



Agenda Item Report

City Commission - Oct 06 2020

Department	Staff Contact
Planning & Development Services	Luke Mortensen, Planner I

Recommendations

Consider approving a Special Event Permit, SE-20-00326, for a temporary sanctioned campground at 201 Maine Street (Woody Park). Submitted by the City of Lawrence, with permission of the City of Lawrence and the LMH Board of Trustees, property owners of record.

Executive Summary

The City of Lawrence proposes to work with a management firm and community service providers to operate a temporary sanctioned campground at 201 Maine Street (Woody Park) for approximately 180 days between November 2020 and March 2021. The goal of the sanctioned campground is to provide temporary shelter to approximately 25 individuals that are experiencing homelessness. Laundry and restroom facilities will be provided. This proposal is intended to supplement existing community service providers' efforts to combat a growing homeless and housing insecurity issue in Lawrence. Additionally, CARES Act funds were provided by the Federal Government for assistance with programs that address issues caused or exacerbated by COVID-19. The applicant has consulted with a number of City departments including Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development Services, Fire Prevention, and the Lawrence Police Department. The applicant has also consulted with LHM Health, local social service providers, and the Pinckney Neighborhood Association. See the attached sanctioned campsite information and process background for additional details on this proposed special event.

This special event requires City Commission approval per Section 6-1505 of the City Code. Release of the proposed special event permit will occur after final reviews are completed by Fire Prevention and Lawrence Police Department are completed. Initial discussions have occurred during the planning phases and the applicant is continuing to implement Fire Prevention and Lawrence Police Department comments.

Strategic Plan Critical Success Factor

Safe, Healthy, and Welcoming Neighborhoods
Collaborative Solutions

Fiscal Impact

Funding has been awarded through the CARES Act. Associated costs for trailers and infrastructure are being considered by the City Commission as part of the October 6th agenda.

Action Requested

Approve a Special Event Permit, SE-20-00326, for a temporary sanctioned campground at 201 Maine Street (Woody Park) for the dates listed on the attached special event permit.

Attachments

[Special Event Permit](#)

[Sanctioned Campsite permit application](#)

[Sanctioned Campsite Information and Process Background](#)

[Draft Code of Conduct](#)

[Trailer Purchase Quotes](#)

[Proposed Site Plan](#)

[Communications - Updated 10/06/20](#)



SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT - SE-20-00326 SANTIONED CAMPSITE

EVENT ADDRESS:	201 Maine Street – Woody Park		
APPLICANT:	City of Lawrence, Kansas	Property Owner:	Owner 1: LMH Board of Trustees Owner 2: City of Lawrence, Kansas
APPLICANT ADDRESS:	6 East 6 th Street Lawrence, KS 66044	Owner Address:	Owner 1: 325 Main Street, Lawrence, KS Owner 2: 6 E 6 th Street, Lawrence, KS
EVENT DATE(S):	11/01/2020 – 12/01/2020, 12/02/2020 – 01/01/2021, 01/02/2021 – 02/01/2021, 02/02/2021 – 03/04/2021, 03/05/2021 – 04/05/2021	Event Type:	5
EVENT TIME	24 hours/day - 7 days/week	Event Number:	CC Approved 10/06/2020

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

1. Special Event Permit must be displayed on site during hours of operation.
2. Temporary sign permit must be obtained from Development Services if temporary signage is to be used.
3. All necessary building permits for temporary structures shall be obtained prior to operation.
4. Provide trash receptacles or other sanitation provisions, as needed
5. All blocked access roads and streets must have and maintain a 20' lane and unobstructed vertical access of at least 13'6" for apparatus access in the event of an emergency
6. Any structures must be removed within 24 hours after the cessation of the event.
7. Emergency access at all alleys and streets through barricades to be provided at all times during the event
8. Events that encompass sidewalks must provide unobstructed ingress and egress to structures.
9. Temporary movable barricades shall be staffed appropriately to allow for movement in case of emergency
10. Event shall operate in accordance with the applicant's submitted Code of Conduct.
11. Approval of this special event is contingent upon health directives and orders set out by the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, or the State of Kansas in place on the proposed special event date. Approval of this special event permit does not permit the applicant to exceed any activity or crowd size restrictions in place on the proposed dates of the special event.

Conditions of Approval related to tents - The tent or other membrane structure must meet the International Fire Code.

