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Comanche Public Works Authority city manager receives national award

Nashville, Tennessee, June 14, 2022 — Chuck Ralls, city manager for the city of Comanche Public Works Authority in Comanche, Oklahoma, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association's National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. The award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.

Chuck directly oversees all departments including electric, water, solid waste, streets, parks, cemetery, fire, and police. As city manager, Chuck has designed and completed dozens of projects and has had success with grant writing, receiving over three million dollars in grants in just six years. Chuck has recruited several new businesses to the city, increasing both utility and sales tax revenues. He has implemented various training and safety programs, which have significantly impacted the city's safety record. Additionally, Chuck serves on the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Board of Directors and remains committed to advancing public power in Oklahoma.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.