

**Wellsville Chamber of Commerce  
Chamber Spotlight  
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners  
By: Dawn Rottinghaus**

Our twenty-fifth Wellsville Chamber of Commerce spotlight focuses on the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, with Don Stottlemire serving as our 5<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner.

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is composed of five members. Each commissioner represents one of the five districts and are elected by voters to serve a four-year term. The Board works to divvy out the tax dollars that cover public service inside the City (examples: Emergency Medical services, Public Health services, and 911 dispatch services) and services outside of the City (examples: maintaining roads, planning and zoning, public safety services, environmental health services, etc.).

They also have the exclusive power to enact, amend, and repeal public policy for the County; to levy and apportion taxes, make appropriations and adopt budgets; and to establish strategic plans for the benefit of the County and to appoint the Administrator, boards and commissions for Franklin County.

Don Stottlemire was first elected to the Board of County Commissioners in the year 2000, which happens to be the first year that County Commissioners were appointed by vote of the public. Since the year 2000, Don has only had one hiatus in serving on the board, which was from 2015 to 2018.

In 2014, Don was awarded *County Official of the Year* by the Kansas Association of Counties. Don was nominated for this award by Franklin County Employees, and to date, he is the only Franklin County Commissioner to ever receive this award.

Mr. Stottlemire also serves on the Lake Region Resource, Conservation and Development Board (over 20 years) and is currently the Chairman of this Board.

Stottlemire has also been a supporter and important member to the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce. He attends the monthly meetings to not only stay abreast of the Wellsville community's needs, but also the needs of the businesses located in Wellsville.

Working with local, state, and federal agencies is a major role of the commission. They are the voice of the county and help establish laws and regulations that affect the county and its citizens. It is their job to make and back decisions that are in the best interest of its citizens.

The County is continuously working on refining its budget in an effort to free up tax dollars that can ultimately be put back into its employees. By keeping employees'

wages competitive, the hope is that retention will increase, which will lead to more efficiency and a higher level of service across all County departments.

The public can attend The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners meetings, which are held at 8:30 am every Wednesday morning at the Franklin County Commissioners Meeting Room, Annex Building, 1418 S. Main Street, Ottawa, KS. The meetings can also be watched livestream via YouTube, with the meetings being posted 15 minutes after the conclusion of the meeting.

