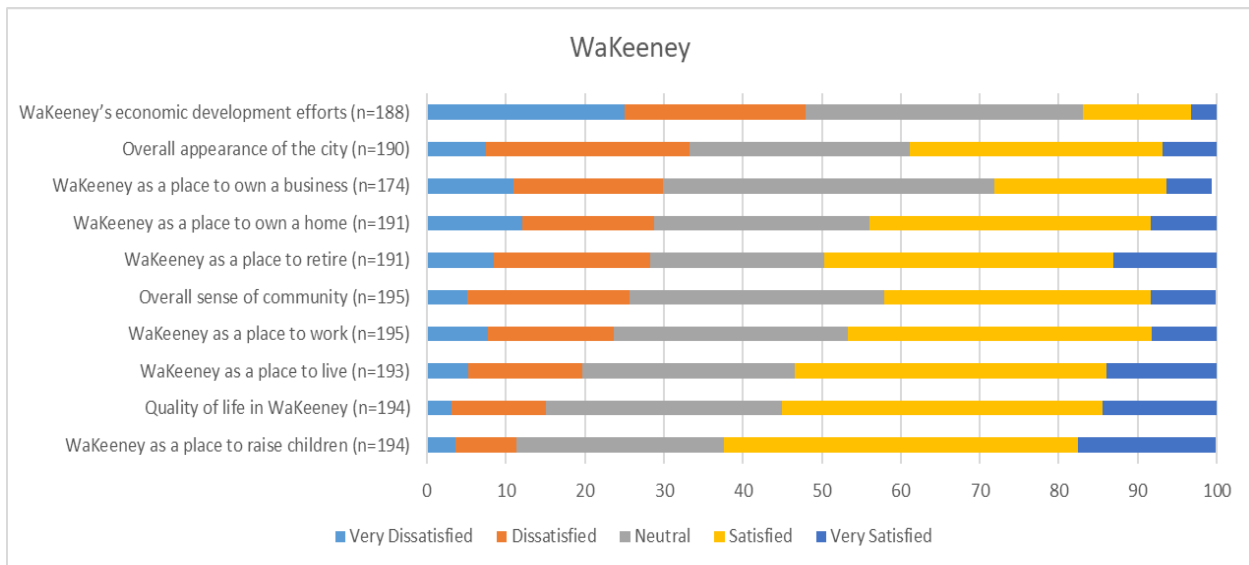


A final set of items address WaKeeney more generally.

Almost half (47.9%) report being *at least* dissatisfied with Wakeeney’s economic development efforts, with 25% being “Very Dissatisfied” and 22.9% being “Satisfied.” On the other hand, almost a fifth (17%) report being *at least* satisfied with Wakeeney’s economic development, with 13.8% being “Satisfied” and 3.2% being “Very Satisfied.” More than a third (35.1%) report being “Neutral” on this issue.

Regarding the overall appearance of the city, a third (33.2%) of respondent report being *at least* dissatisfied, with 7.4% being “Very Dissatisfied” and 25.8% being “Dissatisfied.” On the other hands, more than a third (38.9%) report being *at least* satisfied with the overall appearance of the city, with 32.1% being “Satisfied” and 6.8% being “Very Satisfied.”

The item receiving the highest ranking of satisfaction was WaKeeney as a place to raise children. More than three-fifths (62.3%) report being *at least* satisfied with WaKeeney as a place to raise children, with 44.8% being “Satisfied” and 17.5% being “Very Satisfied.”



As noted, the questionnaire provided respondents with to “open-ended” questions to answer. The first was “Are there any services or projects you would like to see the city provide?”

The table below shows responses to this question, with items “collapsed” into seven categories. The table shows that 30.9% of the respondents leaving comments left comments addressing maintenance and that better maintenance of various infrastructure around Wakeeney.

Services or Projects

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Maintenance-better maintenance of various infrastructures around WaKeeney	43	30.9	30.9
Utilities-better management of utilities and better trash collection services	30	21.6	52.5
City Government-Tax payers not supported, City laws are not enforced properly	32	23.0	75.5
WaKeeney-Better services, jobs, businesses, and infrastructure	17	12.2	87.8
Recreation-walking trails, movie theater, Splash Parks for children, and dog park	9	6.5	94.2
Law Enforcement-better police officers	1	.7	95.0
No Thoughts-No comment	7	5.0	100.0
Total	139	100.0	
Missing	61		
Total	200		

The second question was “Would you be in favor of contracting law enforcement services with the Trego County Sheriff? Why or why not?”

The table below shows responses to this question, with items “collapsed” into eight categories. The table shows that 31.3% of the respondents leaving comments support contracting law enforcement with the Trego County Sheriff’s office, but clarify that the contracting should be limited to the Sheriff’s Office. Furthermore, more than half (59.6%) report support for contracting law enforcement services with the Sheriff’s office (see the Cumulative Percent column).