1. All blocked streets must have and maintain a 20' lane for apparatus access in the event of an emergency (performance stages and equipment may not block the road);
2. All tents, membrane structures, sidewalls, curtains, ECT. Must be flame retardant to NFPA 701 (this includes a permanently affixed label that identifies size and material type);
3. Tents, including tie down ropes, must be separated by a minimum of 12';
4. Tents must have fire extinguishers (small vendor tents 1A:10BC – larger tents 2A:10BC);
5. Cooking with an open flame device may not occur within 20' of a tent. Cooking tents must be separated from other tents by 20';
6. Occupancy limits will be required for tents used for assembly (i.e. food/drink/hospitality);
7. Tents that are enclosed with curtains/side walls/doors will need to have adequate exits for the number of occupants. Exits will need to be clearly marked. Minimum exit width is 36";
8. Where generators are used they must be separated from tents by 20';
9. Combustible materials such as hay, straw, shavings may not be used for footing in tents;
10. No smoking signs must be posted;
11. Recommend the use of trained crowd managers to assist with notification and evacuation of patrons in the event of an emergency (ratio of 1:1000);
12. Events that encompass sidewalks must provide unobstructed ingress and egress to structures.

[illegible]



Special Event Permit Application Form

(Rev. January 2020)

Permit Holder Information

1. Name: Sanctioned Campsite Project
2. Address: 6 E 6th St.
3. Phone Number: 785-832-3000
4. Email: Drogers@lawrenceks.org
5. If you're conducting the activity on behalf of an organization:
 - a. Is the organization a non-profit 501(c)(3): Yes _____ No X
 - b. Name of Organization: Sanctioned Campsite Project
 - c. Organization Contact: Jill Jolicœur
 - d. Address of Organization: _____
 - e. City: Lawrence State: KS
 - f. Telephone Number of Organization: 785-330-2890

Property Owner Information

1. Name: City of Lawrence KS
2. Contact: Derek Rogers
3. Address: 6 E 6th St.
4. Phone Number: 785-832-7000
5. Email: Drogers@lawrenceks.org

Event Narrative

Event Title: Sanctioned Campsite Project

Event Address: 201 Maine

Event Description: Providing sanctioned camp for up to 25 people that

are experiencing homelessness. This location is near necessary

services (social/medical) outside the flooding

Proposed Dates: Oct 7²⁰²⁰ 11²⁰²⁰ to December 31²⁰²⁰

- a. **Each permit is valid for a maximum of 14 consecutive days.** Several permits may be applied for consecutively if event is to run more than 14 consecutive days. If application applies to **non-consecutive** events provide the dates for each event. (Each 14 day period will require a permit.)

February 7, 2021
would be 180 days.

Anticipated Attendance: Total: 25 Per Day: 25

Proposed Hours of Operation: 24 hrs a day (24/7) to _____

Please check the type of event:

☒ **Type 1:** Fundraising or non-commercial events for nonprofit religious, educational or community service organizations (which do not meet the exemption criteria in [Section 6-1503 of City Code.](#))

_____ **Type 2:** Promotional activities or devices intended to attract attention to a specific place, business, organization, event or district, such as outdoor entertainment or display booths

_____ **Type 3:** Outdoor commercial activities intended to sell, lease, rent or promote specific merchandise or services (such as a tent sale, farmers market or product demonstration), or indoor seasonal events which draw additional visitors to a property (such as a haunted house)

_____ **Type 4:** Christmas tree sales

_____ **Type 5:** Public events intended primarily for entertainment or amusement, such as concerts or festivals.

Event Details

Will a tent(s) be used for the event? Yes X No _____

If yes, what are the tent dimensions: _____ feet by _____ feet

Type of Tent? Single person Open/Canopy _____ Enclosed X
to possibly larger tent with spacing for occupants.

Will the event include Mobile Food Vendors? Yes _____ No X

Has the *mobile food unit* been inspected by the City of Lawrence Fire Department?

- Include verification of inspection

Does the event involve sales? Yes _____ No X

If yes, please provide your **Kansas Sales Tax I.D. Number**: _____

If you are not required to collect Kansas Sales Tax, please provide your exemption information: _____

Will you be selling alcohol? Yes _____ No X

If yes, a liquor license must be obtained from the Lawrence City Clerk's Office at (785) 832-3200. Additional time may be needed to process this request.

Will you be blocking any streets and/or sidewalks? Yes _____ No X

If yes, a Use of Right-of-Way permit must be obtained from the Lawrence Municipal Services and Operations Department at (785) 832-3123. Additional time may be needed to process this request.

Will your event use a Lawrence city park? Yes X No _____

If yes, a permit must be obtained from the Lawrence Parks & Recreation Department at (785) 832-3450. Additional time may be needed to process this request.

