

# Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025 Application Package | Memo



To: Representative Troy Waymaster, Chair, Build Kansas Advisory Committee  
Chardae Caine, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Shauna Wake, Office of the Kansas State Treasurer

From: Jason Fizell, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

RE: Build Kansas Fund Application #2025-101-NCRPC

Date: May 22, 2025

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Attached, please find an application made to the Build Kansas Fund by the City of Cawker City. The application packet includes the following items:

- Coversheet – provides a high-level overview of the application including a unique identification number, page 1 of 15 of the Build Kansas Fund Application Package.
- Build Kansas Fund Application – includes information submitted with the Build Kansas Fund Application, pages 2-8. Page 8 provides the table of funding sources and zip codes served by the project.
- Attachments – 40101d application, pages 9-15.

## **Project Overview**

The City of Cawker City seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Energy for funding available through the SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid program for their Power Pole Maintenance and Replacement project which includes replacing and upgrading all aging utility poles that power the city to prevent outages, improve safety, and strengthen community resilience.

This opportunity is a discretionary BIL program with a local match requirement of 48.33% of the total project cost. The entity is requesting \$37,935.43 from the Build Kansas Fund, and is providing a local match of \$1,996.60. This request has the potential to unlock \$82,617.99 in federal funds, for a total project cost of \$122,550.02.

The deadline was January 9, 2025, and this Build Kansas Fund application was received on January 16, 2025.

## **Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee Recommendation**

The Build Kansas Fund Steering Committee reviewed this application on May 14, 2025 following a successful completeness check. The Steering Committee **RECOMMENDS APPROVAL** of Build Kansas Funding to the Build Kansas Advisory Committee for final advice.

# Build Kansas Fund | Fiscal Year 2025

## Application Package | Coversheet



Build Kansas Fund Application Number	2025-101-NCRPC
Applicant Name	City of Cawker City
Application Date Received	1/16/2025
Project Name	Power Pole Maintenance & Replacement
Project Description	Replace and upgrade all aging utility poles that power the city to prevent outages, improve safety, and strengthen community resilience.
Entity Type	Local Government
Economic Development District (EDD) Planning Commission	North Central KS Regional Planning Commission
Infrastructure Sector(s)	Energy
BIL Program	SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid
BIL Program Type	Discretionary
Application Type	Implementation
BIL Application Deadline	1/9/2025
Build Kansas Fund Request	\$37,935.43
Technical Assistance Received	General Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	BIL Application Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Build Kansas Fund Application Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (Brief Description): Provided General TA and BKF Application Support.
Application Notes	Build Kansas Fund contribution of \$37,935.43 will unlock \$82,617.99 in federal BIL funding, with a local cash contribution of \$1,996.60 for a total project cost of \$122,550.02
<b>Steering Committee Funding Recommendation</b>	<b>5/14/2025   Recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/></b>
<b>Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation</b>	<b>5/22/2025   Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/></b>

Title	<b>The City of Cawker City</b>	01/16/2025
	by <b>Joanna Biddle</b> in <b>Build Kansas Fund Application</b>	id. 49364758
	clerk2@nckcn.com	

<b>Original Submission</b>	04/25/2025
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Score	n/a
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Part 1: Applicant Information
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The name of the entity applying for the Build Kansas Fund:	The City of Cawker City
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Project Name:	Power Pole Maintenance & Replacement
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Entity type:	Local Government
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Entity Population:	427
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Applicant Contact Name:	Joanna Biddle
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Applicant Contact Position/Title:	Assistant City Clerk/Treasurer
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Applicant Contact Telephone Number:	+17857814713
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Applicant Contact Email Address:	clerk2@nckcn.com
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Applicant Contact Address:	804 Locust St - PO Box 2
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Applicant Contact Address Line 2 (optional):	
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Applicant Contact City:	Cawker City
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Applicant Contact State:	Kansas
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Applicant Contact Zip Code:	67430
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Is the Project  
Contact the same as  
the Applicant  
Contact?