Contract with Trego County Sheriff

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes-just Sheriff's Dept.	52	31.3	31.3
Yes with stipulations like lower taxes and saving money	30	18.1	49.4
Yes-both Sherriff and Local Police work together	17	10.2	59.6
No-keep local Police Dept.	25	15.1	74.7
No-too much at one time/has been voted on before	11	6.6	81.3
No-cause problems/problems already exist	6	3.6	84.9
Maybe-depends on plan of action	2	1.2	86.1
Need more information/Don't know	23	13.9	100.0
Total	133	100.0	
Missing	34		
Total	200		

The following pages include all of the comments left by questionnaire respondents. The first section shows response to the question “Are there any services or projects you would like to see the city provide?” The second section (see page 21) shows responses to “Would you be in favor of contracting law enforcement services with the Trego County Sheriff? Why or why not?”

Comments for services or projects that citizens of WaKeeney would like to see in their city:

- More white bus loads after school. The bus is overloaded (kids stand). Better snow removal when we get snow. They should clean the streets when everything is melting. Having one or two employees do the trash could save money over the long term rather than having a contracted trash service.
- Better control of cats roaming everywhere. They’re not wanted. They killed my birds and leave paw prints in my car. If people want them, they should keep them home at all times and not at my yard. (They destroyed my flower bed last year).
- I would like the city to enforce no trash visible from the street.
- Factory- We need jobs, better than minimum wage. \$7.35 is not enough. \$294 before taxes if you're lucky enough to work a full 40 hours a week.
- No
- No, taxes too high.
- Enforce removal of trash cans from streets after being dumped/emptied or go back to alley pick up. Tear down theater wall. Continue to tear down vacant/abandoned structures. Enforce- not allowing the feeding of stray cats on private or public property-they are damaging commercial property for resale!
- Need a walking trail.
- Bring back community dumpsters. City was a lot cleaner. Work on getting business and pop. Growth in town. Offices are not businesses. How about making a community center where they store trucks in city building. Could be used by all age groups.
- Would be better to have plastics included at the recycling center and also more hours.
- No, because it will never happen.
- You are in violation of the federal law. There are no sidewalks for handicapped people. No place to get to when you get tired of walking and no bathroom. The shuttle driver is not the blame. The school needs to run the bus or parents need to bring their kids to school.

- Less wasteful tax spending. The cost of owning a home in Trego County is very expensive. We see no effort being made to attract businesses to the area.
- Walking path
- No. Not enough money for frivolous things. However, keep clearing away unsightly properties.
- I'd like to see everyone treated the same, ie, the same set of rules apply to everyone. Also, would like to see elected officials do what they're supposed to do instead of what fits their own agenda.
- More things to bring/keep young families here. The town dies off more each year. Parks are great and always look good.
- Yes, open a recycling facility as mayor Deutshen had. Now we have to go to Hays. Get on the ball! A city employee could run it instead of driving around.
- Yes, continue the cleanup of abandoned houses.
- Support tax payers, get rid of city admin! Too much private agendas and favorites going on. What did city do to cover up for Ebhra and Stin not doing their job?
- Get a county attorney that lives in Trego county and is concerned about Trego county instead of making a name for himself so he can move on to a better job.
- Fix the bump- uneven and coming off the brick street to the black top at 6th and warren- in front of dines const.
- No. Taxes are already absolutely too high for this community. As you can see everything on the list that has to do with spending tax dollars in this town is the best of everything. No more spending!
- Projects and development of plans to work at keeping local businesses (large-small) stable. Bringing other businesses and citizens to town. Make all elected officials transparent including the city manager.
- Wasting tax dollars hiring police unfit for the job.
- Better drug enforcement.
- Bring more daycare to town (incentives?) Please? I want to continue to live here, but I cannot work if I have no daycare.
- A new community bus and then the bus to run on Saturdays for people to get rides to places.
- Need more long term care facilities- always on waiting lists.

- I'd like to see the potholes at the intersections fixed. I wish we could do more to get rid of the cat population on Easter Street.
- Projects finished like the sidewalk to nowhere at swimming pool park and matching lights on main. A tornado shelter at Airplane Park by the highway.
- Dog control- they let dogs roam all over town. Trashy properties- very junky.
- Animal control of stray cats! If they aren't owned and tagged, they should not be fed by others and run free to keep rebreeding. Trap and take to the country or the humane society.
- Lower real estate sales taxes. Provide recreation and entertainment by looking at volunteer type projects to drastically reduce costs.
- Recycling bins at recycle center as it was before it was discontinued.
- Clean up the intersection on 13th and Barclay- or make them put up a fence. It looks horrible.
- Get rid of dandelions and bindweed on city property.
- City council needs to enforce the city codes for everyone and the mayor needs to be a leader.
- There are many things that could improve our community, but our taxes are very high. We need more people moving in to work our businesses.
- The city do their own trash and recycling. I believe in the long run it will be cheaper and possibly provide another city job.
- Demolish unsightly and unreliable houses. Enforce city ordinances on junk properties.
- Citizens should have the option of opting out of trash services, rather than having the fee automatically tacked onto the water bill. If I'm willing to take my own trash to the landfill, let me!
- Bring in some jobs/businesses to keep town alive. In another 5 years this town will be the next Collyer Kansas.
- Stop allowing people to feed stray cats. They are damaging- urinating and having babies on personal property.
- Replace deteriorated sidewalks.
- Movie theater
- Maybe a new city administrator
- Jobs! Good paying jobs.
- Pools need to be open more than 4 hours a day- that is ridiculous. Fix the pool heater before pool opens not as it is closing in August. Trash- Why can't you have the option to pay for trash?