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

LAWRENCE CITY COMMISSION – OCTOBER 6, 2020

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Why open a campsite for unsheltered homeless in our community?
 - COVID-19 – Sanitation, access to hygiene facilities and potable water
 - Connection to services to promote recovery and barrier reduction
 - Growing homeless problem requires new strategies for unique populations among homeless
 - CARES Act funding available to respond to COVID-19 with support from community providers working with homeless

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- About the campsite:
 - Temporary, short-term approach utilizing CARES Act funding
 - Serve approximately 20 individuals who will be screened by area human service providers for placement to assess mental and physical vulnerability and compliance with Code of Conduct
 - Access to a personal, socially distanced campsite with a tent, sleeping pallet restrooms and showers, laundry facilities, secure storage lockers, food, and a managed community, with fencing to ensure resident safety and privacy.
 - Trailers that will be located on site will include shower and restrooms, laundry, and location for residents can meet with community providers.

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Trailers are portable, but can be tapped/connected to utilities if need be and the permitting and infrastructure is available to do so.
- 24/7 Management
 - The City will contract with a management partner to provide 24/7 staffing of the site to ensure operations meet program, individual resident, and community expectations.
 - Residents will be connected with community partner agencies, including but not limited to Bert Nash and Heartland RADAC, with a goal of active engagement in recovery and connection to housing.

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Site considerations
 - City staff have reviewed multiple potential sites to locate this campsite. Considerations have included the following criteria:
 - Outside of flood zones
 - Within land use zoning codes where camping is permitted
 - Adjacency to area service providers (health, social, housing)
 - Neighborhood considerations
 - Campgrounds are permitted with an administrative site plan in the Land Development Code in the CC, CR and CC districts. They are also permitted in the OS district with a Special Use Permit.
 - Woody Park has emerged as the most viable location to pursue for a temporary, short-term campsite.

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Temporary Special Event Permit
 - Request City Commission for approval for a temporary (< 6 months) campground in a zoning district that allows campgrounds. A building permit may still be required for trailers, structures or utility hook-ups.
 - Lawrence City Commission October 6th
- Timeline
 - Begin intakes and screening in early November with camp opening shortly after.
 - Open until December 30th at a minimum, or February/March at the latest when camp will be closed.

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Project Stakeholders and Leadership –
 - Stakeholders from Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH), Pinckney Neighborhood Association and the Elgin Woody family, have been engaged in the project stakeholders meetings, which are weekly.
 - Members include:
 - **City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation:** Derek Rogers and Mitch Young
 - **City of Lawrence Planning and Zoning:** Jeff Crick, Amy Miller, Scott Wagner and Danelle Walters
 - **Douglas County:** Jill Jolicoeur
 - **Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center:** David Tucker and Mathew Faulk
 - **Lawrence Memorial Hospital:** Brian Bradfield and Russ Johnson
 - **Lawrence Community Shelter:** Renee Kuhl
 - **Pinckney Neighborhood Association:** Nathan “Bart” Littlejohn and Nick Kuzmyak

PERMITTED CAMPSITE PROPOSAL

- Campsite layout
- Trailer visuals
- Code of conduct

DRAFT WOODY PARK CODE OF CONDUCT

Please respect the rights and privacy of your fellow campers/citizens.

Illegal activities both in camp and outside of camp are forbidden. Camp residents are expected to be law abiding at all times. Additional expectations of camp residents include:

- No violence, aggressive, abusive behavior on site or in the surrounding neighborhood.
- No theft of community property on site or in the surrounding neighborhood.
- No sex offenders on site.
- No alcohol, illicit substances or public intoxication on site or within one mile of the site.
- Weapons are not allowed.

Camp residents will be expected to submit to routine searches for any weapons upon entry to ensure safety of residents and staff.

This campsite is a drug and alcohol free encampment. No drugs or alcohol on site.

- If you are caught with drugs or alcohol on site the first time, you will be barred for 24 hours
- If there is a second offense, you must meet with the (TBD), who will decide the appropriate consequences. It can be up to and including a certain number of days out of camp up to a permanent site bar. This meeting is mandatory and must be completed before you return to camp.
- If there is a third offense, you are permanently barred from camp.

Staff and residents work together to make the camp a safe, respectful, healthy place to live. Camp members from all ethnic backgrounds, cultures, and religions are welcome. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, and transgender community members are welcome. Violence, threatening others, sexual harassment, offensive speech (such as racial slurs or homophobic statements) are a PERMANENT bar.

If you have any weapons or tools that might be construed as weapons, please check with staff at intake. In general, our policy is that all camp residents must follow the law at all times, including laws concerning concealed weapons.

No loitering or disturbing neighbors. No trespassing on private property.

No resident may enter another person's tent UNLESS it is for a well check or medical emergency. When someone leaves camp for a day or two, they may call the camp manager at (TBD) to give another camper permission to enter their tent to close windows or to make it safe. Theft of ANY kind is a permanent bar.

No open flames inside any camp tents or personal tents. No lighted candles. Battery candles are OK.

You may accept a social invitation from neighbors outside of the camp if one is extended to you, but soliciting and panhandling in the neighborhood are forbidden.

