



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024



**P**  **OWER**

*to make life better*

**ANNUAL MEETING 4/1/25**

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## Mission Statement

The mission of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to improve the quality of life for our members and support our communities by providing safe, reliable energy services and education.





# AGENDA

**11:00AM** - REGISTRATION OPEN

**12:00PM** - LUNCH SERVED

**12:15PM** - JAY SINGERS  
NORTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

**12:45PM** - BUSINESS MEETING

INVOCATION  
**KEITH ROSS**

CALL TO ORDER  
**MIKE ROGERS**

INTRODUCTION OF TRUSTEES  
**MIKE ROGERS**

THE OFFICIAL NOTICE  
**SANDRA BENOIT**

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
**SANDRA BENOIT**

TRUSTEE ELECTION REPORT  
**JOHN MCCLYMONT**

INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE UPDATE  
**MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI**  
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT  
**KIRK GIRARD**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

## Guest Speaker

Major General Lee Tafanelli assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) in May of 2020. Prior to this, he served as the Kansas Adjutant General, where he was responsible for overseeing the readiness of over 7,000 soldiers and air-men in the Kansas Army and National Guard. He also served as the Homeland Security Advisor and coordinated the state's emergency preparedness, playing a key role in disaster responses across Kansas, including tornadoes, flooding and wildfires.

Additionally, Tafanelli's public service career includes a term in the Kansas House of Representatives from 2001 to 2005 and a deployment to Iraq as the commander of the 891st Engineer Battalion. His leadership and dedication to rural Kansas issues, combined with his military and governmental experience, positioned him to effectively lead KEC in its mission to support its member-cooperatives and the state's rural communities they serve.



## Core Values

—○ Safety

—○ Respect

—○ Integrity

—○ Unity

—○ Accountability

# 2024 in Review

No one knows what the future holds, and while we live in uncertain times, preparing for the future is essential. Benjamin Franklin said, "Failure to prepare is preparing to fail."

Prairie Land has been preparing for the future this past year in many ways. Last April, Prairie Land partnered with the National Rural Telecommunication Cooperative (NRTC) to develop a 10-year Grid Technology Plan to enhance Prairie Land's electric distribution system. NRTC completed the detailed plan in late 2024, identifying key smart grid components and implementation strategies to improve critical infrastructure, service reliability, and outage response times. There are two main implementation phases that include installing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and automatic circuit reclosers (ACRs):

1. Utilizing a SCADA system will establish a smart grid backbone. This computer-based system will provide centralized, real-time monitoring and control of the distribution network, collect data from field devices to detect faults and monitor system health.

2. Over the next several years, we will begin to replace outdated substation reclosures and electronic controls with new ACRs. Upgrading to smart controls-enabled ACR technology will improve system reliability, reduce service interruptions, and mitigate the fire risk from downed power lines, supporting the cooperative's improved safety and efficiency goals.

To help cover the costs of these initiatives, we will use Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding and apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Managed by the Kansas Corporation Commission, this grant program aims to strengthen the electric grid and enhance its resilience against storms and other disruptions. By investing in these upgrades, we are building a stronger, smarter electric grid that will serve our members reliably for years to come.

Alongside the Grid Technology Plan, Prairie Land



**Kirk Girard**  
CEO

has made several other investments to prepare for the future. This past year, we completed a large substation project - the expansion and upgrade of our Smith Center 115kV substation (read in more detail in the Project Updates section). Most of our distribution equipment was at the end of its life, and we were having problems acquiring parts to keep the existing equipment functional. The project included enlarging the overall footprint, installing new distribution feeder equipment, and building a new control house.

As many members know, we also started a major meter exchange project for residential and small commercial services in late 2023. The current meters that were installed in 2012 were starting to fail at a high rate as they were nearing the end of their expected useful life. Replacing the older type with the same upgraded meters as used for other non-residential services will allow us to streamline our process and





continue to provide our members with the best possible service. The upgraded meters will report on key characteristics such as energy consumption used for billing, and voltage levels and current, which are used to help us operate the system more efficiently.