Yes

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Part 2: Build Kansas Fund - Eligibility Criteria

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Certify that you are  
pursuing an  
Infrastructure  
Investment and Jobs  
Act (IIJA) funding  
opportunity for which  
your entity is eligible:

Yes

Certify that the  
Infrastructure  
Investment and Jobs  
Act (IIJA) funding  
opportunity you are  
pursuing has a  
required non-federal  
match component:

Yes

What is the primary  
county that the  
project will occur in?

Mitchell County

The Build Kansas Fund is intended to support Kansas-based infrastructure projects. Please provide a list of all the zip codes this project will be located in, along with an estimated percent [%] of the project located in that zip code. For example, if seeking funding for road infrastructure, provide a rough percent of the roads expected in each zip code:

[Zip Code Percentage.xlsx](#)

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Part 3: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - Grant Application Information Please Note: This information is related to the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), funding opportunity to which you will apply. This is NOT information for the Build Kansas Match Fund.

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Please enter the  
Infrastructure  
Investment and Jobs  
Act (IIJA) funding  
opportunity title that  
the entity is applying  
for:

SECTION 40101(d): Preventing Outages & Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid

What is the funding agency for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity?

Kansas State Agency

Enter the Kansas State Agency in which you are applying for funding.

Kansas Corportation Commission

What is the Assistance Listing Number (ALN) for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity?

81.254

What is the federal application due date for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity?

1/9/2025

Application Type:

Implementation

What is the federal fiscal year for this Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity?

2024

Enter the amount of funding being applied for, from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunity:

\$82,617.99 for a total project cost of \$122,550.02

Enter the total project cost:

\$122,550.02

Enter the required non-federal match percentage:

48.33%

Part 4: Build Kansas Fund - Match Application Information Beginning in July 2024 and moving forward, eligible applicants are expected to contribute a portion of the non-Federal match requirement. This contribution can be in the form of cash and/or in-kind contributions. The goal is to demonstrate the applicant's commitment to the project. The contribution should be significant enough relative to the Build Kansas Fund request. For a local public entity, 5% of the non-federal match is a good guideline, but not a requirement. See Build Kansas Fund Program Guidance for exceptions and more information.

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Enter the non-federal cash match amount being requested from the Build Kansas Fund: \$37,935.43 for a total project cost of \$122,550.02

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Enter the non-federal cash match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: \$1,996.60 for a total project cost of \$122,550.02

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Enter the estimated value of the non-federal in-kind match amount being provided by the eligible applicant, if applicable: 00

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Expected breakdown of funding sources to support the project: Enter the funding source and projected amount from each source to support this project:

[Kansas+DOT+table\\_V2.xlsx](#)

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#### Part 5: Build Kansas Fund - Means Test and Eligible Applicant Match

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What other available funding sources that are currently planned to go unused by your entity will be leveraged for this project? \$0

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Will any American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund monies will be used for the non-federal match?	N/A
What other sources of in-kind match will be leveraged for this project? Please list and include the actual or estimated value of each.	N/A
What other funding sources (local, federal, or non-federal) will be used for this match?	N/A
Describe your efforts to find other available funding sources for this project:	<p>Being a small rural community with most of its residents on restricted or limited incomes, we don't have the resources or generate sufficient revenue to fund this project without external funding sources. A fully funded project would ensure that our community and municipal budget doesn't have to carry the burden with increased utility costs, expensive emergency repairs, or other debt services.</p> <p>Applying for Grants is the most cost-effective way for Cawker City to do and complete much needed repairs and upgrades within the city.</p>
Part 6: Additional Information	
<p>Please upload a draft or final version of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) program grant application associated with this request OR an executive summary providing an overview of the project:</p> <p><a href="#">40101D_Grant.pdf</a></p>	
Provide any additional information about this project not covered in previous sections of this application (optional):	
Part 7: Terms and Conditions	
Understanding of Fund Release Requirements:	checked

Understanding of Use of Funds: checked

Understanding of Reporting Requirements: checked

Authority to Make Grant Application: checked

Persons and Titles: Joanna Biddle  
The following persons are responsible for making this Build Kansas Fund application.