All animals must be on a leash when being walked and owners must pick up their animal's waste. Residents must show proof of vaccinations, spay/neutering documentation before move in.

Food must be stored in designated spaces, otherwise it must be packaged in an air sealed container and disposed of when finished.

Additional considerations for adding:

- Animals must be on leash*
- Request sign-in/sign-out each day*
- Bicycle storage*
- Community/camp regular meeting attendance*
- Service hour requirements to help with camp maintenance*



City of Lawrence Kansas Purchase Quote Multiple Trailers 7/22/20

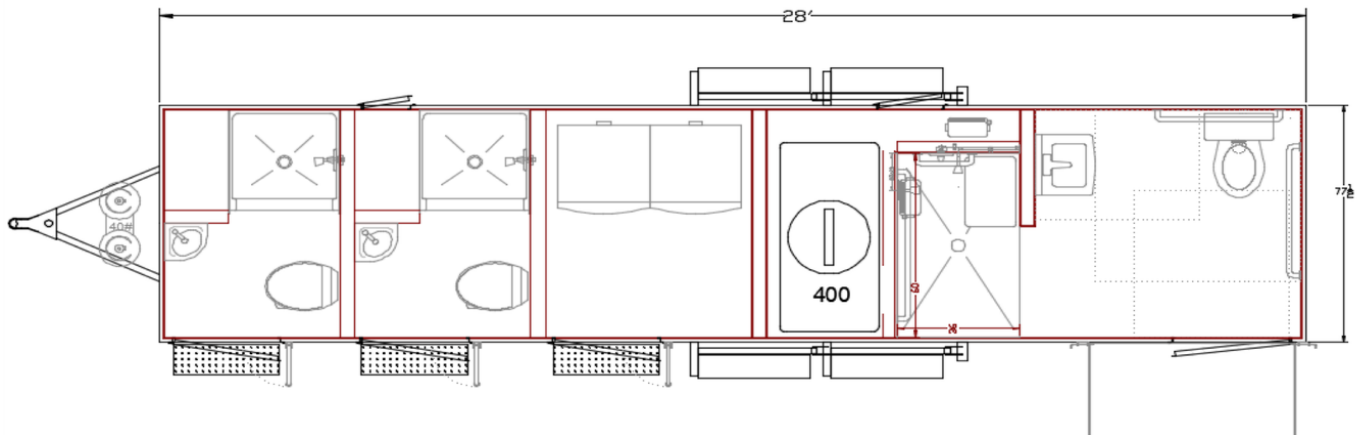
Portable Restroom Trailers, LLC
51% Woman-Owned
Disadvantaged, Small Business Enterprise
DUNS: 806679325
CAGE Code: 4VAL5
TIN: 46-4031428
NAICS: 56291

Prepared For
City of Lawrence Kansas
miyoung@lawrenceks.org

****Quote good for 20 days. Subject to availability.***

Created By
Scott Comerford
Portable Restroom Trailers, LLC
Scott@portablerestroomtrailers.com

ADA Shower Restroom Trailer Portable Restroom + 2 Station Laundry Combo - Oahu Series



ADA Shower Restroom Trailer Portable Restroom + 2 Station Laundry Combo - Oahu Series

SPECS/FEATURES:

- Model Year: 2020
- Stations: 3
- Standard Toilets: 2
- ADA Toilets: 1
- Sinks: 3
- Fresh Water Tank (Gallons): 225
- Waste Tank (Gallons): 600
- Water Heater: LP On Demand with Propane Tanks
- Smarter Restrooms App: Available Upgrade
- Mechanics Room: Yes
- Box Length: 28'
- Box Width: 6'5"
- A/C Unit Type (BTU): 13.5
- A/C Unit Count: 1
- Water Supply: City Water- Pressurized Water System- Garden Hose
- Power Supply/Cords: (1-4) 120V 30AMP
- Motion Sensor Step Lights: No

Options:

- (3) - GFI Outlets: \$540.00 per trailer
- Upgrade to 400 gallon water tank - Per Trailer: \$680.00
- Washdown Package - Per Trailer: \$1,400.00
- Non-Skid Flooring (Coin Rubber) - Per Trailer: \$3,500.00
- 4 Season Package - Per Trailer: \$4,980.00

Pricing

Name	Price	QTY	Subtotal
ADA Shower Restroom Trailer Portable Restroom + 2 Station Laundry Combo - Oahu Series SKU# CHS904987	\$79,980.00	3	\$239,940.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: (3) - GFI Outlets - Per Trailer	\$540.00	3	\$1,620.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: Upgrade to 400 gallon water tank - Per Trailer	\$680.00	3	\$2,040.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: Washdown Package - Per Trailer	\$1,400.00	3	\$4,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: Non-Skid Flooring (Coin Rubber) - Per Trailer	\$3,500.00	3	\$10,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: 4 Season Package	\$4,980.00	3	\$14,940.00
Freight-Approximate to zip 66044 *Per Trailer	\$1,588.00	3	\$4,764.00