These are just some of the projects we invested in during 2024. We believe that ongoing maintenance of our electric distribution grid is essential in providing a reliable and resilient system. Through continued system upgrades, equipment and pole replacements, pole testing, and proper line and vegetation management prac-

tices, we can ensure our system will function to minimize the number of members affected by unanticipated system interruptions. In other words, we want to do our best to ensure that when you flip the light switch, the lights turn on.

Preparing for 2025 and beyond, Prairie Land is determined to keep adapting to the future while maintaining our unwavering commitment to serve our members. We will continue to dedicate all our resources to improving the quality of life for our members and supporting our communities by providing safe, reliable energy services and education.

## Board of Directors

### **District 1** Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, Thomas

Mike Rogers, President  
Scott Urban, Trustee

### **District 2** Decatur, Norton, Phillips Ivan Bohl, Trustee Keith Ross, Vice-President Eric Witmer, Trustee

### **District 3** Sheridan, Graham, Rooks Sandra Benoit, Secretary Robert Paxson, Treasurer

### **District 4** Smith, Jewell, Osborne, Mitchell

Ronald Griffith, Trustee  
Otto Levin, Trustee

### **District 5** Republic, Washington, Cloud, Clay Lowell Thoman, Trustee William Peterson, Trustee

## Election Results

**District 1** - Scott Urban

**District 2** - Ivan Bohl

**District 3** - Sandra Benoit





We  
**LIVE**  
Here

# Concern for Community



## Safety Posters

Our annual safety poster contest for third graders (above) is one of the key ways we engage with and commit to the youth in our territory.



## Rodeo

We proudly sponsored and served the meal on "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night at the Phillipsburg rodeo.

## Storm Restoration

Lineworkers repair damaged utility poles (right) in the aftermath of the Dresden storm, working around the clock to restore power and support the community's recovery efforts.



## Kid's Cafe

In Norton, employees volunteered to pass out a week's supply of groceries for children at the Kid's Cafe (left).



## OK Kid's Day

Our staff volunteered at the OK Kid's Day held at Prairie Dog State Park in Norton, helping future linemen get a hands-on feel for the trade while teaching electric safety.





## Youth Tour

Each year, high school juniors are offered a chance to win one of four all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado through the Youth Program Contest.

**“The future depends on what we do in the present.”**

— Mahatma Gandhi



## Parades

Having lineworkers drive in parades (left) and toss treats creates an opportunity to make special memories with local children.



## High Voltage Safety Demos

Start early and repeat often — our lineworkers appreciate any opportunity to educate the public (right) on the inherent dangers associated with electricity.



## Community Service

We look forward to helping the communities we serve. Each year, Prairie Land staff use our equipment to hang Christmas decorations (above left) for several small towns in our service area. Employees also purchase gifts for children who participate in the Christmas Blessings program (above right) offered through Goddard Place near Penokee.

# 2024 Financial Report

## BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

Total Utility Plant	224,455,339
Less Depreciation	(87,333,038)
<b>Net Value of System</b>	<b>137,122,301</b>
Cash and Temporary Investments	1,633,719
Investments in Assoc. Organizations	52,369,034
Receivables	6,752,290
Materials & Supplies	3,412,734
Pre-payments	356,701
Other Current Assets	730,839
Deferred Debits	2,048,001
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>204,425,619</b>

### LIABILITIES

Long Term Debt	90,316,354
Deposits	710,529
Notes and Accounts Payable	8,924,584
Current Liabilities	7,549,802
Deferred Credits	571,489
Equities and Margins	96,352,861
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>204,425,619</b>

## INCOME STATEMENT

### INCOME

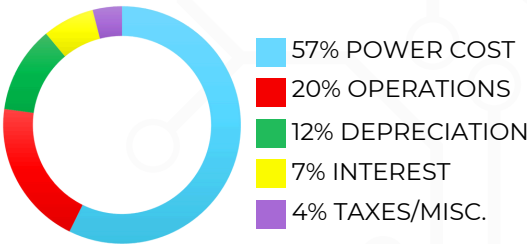
Electric Revenue	67,201,997
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### EXPENSES