Position/Title: City Clerk /Treasurer

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Additional:

Position/Title:

Source	Amount	% of Project
Build Kansas Funds (non-federal match)	\$37,935.43	30.96%
Eligible Applicant Cash Match	\$1,996.60	1.63%
Eligible Applicant In-Kind Match (estimated value)	\$0.00	0%
BIL Federal Funds (applied for)	\$82,617.99	67.42%
Additional Project Contribution (if applicable)	\$0.00	0%
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$122,550.02</b>	<b>100%</b>

**\*Applicant satisfies recommended match contribution of 5% of the required match**

Zip Code	% of project in zip code
67430	75%
	<b>100% In Kansas</b>

## Rural Restoration: Strengthening Utility Infrastructure

01/08/2025

id. 49274260

by **Joanna Biddle** in **SECTION 40101(d) Second  
Round: Preventing Outages & Enhancing the  
Resilience of the Electric Grid**

[clerk2@nckcn.com](mailto:clerk2@nckcn.com)

### Original Submission

01/08/2025

#### Section 1: Applicant Information

Entity name: City of Cawker City, KS

Are you submitting a new application, or will you be resubmitting the application you submitted last round? New Application

Entity Type: Distribution Provider

Entity address: 804 Locust PO Box 2  
CAWKER CITY  
KS  
67430  
US  
39.5090142  
-98.4313899

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 48-6021328

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): UJ1KUBKF17N4

Please upload verification of eligible entity size and documentation of annual sales per year:

[2023\\_EIA\\_861.pdf](#)

[Formal\\_Letter\\_for\\_Small\\_Utility\\_Setaside.pdf](#)

[EIA Table](#)

[2023 Utility Bundled Sales to Ultimate Customers List.xlsx](#)

Project Manager name: Joanna Biddle

Project Manager phone number: +17857814713

Project Manager e-mail address: clerk2@nckcn.com

IRS Form W-9:  
ccW92024.pdf

Latest financial statement and financial statement audit:  
Cawker\_City.pdf

Please acknowledge whether your entity has ever submitted an application, similar in nature, to the DOE under BIL Section 40101c, DE-FOA-002740, Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP): No

#### Section 2: Project Description and Scope

Project Name: Rural Restoration: Strengthening Utility Infrastructure

Project type: Utility pole management

Project description and scope:

The grant funds will be utilized for the replacement and updating of all of the utility power poles that support the power lines that provide essential electricity to Cawker City, Kansas. This project is not one currently being funded.

Due to the rural nature of the Cawker City area, we have limited resources and workforce that has delayed the necessary infrastructure upgrades. Cawker City has a total of 19 power poles and their components that are aging, rotting, or have become inadequate to function properly. With these contributing factors these poles can no longer withstand extreme weather events linked to climate changes such as high winds, heavy snow, temperature fluctuations, and other storms. The current condition of the utility poles also poses a serious safety hazard to our community due to the potential for sparking fires and other electrical accidents. Should an outage occur during any of the extreme weather conditions, it would disrupt the daily lives of our residents and local businesses. By replacing all of the deteriorating utility poles and their components, it would significantly reduce the chances for power outages, improve public safety and allow for economic growth and stability within our community of just 427 residents. In the long term, the project will enhance the community's ability to withstand severe weather, improve public safety, and reduce emergency response costs related to infrastructure failures.

### Section 3: Need for Funding

Project funding need: Cawker City is a rural community, and our residents would be negatively impacted by large utility project costs. Due to our limited staffing and location, our access to service, supplies and a work force is very limited.