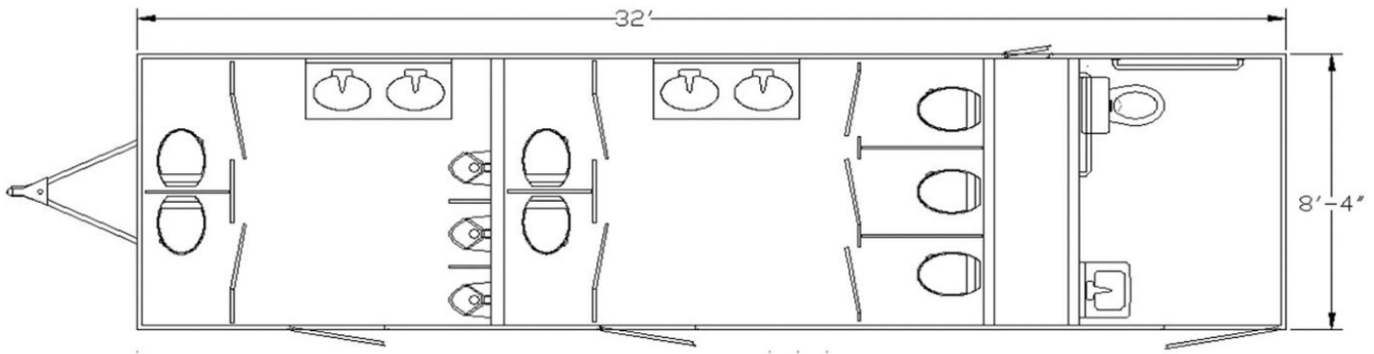
Subtotal **\$244,704.00**

Total \$244,704.00

****This new unit has a 5-year limited trailer manufacturer warranty on the trailer frame and axles and a 2-year limited warranty on the trailer as a whole. Sealant, electrical components, hydraulics, hoses, wall coverings, trim and paint are warranted for 1 year, and 1-3 year warranty on Individual appliances.**

Registration details are provided by their individual appliance manufacturers and are located in the component binder located in the mechanics room on the backside of the trailer.

ADA + 10 Station Portable Restroom Trailer - Oahu Series



ADA + 10 Station Portable Restroom Trailer - Oahu Series

SPECS/FEATURES:

- Model Year: 2020
- Stations: 11
- Standard Toilets: 7
- Urinals: 3
- Sinks: 5
- Fresh Water Tank (Gallons): 225
- Waste Tank (Gallons): 900
- Water Heater: Yes - LP On Demand with Propane Tanks
- Smarter Restrooms App: Yes
- Mechanics Room: Yes
- Box Length: 32'
- A/C Unit Type (BTU): 13.5K
- A/C Unit Count: 1
- Water Supply: City Water
- Power Supply/Cords: (1-4)120v/20 amp
- Motion Sensor Step Lights: No

Options:

- (3) - GFI Outlets: \$540.00
- Washdown Package: \$1,400.00
- Non-Skid Flooring (Coin Rubber): \$2,800.00
- 4 Season Package: \$4,980.00

Pricing

Name	Price	QTY	Subtotal
ADA + 10 Station Restroom Trailer - Oahu Series SKU# CHS337582	\$78,690.00	1	\$78,690.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: (3) - GFI Outlets	\$540.00	1	\$540.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: Washdown Package	\$1,400.00	1	\$1,400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: Non-Skid Flooring (Coin Rubber)	\$2,800.00	1	\$2,800.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: 4 Season Package	\$4,980.00	1	\$4,980.00
Freight-Approximate to zip 66044 *Per Trailer	\$1,750.00	1	\$1,750.00