We own a commercial building- they do not pick up our trash. Old McDonald's-gave him an option to do something with the building- it looks awful.

- Water aerobics in summer. Exercise classes in winter.
- Work with someone to get new jobs here. Who stops economic development in Wakeeney? We are going backwards, not forward. The county leadership is also bad. Repair curbing and sidewalks downtown. Clean up more of Wakeeney. We are losing ground.
- Better streets surface repair. Make littering in the public buses unacceptable by student users. No one likes sticky seats or floors. Fine or have them help clean the bus.
- Better sound systems for downtown area events.
- Improve city sidewalks- provide building for teen center and a 2nd-hand store building with volunteers to run and one paid employee for both.
- Removal of junk vehicles and cleanup which falls under enforcement of city codes and ordinances.
- I would like to see the city fix the sidewalks, even if the homeowner has to pay half. Cut property taxes, towns are not that nice.
- The county and city need to be combined better use of tax dollar.
- I am sure there are, but since this town is full of entitled people that take, but never volunteer to help, what is the point? If it deals with change, heaven forbid getting any support.
- Better maintenance of drainage ditches.
- Upkeep of railroad crossing at 4th main St.
- Old "McDonalds" needs to clean it up- raise his taxes.
- The trash bins in the street look bad. They belong in the alley where they wouldn't have to be pushed/pulled to the street and back. The city needs to look into the 4th of July and fireworks. Two days should be enough time for shooting off fireworks- and those very loud "bombs" should not be allowed. Dates and times set by city need to be followed.
- We get notices of unmoved property, notices of junk cars. Why don't we give a notice to the owners of the old McDonald's that is falling apart? They bought that to keep a Casey's out. It needs to be kept up as it is on our main exits.
- Decent sidewalks and curbing! More than one alley pickup of household items!
- The area where the airplanes stay is a missed opportunity for a park or walk path for visitors. We need a place to leave trash and recycling during off hours.
- More emphasis on city wide cleanup in all neighborhoods.

- Alternate trash service, better leadership from City officials and county officials. Things planned for more jobs to keep our kids here.
- Clean up trashy property. Need to lower taxes they're too high.
- Keep cleaning up inhabited houses that need repair or are trashy looking. Incentives for fixing up housing for rentals. We would like to see recycle of plastic. Concerned about increases on property taxes
- Recycling needs to be more available and more items recycled.
- Follow up on the leash law and actually enforce it.
- An ambulance service that's always available. My daughter had to wait for one from Quinter. Had appendicitis and reaction to pain med needed to go to Hays-no ambulance available. Had to wait an hour for Quinter's. Before Quinter responded they were going to fly her.
- No suggestion
- Please improve upkeep of Lib yard, the railroad parks, plantings, flowerpots. Mary Hendricks did such a good job, but it has gotten terrible. Wish city and county would work together cooperatively. Promote everyone working together.
- You need to provide industry to bring the damn tax dollars in here. There is nothing to help the people that live here, you keep raising taxes and no one can pay them. No jobs no income, no tax dollars. You're going to make this town turn to Collyes.
- Splash Park, more activities for younger children that aren't in school.
- Better cleanup of properties that look like junk yards! Good work on the tear downs! Good work on waterway clean up below Barclay!
- Recycling picked up similar to trash.
- The customer service at the city office is fine when dealing with the ladies out front. We got less space for our trash and now pay more and are required to move our trash to the curb. It's not right. The townspeople are all out for themselves, they don't support each other. Lastly, given the age of most living here, we need more quality space.
- We pay to have the driveway cleared- we need someone to come remove the snow- other towns do this.
- More for our younger people to do. It would be great if we had a movie place or a young adult hangout place. Under 21 years of age.
- A different trash collection service. The new one was a real bad choice!

