

Crawford & Associates show support for municipalities

Scholarship established for municipal finance workers

When a training opportunity arises for municipal finance officers and workers, there's never a question of whether it's a good idea. Every town and city recognizes the importance of training, but the costs of making it happen can be prohibitive to some. A company that works closely with Oklahoma municipalities has taken a step to make training more accessible. CPA firm Crawford & Associates has established a permanent endowment with the Oklahoma Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association to provide a permanent funding source for training scholarships for municipal officials and staff.

"This allows us to give back to the government environment," said CPA Michael Crawford. "Also, it can only improve accounting and finance management and that makes the work of accounting firms easier. Both parties can benefit from having better-trained employees and a more solid financial management system."

The better practices that result from sending employees to training are good for everyone, but training can be costly, Crawford said. He said a scholarship fund could help to eliminate a hurdle many communities face when considering training opportunities for employees. Crawford & Associates contributed

\$10,000, which is to be the endowment's permanent principal. Crawford said he hopes other contributors will add to that principal over time.

"We hope that over time we'll get a chance to see that principal grow and get the resources out there for the communities that have difficulty funding the registration and travel costs related to training," Crawford said. He said the company was eager to give back to the towns and cities with whom they have done business for so many years, and also to help build upon the professionalism in the Oklahoma municipal finance community.



OML & OMUP FREE Engineering Technical Assistance for Water/Wastewater Systems



OML & OMUP are now offering free limited technical assistance to water/wastewater systems thanks to a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality. It will provide technical advice but not serve as the community's engineer. The following are the goals of the program:

- (1) Explore options for community public utility facilities/treatment before committing to a specific system. Assist in understanding of the costs for various options.
- (2) Provide an opportunity for OML to facilitate problem resolution or mediation with DEQ for communities.
- (3) Help with analysis for problems and possible assistance with development of RFP/RFS. The objective of this project is to provide community water/wastewater systems with engineering assistance to allow them to make informed decisions to the benefit of their citizens and water quality in Oklahoma.

*Please contact Cheryl Dorrance at OML for further information,
1-800-324-6651 long distance or 528-7515 in the OKC metro area.
Or e-mail your request to cdorran@oml.org.*