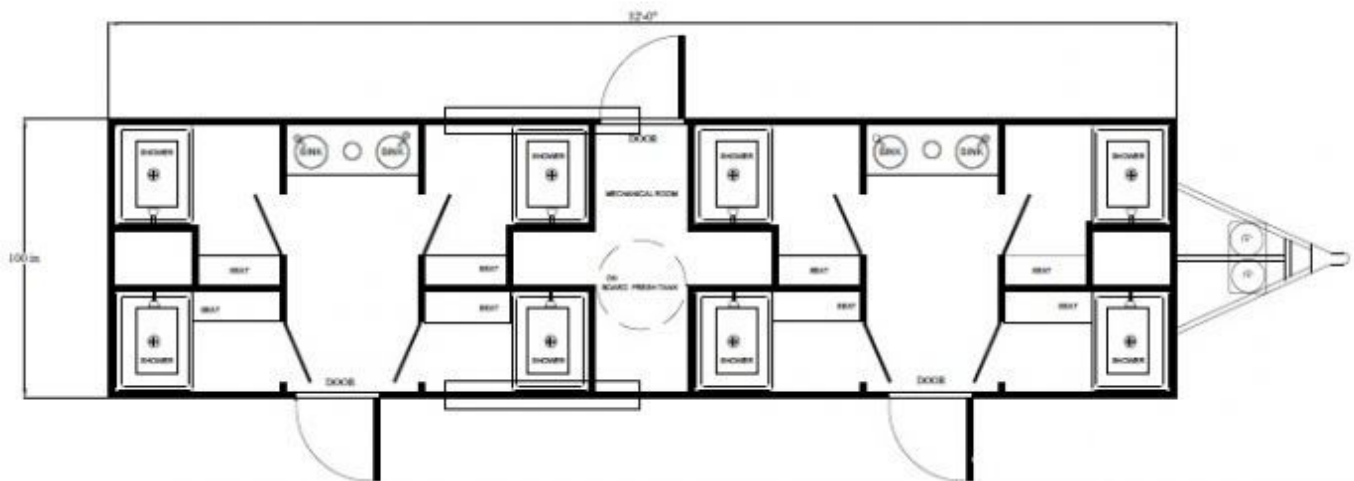
Subtotal **\$80,440.00**

Total \$80,440.00

****This new unit has a 5-year limited trailer manufacturer warranty on the trailer frame and axles and a 2-year limited warranty on the trailer as a whole. Sealant, electrical components, hydraulics, hoses, wall coverings, trim and paint are warranted for 1 year, and 1-3 year warranty on Individual appliances.**

Registration details are provided by their individual appliance manufacturers and are located in the component binder located in the mechanics room on the backside of the trailer.

8 Station Portable Shower Trailer - Classic Series



8 Station Portable Shower Trailer - Classic Series

SPECS/FEATURES:

- Model Year: 2020
- Stations: 8
- Sinks: 4
- Waste Tank (Gallons): 900
- Water Heater: Yes - LP On Demand with Propane Tanks
- Smarter Restrooms App: Yes
- Mechanics Room: Yes
- Box Length: 32'
- A/C Unit Type (BTU): 15K
- A/C Unit Count: 1
- Water Supply: City Water
- Power Supply/Cords: (1-4)120v/20 amp
- Motion Sensor Step Lights: No
- Non-Skid Rubber Flooring

Options:

- (4) - GFI Outlets: \$720.00
- 4 Season Package: \$4,180.00

Pricing

Name	Price	QTY	Subtotal
8 Station Portable Shower Trailer - Classic Series SKU# RRS337540	\$68,940.00	1	\$68,940.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: (4) - GFI Outlets	\$720.00	1	\$720.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Option: 4 Season Package	\$4,180.00	1	\$4,180.00
Freight-Approximate to zip 66044 *Per Trailer	\$1,588.00	1	\$1,588.00