- Get rid of city council they are spineless. Get a mayor that can do something and get something done.
- Improve city streets- Can't even walk in street gutters because of extra oil and rock- The gutters are in bad shape in many areas the concrete is broke out. Overall taxes need to hold steady if they continue to rise no one in WaKeeney will be able to afford to live here. Doing business the same way just because that is the way it has been done needs to be re-thought.
- Need improved sound system for main street activities- very poor!
- Would like to see yard-waste picked up more often.
- Can't think of any off-hand.
- City Park needs new mulch at playground. Benches need at swimming pool area. Fix pool heater. Needs recycling. Addition to recreation facility-need more space for workout area- training/weight room.
- Would like longer swimming pool season/love our Rec. Center. Take care of rough streets before sealing.
- We need a metal can recycling program. People save cans to be recycled and the recycling boy throw them in the trash trucks as soon as the citizen leaves. I would also like to see the swimming pool stay open till 6pm instead of closing at 5pm!
- Dog park. We need something for the high school students. Why is Kenny Roy still our mayor? You cannot convince me that you had no clue that our chief of police was a two faced law breaking POS. He was the one that pushed for Terry to get the job after he left. Also, why do we only have PA's instead of doctors? We have 3 PA's , 1 NP and 2 MD's. If I'm going to pay a copay I want to see a doctor!
- Pool hours extended past 5pm. Pool heater on. Nicer signs in the middle of Main Street. Easier recycling. Recycle plastics, metals and pick up trash in the alley, like Hays.
- Kudo's to the department in charge of the cemetery and the parks!! Very proud to live in a town where such care and pride is given for all the community to enjoy.
- Drive in theater, empty block west of Rec. center. Community info. Sign, digital instead of metal sign in the middle of main. Pool hour until 6pm. Recycle center is clean-expand to taking plastics and metals. Recycling center-please go tour Ellis or Colby recycling centers for examples. Trash back to alley pickup and this whole problem is solved. Council should have said no when they company changed to street pickup. Green barrels are now put of most people's front yards and porches.

- Parking enforcement for open businesses!!
- Thanks for spring ally cleanup!
- We would like to say, "Job well done" to the person in charge of the cemetery and the parks!
Thank you!
- I don't care what Dean Wager says, I think all the parks look good. She needs to get a life and not be so negative.
- I would like to see snow removal away from curb instead of toward because it blocks driveways.
Would like to see theater built as new (like Hill City's)
- Alley pickup for trash should have been left alone. Everybody is worried about how the town looks now that we have trash cans in the street. Looks worse than vehicles in the backyard.
- Longer pool hours. Daycare is really bad! Repair from the storm. Town looks bad. Need to trim the trees. This town has potential, let's make it work.
- Swimming pool open more hours.
- Former city council man- Michael Ghuman should be held accountable for following ordinances.
Also, spend more time running his business and taking care of his rentals on county time. He uses the county vehicle for personal use.
- Walking/bike trail, clean up more trashy homes, especially those 2 on south end of main (east side. Make WW drilling put up a nice fence to get that junk out of sight more. County taxes make it very difficult for homeowners to stay in WaKeeney.
- Bring more businesses to town to fill down town store fronts.
- Continued of expanded demolition of abandoned properties. Start enforcement of derelict vehicles and trashy properties. Make WaKeeney great again!
- Taxes are high. I know you can't tell people to clean up their places, but something has to be done.
- Combine city and county government. Only one body to manage city and county.
- Please provide 10% decrease in overall spending. We had to decrease spending in here at home. Retirement income will not allow us to stay if taxes here keep increasing. How are we to see that our citizens have adequate income especially if our government feels entitled to keep raising spending? Our adults have to leave to have adequate income. Our children have a park and swimming pool- no roller-rink and now bowling through the winter. Sports are a plus. Our retirees cannot keep paying more and more taxes. We cannot expect our government to

provide everything, we as citizens have responsibility to our community to see that we lead to improve quality of life here.

- I would like to see a more comprehensive plan on going and codes. Enforce both.
- No
- More things for older people. Taxes are way too high for what we receive in return.
- Older adult educational opportunities.
- More jobs and less welfare. More doctors not PA's.
- Cutting down dead trees, clean exits coming into Wakeeney. Help people who really need help, have walking place for people who walk beside the track. New businesses, have walking friendly town, and less taxes.
- Not sure what the city codes or ordinances are- maybe having a column in the local paper to keep community old and new more up to date with everything. We used to have the sheriff have a write up in the weekly paper- it's not consistent, does the community know of the 411 app that can be useful? Trash service- hope it will be looked into before any contracts are renewed. It's sad and ugly looking town with dumpsters. We want the city to look good. What about the recycling center? Wakeeney as a place to own a business- It's a dog eat dog world anyways- if you're not well known citizen of Wakeeney trying to start a small business, well Wakeeney doesn't play nice. I see them struggle and feel sad for them. What recent economic developments have we had recently?
- Building for thrift store- teenager recreation besides sports- they need a "place"
- Trash collection
- More doctors- get rid of economic development. Put streets back to being flat instead of crap so people can walk.
- Make city clerk position an elected position rather than appointed by friends.
- We need to cleanup residential yards. I guess I can stop renting storage shed and just park my stuff all over the yard and streets.
- Continue to demolish rundown houses/buildings-Old McDonald's, Trego Manor, Two boeve houses on Main Street.
- When residential moves into commercial areas the area need to be rezoned residential. Zoning needs to be an ongoing process to keep our city beautiful. Poor zoning and planning is why we have W.W drilling junk pile across the street from a beautiful veteran's cemetery. Do you think we would have got the cemetery if their shit would have been there when we applied? How

about commercial sites 1/2 mile east of highway 40? Think about our future instead of leaving the same zoning laws in place.

