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Mission:

- Preserve and present the history of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas from 1865 through 1880.

Old Cowtown Museum is a 25-acre living history museum set on the banks of the Arkansas River just west of downtown Wichita. On this site, 35 buildings of historical significance to Wichita and Sedgwick County have been assembled, along with numerous authentic reproductions. The Museum hosts school programs and special events staffed by both paid and volunteer workers. Old Cowtown is open April through October.

On August 14, 2007 the Wichita City Council carried the motion to terminate their 99-year lease agreement with Historic Wichita-Sedgwick County, Inc. The City of Wichita, through the Arts and Cultural Services Division, has assumed responsibility for the daily operations and is financially responsible for all facility operations of Old Cowtown Museum. Cowtown has entered into a joint agreement with the City and retain its 501C3 non-profit status. The Cowtown Board of Directors will serve as advisors to the City.

In light of these actions taken by the City of Wichita, the Sedgwick County 2008 budget will not include funding

for Cowtown and will cease at the completion of the 2007 fiscal year.

Prior to August of 2007, the Museum was operated by Historic Wichita-Sedgwick County, Inc., which is governed by a local Board of Directors. As a private, non-profit organization, financial support comes from the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, sponsorships, grants, donations and earned income. Sedgwick County participated in funding the activities of the museum by supporting nine full-time positions and seasonal part-time employees.

Old Cowtown Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is the only living history museum to present a Kansas cattle town and American frontier history (circa 1865-1880), making it a unique American attraction. This portrayal is done through a blending of historic buildings and authentically reproduced structures, artifacts, period interiors, living collections such as period crops and breed animals, costumed staff and volunteer performances and reenactments, and demonstrations that provide hands-on

Budget Summary by Category

	2006 Actual	2007 Adopted	2007 Revised	2008 Budget	% Chg. 07-08
Expenditures					
Personnel	496,214	520,157	2,157	-	-100.0%
Contractual Services	66,000	-	518,000	-	-100.0%
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	16,993	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	579,207	520,157	520,157	-	-100.0%
Revenue					
Taxes	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	-
Charges For Service	-	-	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	16.00	16.00	-	-	-

Budget Summary by Fund

	2007 Revised	2008 Budget
Expenditures		
General Fund	519,609	-
Special Parks and Re	548	-
Total Expenditures	520,157	-



learning and immersion into the past.

Old Cowtown has welcomed visitors from all fifty states and more than sixty countries. Of special note is the 1870's outdoor bowling alley constructed near the Saloon for the Women's Bowling Congress delegates in 2004, attracting 4,200 people for a "historic bowling tournament".

In 2006, the Museum completed an overall assessment of its operations and gathered research and opinions about Cowtown's potential. Museum Management Consultants and Associates recommended that the Museum recommit to its mission of education, historic preservation and responsibilities for fun and entertainment in coordination with learning. Consultants also highlighted many areas that need to be improved when additional investments can be made.

Old Cowtown offers volunteer opportunities to area youth. Job Readiness Training, JROTC, and the Girl Scouts provide daily and weekly opportunities to get involved. Other organized groups include the Dixie Lee Saloon Girls, Entre Nous Victorian Dancers, Cowtown Gunfighters, Cowtown Cowboys, the Horsemanship Program, the Social Club and Vintage Baseball. Hundreds of volunteer groups contributed a dollar value of \$1.2 million in work hours in 2005.