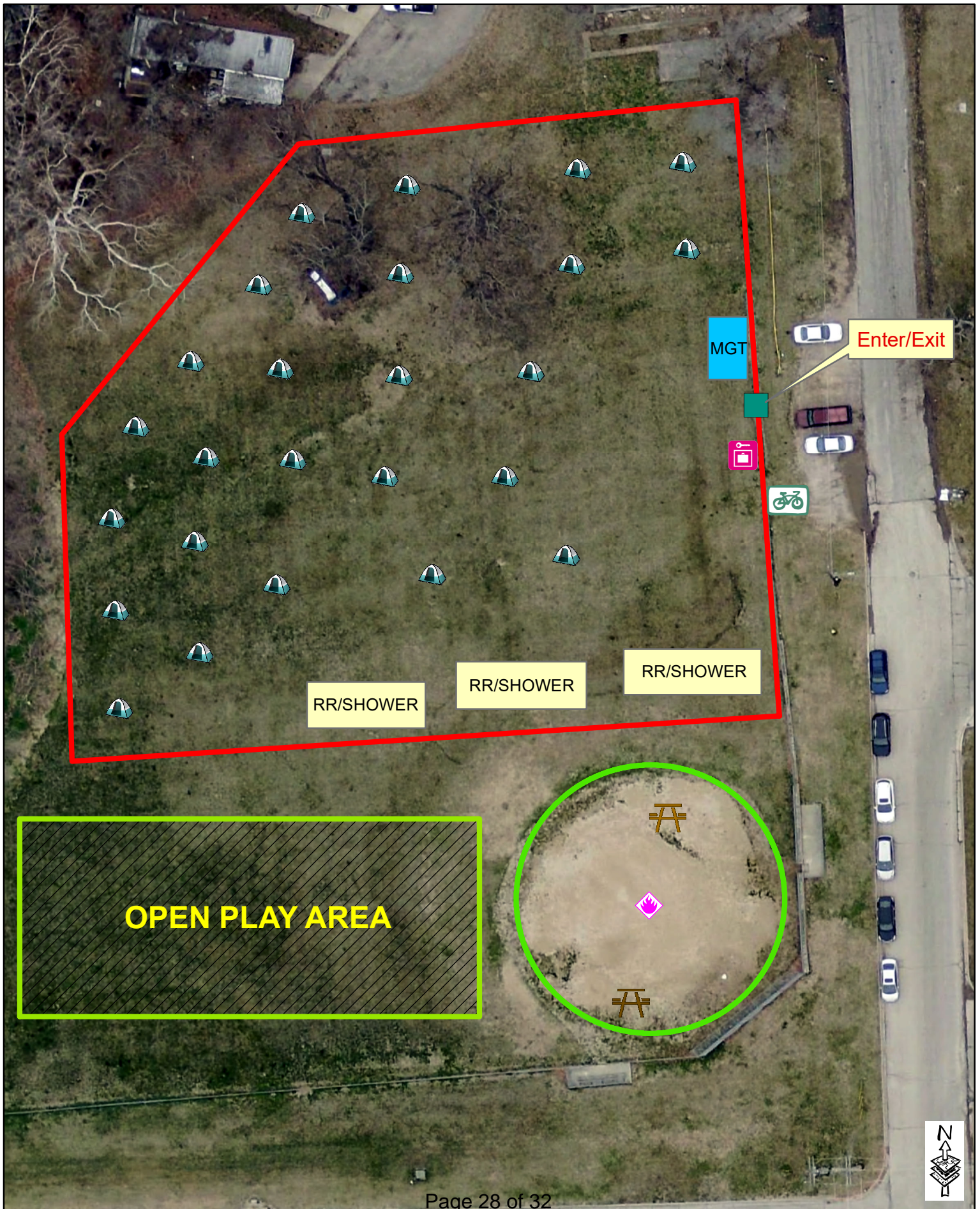
Subtotal **\$70,528.00**

Total \$70,528.00

****This new unit has a 12 Year trailer manufacturer warranty on the roof membrane, a 1 year trailer manufacturer warranty on the trailer, and a 1-3 year warranty on Individual appliances.** Registration details are provided by their individual appliance manufacturers and are located in the component binder located in the mechanics room on the backside of the trailer.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE

The map is provided "as is" without warranty or any representation of accuracy, timeliness or completeness. The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness for use rests solely on the requester. The City of Lawrence makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the use of the map. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The requester acknowledges and accepts the limitations of the map, including the fact that the map is dynamic and is in a constant state of maintenance, correction and update.



Harrison Hall

From: caitlin mcdiarmid <caitgrace@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 1:18 PM
To: City Commission Agendas
Subject: For inclusion in Public Comments for October 6 City Commission Meeting (F6)

External Email. Be careful with links and attachments.

- City of Lawrence IT Helpdesk

Please include in Public Comments for October 6 City Commission Meeting for item (F6) regarding the special use permit for Woody Park

My name is Caitlin McDiarmid, I live at 1000 Mississippi in Lawrence.

While I am excited about having an established campsite with basic facilities for some of our houseless population, I did have some concerns when I first read about the plan.

1. Woody Park seems like a pretty good location. I was thinking of the green space just north of Sandra Shaw Park initially as a possible location (both the flat area by the tracks and the more “hidden” area behind the big pipe where some folks camp already)– I know part of that area floods and I wonder how Woody park fairs with regards to flooding as it is built pretty low. I also wonder about wind breaks as Woody Park seems pretty open and in winter – having a wind break is helpful for survival.
2. Will the tent sites have some sort of platform to keep people off the ground and out of melting snow, rain run off etc.?
3. The trailers were supposed to have laundry – sounds like the available ones do not – yet all the material still says there will be laundry facilities – will there or won’t there be these services?
4. Daytime warming stations – it seems like a temporary winter camping area should have some sort of warming station or building for folks. I know with Covid-19 this is tricky but freezing is a certainty in our winters*
5. Since this is temporary and may be VERY temporary if ended in December – what will happen to the trailers that we are investing in? Is there a secondary plan for them after the camp closes whenever it does? With the way things move it seems like this should be planned now so it’s ready to go when the camp closes rather than waiting and having months where the trailers go unused.
6. Have you talked to the houseless population and those who work closely with them about what THEY need / want from a set up like this?

After reading the more detailed planning documents contained here – it’s resolved some of my questions but not all:

1. What kind of infrastructure are we talking about? What kind of sleeping pallets ?
2. I hope the fencing being established can do a double duty of a wind break – so not just chain link (which I know is likely the cheaper option).
3. Glad to see Bert Nash and others advising you all.