- Cleanup the junk in the yards.
- We need to get rid of city and county administration and they don't do their job, but have a hand out for pay.
- Recycle collection on a regular basis at residence, land filling up quickly. More accountability of homeowners. Numerous houses in town could be torn down to make city more representable.
- Economic development should print where their money is spent- that is tax dollar money. I do not ever see new businesses, just what does she do.
- Get a qualified police chief.
- Put Diane Wagner and her gang in UPS boxes and ship them to Syria.
- Promote city pride in relations to property ownership. Homes and property are becoming eye sores.
- Continue the Christmas city theme and replace all lights.
- Mostly county concern with taxes and mismanagement prior years, run down homes, low end neighborhoods with high taxes!! Midwest Energy needs to put ally's back to where they found them or city needs to finish what Midwest didn't complete. More concentration on weeds and appearances - home owners should have citations given.
- About time!!! Don't need both
- Business that pay a good wage
- Would like to know where the sales tax for economic development is going?
- Make economic development records public so we can see where our taxes are going for.
- People need to work together - we need business who pay a good wage and hire others besides family.
- More business.
- A dog park, restrooms (at Eisenhower Park and other public places), an interactive fountain.
- Cemetery: Ordinance 12-207. Do you require the \$15 monument fee for setting a monument? We weren't charged that fee when we set our monument. I see this as a loss of revenue for the City. There is no mention of cemetery maintenance, grounds or other. Clarification is needed. The ordinances in place are not being enforced. The City owns "about" 1500 lots in our cemetery. That is more than our city will use in its lifetime. Why were the west sections opened when there was ample spaces/lots available in the older section? Do you promote the

spaces/lots in the older sections when lots are purchased? I have questions about the accuracy of several posts on the old directory. Will the new directory be checked for accuracy before posting? I was told the City cannot accurately record cremains burials.

- Trash: I am saying again. The trash bins are impossible for citizens with limitations. Many citizens have relatives or neighbors that help on trash day. What about the citizens that don't have assistance?
- Environmental Issues: What would you think when coming to our City and the first properties you came upon are the ones in my examples? The blame for the dilapidated structures and unsightly properties is yours. You do not enforce the ordinances and enforce them fairly. I'm not against demolition of the property owner. On top of that, the City will be mowing many of the lots and may never be reimbursed. I mentioned the bindweed in Railroad Park to a Councilperson several days ago. We are now using additional tax dollars to fix negligence. It may take more years than you have to kill the bindweed. Police officers removed three cats from our property. Four have taken their place. This is ridiculous! Was there a time frame for Luverne Peifer to remove the junk from his lot? Maybe I should lower my expectations or have none.

Comments for contracted law enforcement services with Trego County Sheriff:

- Yes
- We could cut costs by only having a few county sheriff deputies.
- Maybe- would like more information.
- If it saves tax payers' money!
- No, it is difficult to do two tasks at the same time.
- In favor- if done right we could actually lower our high taxes. Quit wasting our tax dollars.
- Yes, consolidate services will save money.
- No, hire sheriff as police administrator for
- Yes-only as long as local citizens can vote for whomever is in charge.
- No, law enforcement in city may decrease.
- No, has been voted down at least twice by voters. Also no real cost savings.
- Not sure- would need to hear pros and cons.
- Yes, the two departments should be working together anyways.
- As long as service in the country doesn't weaken. Have sheriff Hanks in charge. Too much drama and wrongdoing going on in the city. When you ordinances and laws, it goes to everyone. Don't bust some and let some of the high and might go. Very biased and not fair to all.
- You need to enforce the Leash Law better- we don't have a dog and we have more dog shit in our yard than anyone!!
- Yes
- I would be interested in a combined department between sheriff and police.
- No, hasn't worked in other towns.
- Yes, we feel it would be a cost savings for the county, as well as more efficient.
- Yes
- No, bad idea. Living on I-70 and 283, we need more competent law enforcement, not less.
- Right now I'll say no because I don't know anything about how it would work, what would change, pros and cons etc. Put out some information and keep the people informed and in the loop and I might change my mind.
- I think one working unit for the whole county is more than enough. We don't need city and county to be separate.