Cawker City is unable to fund the proposed infrastructure improvements on our own. As a city, we do not generate sufficient revenue to fund this project without substantial external funding. Cawker City is already listed in the 93rd percentile for energy costs. With many of the Cawker City residents being elderly or living on fixed incomes, our residents cannot handle the burden of even higher energy costs. A funded project would insure they are not carrying the burden of expensive emergency repairs or debt service that might cause increased utility costs.

Zip code 67430, Cawker City is identified as a disadvantage community on the Climate and Economic Justice screening tool.

Provide historical and post project estimated interruption frequency and duration data, if known.

Past data shows that several outages occurred, 5 just in 2024 that are accounted for, lasting 15 minutes or longer. On average there is about 6 outages annually. With new infrastructure in place our desired interruption frequency would half that or zero with a duration period of less than 15 minutes.

Provide pro rata customer impact of total project cost.

Cawker City currently has 345 active Residential accounts and 97 active Commercial accounts that would be impacted by the total cost of this project should we try to increase utility payments and or usage costs. The majority of our active residential accounts are on restricted incomes or have financial assistance to help pay monthly bills. Adding any increase to fund this project without grant help would put more financial strain on our small rural community and add more angst towards the City employees and City council members.

Provide number of customers to be impacted by the project and percentage of impacted customers to total customers in the disadvantaged or underserved community.

There are a total of 516 active utility accounts that get billed every month for Cawker City. 345 of which are residential. 97 are Commercial. The other 74 are tax exempt or municipality accounts. Roughly 81% of the active utility customers would be impacted by this project.

#### Section 4: Complete Budget and Narrative

Award amount requested:

122550

Matching funds to be provided:

39930.18

Budget (Total Costs):

**Budget Template DRAFT.xlsx**

Project budget upload (optional):

**Budget\_narrative.pdf**

Project budget narrative:

The Power Pole Replacement Project is outlined below with the anticipated expenditures necessary to replace aging power poles, ensuring the reliability and safety of the electrical grid. First would be engineering. Hiring the experienced engineers to assess the sites, survey, design and plan the project. Next is to secure all of the required materials such as poles, transformers, conductors, and anything needed to properly and safely remove existing and install the new poles. Lastly, the project expenditures would be used to secure and utilize labor costs. Matching funds will be allocated in conjunction with the project's cash flow and are intended to support the listed budget items and timelines.

Cost match commitment letter:

**Cost\_Match\_Letter.pdf**

#### Section 5: Project Timeline

Project timeline: The project will be carried out over a period of an estimated of 12 months, starting from the date the grant is awarded. The key phases include:

Month 1-2: Survey and assessment of all utility poles, including a risk assessment and prioritization.

Month 3-4: Procurement of materials and scheduling of the first batch of pole replacements.

Month 5-6: Begin pole replacements in the most critical areas.

Month 7-12: Continue with replacements, inspections, and the establishment of a maintenance plan.

Ongoing: Regular inspections and maintenance will continue beyond the project completion.

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#### Section 6: Bids and Estimates

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Bids and estimates:

[Estimated\\_Bid\\_for\\_pole\\_replacement.pdf](#)

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#### Section 7: Community Benefit

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Community benefit narrative: By replacing electrical power poles in the small rural town of Cawker City, it would offer a variety of community benefits, including improved infrastructure reliability, economic growth, safety, environmental sustainability, and resilience to natural disasters. These upgrades provide both immediate advantages and long-term opportunities for community development and well-being. It would also generate a sense of pride among residents, as they see tangible improvements in their town's future and increase their trust in the city employees and council.

Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the targeted areas of each proposed project. As far back as the 2015 records Cawker City has experienced several power outages in 15-minute intervals, a total of 42 outages or 350,688 15-minute intervals. The area has been able to respond quickly to these outages in the past with the correct staff in place and working, functioning utility poles and equipment. With the current state most of the power poles are in, the reliability of the structures is starting to fail, and should an outage occur, it will be harder for the city to get everything back up and operational and could essentially be longer outage periods.