The rest of my concerns were not answered and I hope if nothing else YOU answer them before proceeding.

It's not perfect- we all know that. Ideally these folks would be sheltered with dignity inside (if they desired to be). I am hoping someone did a cost analysis on this – and that this is not any more expensive than putting everyone up in a basic hotel room for winter <<< a preferable more dignified and safe place.

As equally important* is the need for a daytime warming shelter/facility or multiple ones for those camping and those who may have a place to go at night (Winter shelters) but need a place in the day when it's cold. With the library and other places not being able to provide longer stays – this will be imperative so we don't lose people this winter.

We must keep pushing for better solutions and while this is an imperfect one – I am glad to see we are at least trying to help those most in need of it.

Harrison Hall

From: Eleanor Gardner <eegardner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 5:09 PM
To: City Commission Agendas
Subject: Public Comment for Oct 6th City Commission Meeting

External Email. Be careful with links and attachments.

- City of Lawrence IT Helpdesk

Dear City Commissioners,

Hello, I'm Eleanor Gardner of 401 Mississippi Street; my phone number is (404)-242-7778. As a resident of the Pinckney Neighborhood, I would like to submit the following for public comment regarding both consent agenda item C.7(e) and regular agenda item F6:

Consent Agenda Item C.7(e)

I urge the City Commissioners **not** to approve the purchase of three portable restroom and shower trailers from Portable Restroom Trailers, LLC in the amount of \$214,695. The magnitude of problems facing housing-insecure and homeless persons during the ongoing epidemic are real and deserve serious attention. Rather than buying three restroom trailers for an outdoor tent campsite during the cold late fall/winter months in Kansas, this money should be used (as other states and cities have done with funds from Title XII of the CARES Act) to buy live-in trailers or lease rooms in hotels and motels for homeless people during the pandemic. Using the funding in this way would make much better sense when dealing with housing-insecure or homeless persons who may not qualify for an apartment, and it would benefit local travel industry businesses that are suffering economically during this time. What evidence does the City Parks & Rec Department have to show that buying restroom trailers and platform tents is a better solution than leasing hotel/motel rooms? Leasing multiple rooms in motels and hotels is a cost-effective option that would provide safe housing for homeless persons AND a much-needed economic boost for local businesses.

Regular Agenda Item F6

I urge the City Commissioners **not** to approve a Special Event Permit, SE-20-00326, for a temporary sanctioned campground at 201 Maine Street (Woody Park). This proposal appears rushed and not carefully considered. It seems an extravagant expense per person (25 individuals, as stated in the proposal) when that money could be spent in ways that help more homeless people. Also, having a specific management company handle the campsite facilities and upkeep for a cut of the funding allocation appears to favor one economic entity at the expense of those (hotels & motels) who could provide warmer and more stable housing to those rendered homeless throughout the city.

The Pinckney Neighborhood is a historic neighborhood with a high percentage of minority and low-income families. Placing a campsite for homeless people in Woody Park would further burden an already-burdened neighborhood whose residents regularly deal with an existing homeless population. As the Pinckney Neighborhood Coordinator, I have received reports of extremely unpleasant interactions with homeless people, and I have experienced some myself. These interactions include: having to ask homeless individuals not to perform sex acts in public, to female residents being verbally harassed by homeless men, to hearing pornographic material played very loudly in neighborhood parks near a children's playground, to seeing used needles left at neighborhood bus stops and other public areas, to scary scenarios like when a homeless person tried to break into my home through a basement window or when four homeless individuals came up onto my home's front porch without reason.

For more than 4 months, a homeless person in an RV has been parked at Woody Park with trash and belongings strewn about; according to Derek Rogers and David Tucker, the City is unable to move this person and their growing pile of garbage, and now three MORE homeless people have set up tents beside the RV. If the City cannot effectively handle the current homeless population, how on earth are we supposed to be confident that the City will move the homeless people out of the sanctioned camp come March? Through rumor and word-of-mouth, additional homeless persons will come to our neighborhood which could pose serious safety and hygiene concerns -- and the City does not address in their proposal how they would handle additional homeless persons beyond the 25 in the campsite.

Placing a homeless encampment at Woody Park would have a clearly destructive impact on a neighborhood which has seen increased interest among homebuyers over the past several years. Those who have purchased homes in Pinckney because of its relatively reasonable housing costs and the interesting design elements of many of its older homes will see their investments suffer. Please do NOT approve this Special Event Permit; instead, please ask the City to use the \$374K of CARES Act funding to house the homeless population in local hotels and motels rather than outside in a park within a historically Black neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Gardner

Eleanor E. Gardner
(404)-242-7778
eegardner@gmail.com
401 Mississippi St.
Lawrence, KS 66044