- Absolutely, we are a small city and county. Use our tax dollars wisely. It seems you can't fire a chief of police but we can elect a sheriff. City council only represent themselves it seems. Garza as chief, get real!!
- Yes should have been done years ago. What we have now makes no sense for 1,800 people.
- Yes, Hanks has done more than sferred into help again. Kudos Hanks staff good job-you and other people. Mayor, admin, county commissioner Hobbs, Parks, Hager all need to be fired for costing more dollars and not doing their job.
- Yes
- Satisfied with the way it is.
- If it would save tax dollars then yes!
- What would be the cost? Would there be change in how things are done? Who would be in charge?
- Yes
- Yes- we have no need for both department heads. Wasted tax money. Taxes here are too high as it is.
- Yes
- Would like one law enforcement department. Sheriff and city combined.
- Yes, we should make it all under the sheriff department.
- I do not know what the benefits/drawbacks are. Please do not consolidate sheriff and PD. Our local police force works hard for the citizens of this community. A consolidation would be detrimental to this community.
- They are doing good work and it is needed to help prevent crime in Wakeeney and Trego county area.
- No
- Need more information.
- Yes, too many law enforcement for no more population than we have.
- Yes, if it would be a more effective run department with an elected top official.
- Yes
- No, let's keep our good sheriff out of the police business. We need to take care of the county.
- Yes! They already are in the same building, doing the same job. Pay the sheriff extra and let him run both.

- No, it is okay the way it is.
- Not if it costs more than we now spend. Trego County is an overall lower income community with extreme tax expectations.
- No because city ordinance would be dropped.
- No, it would put a few people out of work (Admin. costs).
- Depends on the cost.
- Yes, I don't feel we need two law enforcements entities in a county our size.
- Don't agree with chief police and sheriff in the same household.
- Yes, combining the police and sheriff office would be more economical and is in operation in many cities including ones that are much larger in population. We have wondered why this was not done years ago.
- Yes, we have way too many city police in Wakeeney, when we had two city police every business door was checked front and back every night. There are about highway patrol in town. We do not need that money.
- Yes, not necessary could save taxpayer's hundreds of dollars and still have adequate protection.
- Don't know.
- Yes! The city needs to find sensible ways to cut spending and having both county and sheriff city police represents a duplication of services.
- Yes, we have enough law enforcement to cover a town twice the size of Wakeeney, and would be cheaper than paying a sheriff and chief of police.
- Yes, but only if we can vote.
- No.
- We are for consolidation if it saves tax dollars and coverage will be adequate for our size of community.
- Maybe- I would have been with the formal chief, I would like to see what Chief Garza has to offer. I like what I see so far. I see them at the schools and really like this!
- Yes, we have no issues with sheriff doing both county issues by Richard Hanks.
- Yes! Hanks will do a great job.
- Would it lower the taxes? We really need to enforce city codes and ordinances.
- Only to save money.
- Yes

- No, the city just needs to find someone without baggage to do the job. It needs to be someone who does the job.
- No. Too much power in one place.
- No, this has been voted on and depleted before. Leave well enough alone!
- Yes- if it would lower taxes.
- No.
- I feel we pay out lots of tax dollars in law enforcement for a small town and county.
- Don't have enough information to answer.
- No, I rather have someone local who knows the town and people.
- Trego county sheriff no double use of tax dollars. Taxes are too high and people are leaving.
- Yes, as a money saving and economy of scale measure.
- Would like to know pros and cons, not blindly expect to answer.
- No, keep it local.
- Yes, if it saves money.
- No, city messed up with trash removing- Don't mess up law enforcement too.
- Yes, as long as the sheriff is in favor of it. I feel we have a sheriff that is doing a great job. Now is the time if we can save money.
- Yes, if it saves money for the city and county.
- It will save money and puts one person that is elected instead of appointed in charge!
- No
- Who ask this question? What does it mean? If the city were to stop law enforcement services then the Sheriff Dept. would be over worked.
- No
- Yes, way too many low officers for the population of WaKenney. Would lower taxes.
- I would like that, yes
- Not Sure
- Yes, save money and Sheriff is elected by us not hired by Mayor and Council. Number of vehicles need to be reduced by half.
- Not sure. Could the two entities work together for the common good or will they argue about everything like the Democrats and Republicans do? We are not as satisfied with this survey as we were with the last one. There are no areas for us to elaborate on why we circled what we

did. There are definite areas of this town that need cleaning up: WW Drilling, Tyler Fabrizio's properties, Ray Stitkems property, Lloyd Pfeifer's property by the Eagles. We are trying to get used to the new trash pickup system. We were quite unhappy the other day when at noon we pulled our trash can back up to the house only to discover later it had not been picked up at the usual time. So-o-o, we still have our trash and can't take it ourselves to the old spot by recycling because that's a big NO NO now.