Provide expected changes to the historical data as a result of each proposed project. Projected future changes with the completion of the utility pole replacement project is less down time per minute during an outage. With new structures and upgrades to the electrical components required the system in a whole will be stronger and more resilient to withstand harsher weather or other extreme conditions that might arise.

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Provide historical measurements of resilience and reliability for the entire system to determine whether the project is in an area that has, on average, more frequent or longer duration outages.	<p>Outages that have occurred from dates of 2015 to 2024 are a total of 42, calculated in 15-minute intervals. Being in a rural area and not having an electrician employed poses a longer duration period of outages should one occur before the project is completed. As the City of Cawker City currently relies on outside resources to assist with any and all electrical work and most have to travel some distance which takes travel time and delayed response times.</p> <p>Some of the interval data is listed below for reference.</p> <p>Year Intervals (15 min) %</p> <p>2015 7 0.019977%</p> <p>2016 12 0.034153%</p> <p>2017 1 0.002854%</p> <p>2018 3 0.008562%</p> <p>2019 0 0.000000%</p> <p>2020 5 0.014230%</p> <p>2021 4 0.011416%</p> <p>2022 1 0.002854%</p> <p>2023 4 0.011416%</p> <p>2024 5 0.014230%</p> <p>42 350,688 Total intervals</p> <p>0.01198%</p>
Provide age of system or line segments to be replaced or repaired, type of equipment that failed, and the number of annual outages for the project area.	<p>Cawker City Power and Light Co. was established in 1913, it did however burn down, and the plant was destroyed by a fire that same year. There were power poles placed as far back as 1907 &amp; 1910. Cawker Cities main street light poles are metal and were erected in 1948, putting these at 76 years old. Most if not all of the current power poles are leaning, and the wood ones are rotted causing loose and hanging power lines. The exact date and age of the wooden poles is unknown. Cawker City experiences about 6 annual outages due to our failing power poles.</p>
Provide a number of protective devices (fuses or breakers) that have operated more than once in a rolling 12-month period.	<p>Within the past 12 month period the City of Cawker City has had 4 Fuses and 2 Breakers operate.</p>
Provide a number of customers impacted by project and the percentage to total customers served in Kansas.	<p>The exact total number of customers served in Kansas is Unknown but the total number of customers to be impacted by this project is estimated to be around 442 within the city limits of Cawker City, KS.</p>

Description of efforts to attract, train, and retrain a skilled workforce for this project.	The City of Cawker city has worked closely with workforce agencies for job placement and training support to entice possible new employees to want to work in and move to the rural area by offering full time hours, vacation/sick pay, competitive wages for the area, healthcare and KPERS retirement plans. Newer employees are paired with experienced workers for hands-on on the job training. This will enhance skill development, foster teamwork, and ensure continuity of expertise.
Provide an estimate of job creation due to this project.	An Electrician, journeyman, or lineman job will be created due to the nature of this project, as we currently have to use outside resources to assist and maintain any electrical issues or jobs that arise.
Identify any plans to partner with training providers to support workforce development.	Cawker City has plans and has in the past partnered with KMU, Kansas Municipal Utilities, and KMEA, Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, for training seminars and workshops for on-the-job skills development.
Provide any other metric(s) that indicates potential community benefit.	Other potential community benefits by completion of this project include Health incidents that would be linked to power disruptions (e.g., medical equipment failures, heat/cold-related emergencies), Energy loss during transmission and distribution (line losses), a more positive public perception of City and its employees, and emergency response time and recovery cost after weather events.
Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Davis-Bacon Act requirements.	Yes
Confirmation that the applicant will comply with all Buy America Requirements.	Yes
Confirmation that the applicant will submit an environmental questionnaire (NETL Form 451.1-1-3), if required, for each work area proposed in the application.	Yes