



Press Release

For Immediate Release

For more information contact: Tom Rider, General Manager, tom@okmainc.com

James Taylor recognized with Hicks-Middleton Award

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) is pleased to announce that James "JT" Taylor, Tahlequah Public Works Authority (TPWA), Tahlequah, Oklahoma is the 2020 recipient of the Marvin Hicks-Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award. The award recognizes and honors an individual who is committed to the success of his or her community through both professional and personal efforts.

Known throughout Tahlequah as JT, Taylor was nominated by TPWA general manager Mike Doublehead. "JT has a long work history of commitment to his community and his fellow coworkers." Doublehead stated. "He has always been a true asset to our department and community."

Following high school graduation, Taylor served seven years with the U.S. Army before joining Edmond (OK) Electric as an Apprentice Lineman. In February 1985, he and his family moved to Tahlequah and began work as an electric lineman with TPWA. One month shy of 35 years of exceptional service, JT retired in January 2020.

Throughout his tenure with TPWA, Taylor was involved in community activities, including as a reserve deputy with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Known amongst his coworkers as "Chigger," Taylor spent much of his career building the infrastructure that continues today to serve the people of Tahlequah and Northeastern State University.

OMA is honored to recognize James Taylor for his service to Tahlequah Public Works Authority, the City of Tahlequah, and the citizens therein with the Marvin Hicks – Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award.



Press Release

For Immediate Release

For more information contact: Tom Rider, General Manager, tom@okmainc.com

Tahlequah Public Works Authority Receives Electric Operations and Reliability Award from Trade Association

Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) announces that Tahlequah PWA, the city's electric department, is recognized for First Place in the association's annual Electric Operations and Reliability Competition. The utility was recognized in the category for cities over 10,000 population and cited for achieving the highest reported level of service reliability for cities within Oklahoma.

The utility was recognized for having an Average System Availability Index of 99.9964 percent in 2019. TPWA employees meet the requirements of their work with professionalism and safety due to employer efforts. These efforts include four years of rigorous field experience and testing for each line worker before he achieves journey lineworker status.

The Department was also recognized for having a perfect safety record for 2019. TPWA had no reportable incidents and experienced no lost or reduced duty time over 38,701 work hours.

OMA General Manager Tom Rider presented the award to TPWA.

In presenting the award, Rider said that the trade association valued the continued participation of the various utilities in the region in the annual reliability competition. "It's important, we believe, for cities to maintain accurate records to measure their reliability and productivity. Through ongoing review of operations of cities in the four-state region, we find over time which systems have continuous excellence in construction standards and distribution automation. TPWA has taken many steps to maintain reliability and continues to invest in system improvement."

"The current operational standards and employee training standards of this utility are superior. This training and development of staff and increased funding for reliability resulted in the continued excellent performance of the utility. Local control means local crews. That means fast response. And fast response means less outage time."

OMA is a municipal utility trade association representing cities in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. The association's member utilities provide non-profit electric services and electric power generation to some 750,000 people in four states. TPWA purchases energy from the Grand River Dam Authority.

To ensure fast response to emergencies, TPWA is also a signatory to Mutual Aid Agreements in the region. These agreements are recognized by FEMA for use in the event of emergency or natural disaster. Utilities in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma agree through the program on the conditions under which assistance may be received in an emergency ahead of the event so there are no delays in responding to the needs of another utility.