- No
- Don't know enough to have valid opening.
- Yes, IF it makes sense economically. The Sheriff's office has many square miles to cover and could probably use help from police staff. Police dept. needs to enforce DUI laws for certain residents that get away with driving impaired.
- Combine- we don't need 20 cops who don't do anything anyways.
- Sure, as long as we get the services we need from law enforcement.
- Yes
- Why not merge governments, save money, and lower taxes?
- I would need more information about this (pros and cons) in order to make an informed decision.
- Yes, less overhead and more united front with everyone on the same page and getting along.
- Is there a way to give us more information about what this might look like for our community?
- Yes, if handled correctly. Hiring one that was fired from other towns has not been working out for WaKeeney.
- No! The police is doing a great job now since Eberle is gone. Chief Garza is doing great! Get rid of Hardy Howard. He does no good for this city and gives our city a bad name. Get rid of Hardy Howard!
- No! Wakeeney has a very good police service that does a lot of things for its community. Do not want to lose that. The new chief Garza is doing a great job!
- Yes! Get rid of Garza and get Hanks to run it all.
- Yes, we don't need two separate law enforcement services for a town this size. Too much duplication. Could save money.
- No, Not enough man-power.
- I would be in favor or merging city and county- would only need one sheriff to lead both groups and less administration costs.

- Yes, this community is just not getting bigger. No need for duplicate services.
- Yes, may help with taxes.
- Have to know more about this. Probably would not have a problem with it.
- No, how much more expense would there be and would they live locally or elsewhere?
- No!
- Yes. Better efficient use of tax dollars with operating under 1 department. At work for other city/country areas. I believe service coverage would not be less. A resident doesn't mind paying the high taxes if dollars are utilized efficiently, but cut wisely when you can.
- Yes! Why pay twice to maintain two departments doing essentially the same work? Combine them and save money.
- Yes
- Yes, you can save city tax dollars. You do not need to pay a chief. It's time to start to save city tax dollars.
- No. Why can't the county sheriff department and the police department be combined?
- I would need to know what this entails in order to give an answer.
- No, they should be residents of Trego County.
- No, could the sheriff department and the police department be combined?
- No. I like having law enforcement we know and who like living here. Could have contracted when shorthanded if needed.
- Yes. It seems at present time we have a problem with hiring a chief of police. We need good leadership.
- Not sure what it entails. The chief of police has made us look bad in the past. Drugs in schools are bad.
- Ok- save money by not duplicating services.
- Only if it saves money, significant money.
- I think by combining the 2 departments, we can get more for our tax dollars. City codes still need to be enforced. Maybe hire an officer just to do that. There is too much favoritism on enforcing them right now.
- Neutral
- Definitely! We are a rural community. Surely they already help each other anyways. If not they need to be and should be working together to use resources the most efficient way possible.

Lots of faith in sheriff Hanks to manage everyone. Why so much effort to get chickens in this town? Too much personal agendas by council members. Diane Wagner got the fewest votes in the election, so why do we have to read about her wants and desires in the paper?

- Yes, there is no need for both.
- Yes. However, considering the track record of corruption in Trego County, law enforcement should term limit sheriff/chief to two terms.
- No. They should remain separate, it works, don't screw it up.
- Combine city police and sheriff department into one county law enforcement office. No reason for city to rent space from county for law enforcement office.
- County needs to be watching rural areas. Thieves are out. City needs to be in city.
- Yes. I would like to see if this benefits the city and/or the county. If it puts unfair burden on one of the other, how would it help?
- No, unless meaningful savings can be achieved.
- Yes, to save money.
- Yes! Save money. Eventually all city and county government entities should be consolidated.
- Yes. I think it would help us and Richard Hanks does a wonderful job and lifetime residents should get the job if it happens.
- Yes. Providing the city didn't run the law enforcement. Pay our law enforcement a better wage and you might get better policemen.
- Yes. Definitely- we're a small enough community that should work better together and not have separate forces. Will save money!
- Sure- more employees to uphold the law, but I think we need more info. Cost?
- Yes. Save money, sheriff dept. is already filling in for lack of officers.
- Yes, but two should not cohabit the same roof- conflicting interest also tax dollars saved as reason why.
- No, they'll be more committed to the county than the city. I've seen this in other counties.
- Ashley Garza for chief really? Find someone qualified.
- Since it does not seem to matter. I understand that commercial costs are different.
- No, not if it will reduce the number of officers on duty at one time throughout the city/county. Nice to see officers at school events.
- Yes, may save some taxes.