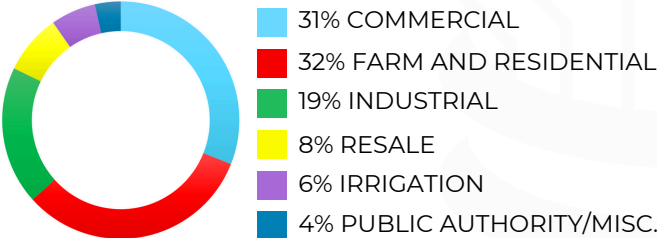
Power Cost	36,588,725
Operations	12,690,176
Depreciation	7,540,484
Taxes	2,347,076
Interest	4,508,190
Miscellaneous	193,353
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>63,868,004</b>

<b>OPERATING MARGIN</b>	3,333,993
<b>NON-OPERATING MARGIN</b>	2,487,520
<b>TOTAL MARGINS FOR 2024</b>	<b>5,821,513</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES



### ELECTRIC SALES REVENUE



## 2024 STATISTICS

# of Prairie Land Members	13,817
# of Connected Meters	24,548
Miles of Line	6,997
Meters per Mile of Line	3.5
Investment per Mile of Line	\$32,079
Investment per Meter	\$9,144
Kilowatt Hours Purchased	688,306,379
Kilowatt Hours Sold	653,919,214
Kilowatt Hour Losses	34,387,165
Line Loss %	5.00%
Long-Term Debt	\$90,316,354
Plant Additions	\$14,210,324
Plant Retirements	\$4,114,510
# of New Services Added	106
# of Services Retired	96
# of Full-time Employees	81
Capital Credits Retired in 2024	\$2,785,666
Capital Credits Retired All Years	\$20,534,468

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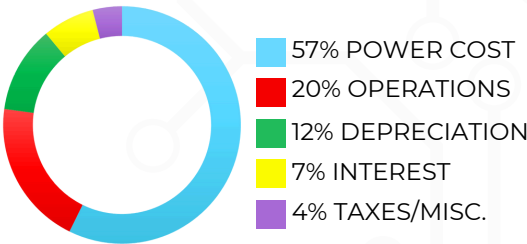
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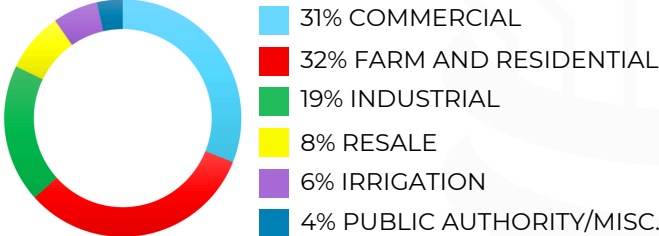
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### ELECTRIC SALES REVENUE



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# Employees

Connie Pfannenstiel	42	Kelly Jones	20	Chance Bieker	12	Elena Larson	2
Kevin Black	39	Jacob Epley	19	Landon Keiswetter	11	David Perrin	1
Jim Coash	38	Blake Krien	19	Austin Wieden	11	Kody Pounds	1
David Tiemeyer	36	April Karnopp	19	Ryan Swatzell	10	Jadin Newell	1
Gary Beikman	32	Lacey Smith	19	Sondra Marvin	10	BJ Deimler	1
Kirk Girard	31	Brett McChesney	19	Dalton Schneider	10	Brock Means	1
Darin Bortz	27	Jarod Rohr	19	Ann Cox	10	Laurie Shinn	<1
Everett Mendenhall	25	Garrett Willour	19	Clint Rogers	7	Chance Runnion	<1
Spencer Ketterl	25	Cory Johnson	18	Stacy Whitney	6	Bryant Wornkey	<1
Marshall Hespe	25	Dominic Urban	18	Jameson Nielsen	6	Hunter Dougherty	<1
Greg Cooper	25	Tom Huber	18	Melanie Romey	5	Bentley Montgomery	<1
Gregg Glennemeier	25	Matt Knox	18	Blake Reed	5	Alana Murphy	<1
Alisha Stark	22	Jeremy Harding	17	Rachael Pfannenstiel	5	Allison Hillebrand	<1
Waylon Lawson	22	Tyler Rutherford	17	Christy Nickell	5	Mike Haumont	<1
Vonley Frey	22	Julie Douglas	17	Jessie Hahn	4	Jordan Murphy	<1
Luke Lister	22	Jamie LeDuc	17	Ryan Barnes	3		
Ryan Culwell	22	Kade Kolman	17	Jacob Larson	2		
Andrew Gilsdorf	21	Lynette Jones	17	Kyle Strutt	2		
Keath Christy	21	David Rose	16	Colton Lane	2		
Justin Mueting	21	Brandon Blue	15	Nick Withington	2		
Eric Hartwell	21	Cally Engel	13	Sarah Gallentine	2		
Karla Lawrence	20	Shane Schumaker	13	Kendra Daniels	2		



# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. April 7, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the members of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Prairie Land) was held in Norton, Kansas, on April 9, 2024, in the Prairie Land Headquarters at 14935 US Highway 36.

Keith Ross gave the invocation.

Thereafter, Elena Larson, Director of Member Services introduced Ron Wilson, Cowboy Poet, who entertained the membership and attendees.

Prairie Land's Board of Trustees' President, Mike Rogers, acted as chairman for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

President Rogers asked John McClymont, Corporate Counsel, if a quorum was present. Mr. McClymont declared a quorum was present.

President Rogers introduced his fellow trustees and special guests, including Representative Ken Rahjes and Senator Rick Billinger. Both Representative Rahjes and Senator Billinger had a few remarks for the members.

Prairie Land's Board of Trustees' Secretary, Sandra Benoit, called for the reading of the 'Official Notice of the Annual Meeting.' Thereafter, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the readings.

Secretary Benoit then called for the reading of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Thereafter, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve as presented.

President Rogers called on John McClymont, who gave the results of the 2024 trustee election. President Rogers introduced Al Tamimi, PhD, PE, as our keynote speaker. Mr. Tamimi updated our members on matters relating to grid reliability and resiliency, as studied and monitored by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.

CEO Kirk Girard gave the Annual Report, including comments on Prairie Land's financial status and company highlights for 2023. CEO Girard also reported on what's coming up for the year 2024.

President Rogers called on the membership for old business. Seeing none, he then called on new business to be brought before the membership. No new business was brought before the membership.

There being no further business, President Rogers declared the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Deborah Anderson, Communications Specialist, and staff conducted the drawings for the door prizes.

*\*Minutes are unofficial until approved at the April 1, 2025 meeting*



# 2024 Project Updates

Much like the beginning of 2023, 2024 started with a large substation expansion project to accommodate new load growth. This time, the focus was on our St. Francis 115 kilovolts (kV) substation.

The project consisted of (1) Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, our Generation and Transmission provider, adding two new motor operated switches and a new 115 kV tap structure; (2) a new 115/34.5 kV transformer and associated equipment; and (3) building approximately six miles of 34.5 kV line to a new liquid natural gas pump station owned and operated by ONEOK, Inc.

This project was successfully completed and commissioned in October. This new pump will assist ONEOK in stabilizing gas

production in the Bakken Basin, which spans from Montana and the Dakotas into southern Canada.

In April, we wrapped up Smith Center 115 kV substation project that began in 2023, aimed at upgrading aging equipment nearing the end of its service life.

A key operational benefit of this project was the installation of the advanced relay systems, which have the capability of providing our linemen with faults locations data. This will allow us to isolate issues more efficiently and restore power to our members more quickly.

Those in the Phillipsburg area may have noticed construction on our sub-transmission and distribution system south of Phillipsburg along Highway 183. Due to the expansion of the airport runway, we were required to transfer 0.5 miles of 34.5 kV and 13.8 kV lines from overhead to underground. This project was also completed in April.

Additionally, we continued addressing state highway projects and adapting to an increase in over-sized loads coming through our territory.

One of the larger state highway projects was the widening of Highway 281 south of Portis to Highway 24, which required the relocation of 3.3 miles of 34.5 kV line with distribution underbuild.

Due to the lack of overpasses along the highways in our western territory, transport companies utilize these routes frequently to move over-sized loads. In particular, one load that was set to traverse this corridor measured almost 27 feet tall and weighed 600,000 pounds, necessitating modifications to over 40 line crossings to ensure the required clearance.

Looking back on the year, these projects reflect our commitment to maintaining a strong, reliable system while adapting to the evolving needs of our members and communities. As we move forward, we remain focused on improving infrastructure, enhancing reliability, and preparing for future growth.








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