- Yes, sheriff Hanks is doing well and he is trustworthy. Get rid of Garza.
- I think joint force would be good, but still would need 2 on duty at all times. Appreciate police/sheriff presence at school.
- Yes
- Yes, too many officers doing nothing but driving around.
- Yes, should have been done years ago. No one has the balls to do it.
- Yes. One elected officer.
- Yes, why do you not enforce ordinances to clean up Sithen and Boeve properties?
- Yes, they should be able to do this.
- No, 80% of officers are out of shape. More exercise needed.
- Not knowing all the facts if it is cost effective. Yes. Compared to past city superintendent Charlie Knoll-Present personnel are outstanding
- About time!!! We don't need both
- Yes! Should have been done years ago
- Yes, we don't need both.
- Yes. Great idea, we don't need both. Most of the time they are home anyway.
- Great idea - I'm sure we could save some money!
- Yes - we don't need both - and we don't need economic development. What does she do with the tax money?
- Yes! It would save money not having to rent offices and build a stronger force by working together and having the same jurisdiction. Neutral on snow removal. You do what you can do. I appreciate the effort for the streets but struggle with it piled at the end of my driveway. I understand the difficulty in this. Quality of parks. I would like to see more equipment or trails in other parks. Equipment was removed due to safety and never replaced. I would like to see a dog park put at Eisenhower Park and would be glad to help see it happen. I would like to have the city van identified as such. I'm on Travel and Tourism and I wasn't aware that it was a city vehicle. It would be nice to have a logo on it when Cathy takes it out of town. - Advertising our town for very little money. I think there needs to be a four way stop on the corner of 4th and Russell. No one follows the 20 mph limit, and it is dangerous for our employees carrying out groceries; as well as people picking up children from the daycare and backing out of parking spots. There are several streets in town with unknown (assumed) speed limits. The first blocks south of the railroad tracks to Barclay are "business" and should be 20 mph, but it is not posted.

It also isn't posted on the south end of Main heading north. 1st street doesn't have a posted limit either. I think a 20 mph should be enforced around the pool park on 6th and Earle streets. A terrible job of grating roads is being done. South 6th street, 1st street, and the dirt portions of Josephine, Caroline, and Kedzie are not rounded at the middle for drainage. Why haven't those streets just been paved by now? The pool hours need to be extended on the weekends. Saturday and Sunday are the only days a lot of parents have off to take their kids swimming. Those of us with younger kids normally put our kids to nap at 1 and they are asleep until 3. With the time it takes to get up, have a snack, get dressed, and sun screened, and to the pool. There isn't much time left to swim. At that point, it is also not worth a full admission to get in. The ordinance that bans vicious dogs based on their breed needs to be amended. Just recently a boxer attacked a child in town, but that doesn't mean we need to ban all boxers. Pit bulls and Rottweilers should not be banned just because of their breed- huskies are characteristically more vicious, and Dachshunds bite more people a year than any other breed. All breeds should be allowed - enforce leash laws, muzzle requirements and registrations. There is no community storm shelter available 24/7. If no one is at the city building, no one can get to the shelter.

- Contracted Law Enforcement: As a citizen of WaKeeney I would be for combining our city law enforcement with the Co. Sheriff Dept. with a few stipulations.
 1. The employees need to be reduced. If we are combining the departments we do not need to have double the employees.
 2. Equipment, cars, etc. with the combining of the departments we do not need everyone on the department having their own vehicle. While it is nice to have the latest and greatest gadgets we must evaluate their need and cost and decide if they are actually needed.
 3. The idea of combing departments needs to be a tax savings for the citizens of Trego County. We are a county of around 3,000 let's quit acting like we are the crime capitol of the state. It seems like we have people with agenda's elected and non-elected.
 4. We have a large number of Kansas Highway Patrol in the county which are available to help with any matter the Sheriff may need. Let the patrol take care of the highways drug stops and accidents on them, if they need assistance they will request it and we need to assist.
 5. I also see where combing the Fire Depts. This should be talked about also. There are a lot of firemen that serve on both the city and rural so the jump should not be that bad.

This would help both department with needed manpower as both are volunteer and in some circumstances more help is better than not enough.

- I also would like to see the County and City to work on plans to help reduce sales and property taxes in the city and county. We have a small tax base and if the taxes keep increasing, the base will get smaller as businesses will not locate here nor will people that want to retire here. Running a City and County has to be looked at like running a business, you want to run it as lean as possible to increase profits and increase productivity. This may mean you may not be able to provide everything everyone wants sometimes you may just have to remind the people we are not Hays, you can't have everything.

Letter received from citizen:

Dear City Council Members,

Having been born and raised in WaKeeney, I feel a strong sense of pride in our beautiful Christmas City of the High Plains. However, over the past 5 years or so, its appearance has declined greatly. Perhaps there is a reason for this, and if so, please make the public aware.

We realize that some of you on the City Council, City employees, and others that help put up all the greenery and lights, are not necessarily natives to WaKeeney and therefore may not be aware of how the bulbs should be facing.

Historically, the “triangles” that are on all of the poles on the two blocks of main street and the two blocks of Russell are meant to represent trees. Up until recently these “triangles” have always been nice and neat with all the bulbs facing the same way. This is what gives them the appearance of being Christmas trees.

As I stated before, there may be a reason that the lights can no longer be hung in the true “triangular” shape that they were meant to be hung in, but if not, PLEASE encourage the gentlemen to be more aware of how these lights should historically be hung. Not only does this look nicer, but it also honors the original creators of our Christmas City of the High Plains.

Please know that our community truly appreciates your service and all of the hard work that goes in to making our town beautiful for Christmas.

A proud lifelong resident