

What people need to know about lawn care

Dear Attorney General Kline:
My wife and I are considering hiring a commercial lawn care company to help landscape the yard at our home. I've never used this type of business before so what are some of the things I need to be aware of when selecting a good lawn care company?



phill
kline

• attorney general

Dear Kansas Consumer:
Springtime in Kansas is a beautiful time of the year and probably the best time to work on landscaping your yard.

It is a fact that studies have shown that a good looking lawn can add five to seven percent to a property's value, so you can consider the money you will spend an investment.

If you decide to hire a lawn care provider or landscaper here are some pointers to keep in mind:

It is a good idea to have an overall plan or desired look for your yard before hiring a lawn care service. A wide variety of services are available from these companies, including mowing, aeration, landscaping, tree care and fertilization. Knowing exactly what services you would

like before hiring a lawn care provider will help ensure you are not pressured into contracting for more services than may be necessary.

If you are having difficulty coming up with an overall plan for your yard, you might consider contacting the nearest K-State Research & Extension office, talking to neighbors whose yards are already looking good, searching the internet or borrowing a book on lawn care from the public library.

It's a very good idea to ask for free estimates from several different lawn care services. Prices for services may vary significantly from one provider to another. Those providers who quote a price without seeing your lawn firsthand cannot take into consideration the current condition of your lawn and what

may actually be needed to complete the project to your liking.

Research the company, ask for references and call the references given. Contact the Better Business Bureau to check the file on the company and ask your friends and neighbors if they have had any business dealings with the company you're considering.

Contact the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 785-296-3556 to confirm the lawn care provider is li-

censed to apply lawn care products as required by state law.

Most companies offer warranties to be sure to discuss any warranties the lawn care provider may extend, and ask some specific questions. How long will the service or plant be covered? Does the warranty cover replacement, labor and/or re-funds? What are the exclusions of the warranty (weather, abuse, etc.)? If a warranty is offered, make sure you review and receive it, noting any exclusions or requirements placed on you, the consumer. Remember that warranties are only as good as the company that issues

them.

When you have chosen a company, get EVERYTHING in writing. The agreement should be clear, concise, and complete. Also, make sure an estimated start and completion date are included, as well as arrangements for payment.

It's also a good idea to be present when all work is performed.

Consider it an opportunity to learn more about lawn care and horticulture.

If you follow these suggestions, you can have the beautiful lawn and yard you want while becoming a better informed consumer at the

same time.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

Sherman County Expenditures

SHERMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH, FIRST QUARTER AS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE BILL 3211-1980.

SALARIES:

APPRAISER \$31,297.50; HEALTH \$41,765.65; ELECTION \$3,266.11; GENERAL \$240,678.56; NOXIOUS WEED \$4,056.39; ROAD & BRIDGE \$123,739.39; RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #1 \$4,000.00; SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK \$2,988.48; SOLID WASTE \$27,415.66; PRAIRIE DOG SPECIAL \$4372.10; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$4,700.00 TOTAL SALARIES: \$488,279.84

EXPENDITURES:

Advance Insurance Company-Kansas \$1,061.11; Alex West \$220.00; Alexander Hamilton Institute \$79.20; Alicia Aliva \$30.00; Allied Oil & Supply Inc \$6,063.08; Altel \$729.10; Ambassador Club \$100.00; American Environmental Consulting LLC \$8,726.64; American Family Life Assurance Co \$2,178.00; American Fidelity Assurance Co \$2,830.86; American Red Cross \$147.00; Americo LLC \$92.99; Amsterdam Printing and Litho \$85.83; Appraisers Education Fund \$65.00; Aquila \$13,498.17; Atco International \$310.80; Audrey Engel \$9.84; B & B Electric Service Inc \$142.20; B & J Enterprise \$24.05; B & K Enterprise \$160.00; Bank Changes \$3,848,292.88; Bankwest \$100.00; Barb Disney \$28.29; Barrett Law Firm Pa \$658.18; Barton County Community College \$138.00; Becton Dickinson \$50.00; Best Western Angus Inn \$402.90; Big Brothers & Big Sisters \$200.00; Blue Cross and Blue Shield \$61,759.98; Bonnie J. Selby \$557.56; Brad Parker \$75.00; Brown, Creighton & Peckman \$920.50; Burton Pinalto \$75.00; Business Office Systems \$150.00; Butler County Community College \$6.00; Butterfly Cafe \$560.00; California Contractor Supply Inc \$221.80; Carol Guyer \$174.47; Cash-Wa Distributing \$3,798.50; Central Detroit Diesel-Allison Inc \$248.05; Central States Wire Products Inc \$1,925.44; Certified Laboratories \$504.39; Citibank \$1,834.07; City of Brewster \$3648.40; City of Goodland \$26,076.39; City-County Recreation \$21,000.96; Clawson Auto Supply \$36.00; Clerk of District Court \$60.00; Clerk's Checks \$1,978,597.38; Cloud County Community College \$18.00; Colby Community College \$6,162.00; Colby Free Press \$20.85; Colby Wrecking Yard \$919.17; Commercial Sign Company \$1,140.00; Commodity Credit Corporation \$10.00; Computer Information System Inc \$12,000.00; County Weed Directors Association of Kansas \$160.00; Crissy Conger \$53.26; D & D Filter Recycling \$541.10; D-C Wholesale Inc \$6,896.00; Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury Inc \$790.73; Darcy Frazier \$24.01; Daryl West \$25.40; Datamaxx Applied Tech Inc \$757.30; David Daniels \$144.00; Daylight Donuts \$32.40; Days Inn-Hays \$46.78; Dell Service Sales \$248.00; Denver Developmental Materials Inc \$25.00; Dependable Glass Service Inc \$671.19; Developmental Service of Northwest Kansas Inc \$20,970.51; Diamond Medical Supply \$62.66; Diamond Pharmacy Services \$736.12; Dinkel Law Office LLC \$2,770.00; Dispatch Monthly Magazine \$20.00; Dodge City Community College \$90.00; Dorendo Harrel \$21.99; Drivers License Guide Company \$26.95; Duerst Machine Works \$1,682.38; Eagle Communications \$613.29; Economic Development Petty Cash \$109.36; Election Board Workers-Sales Tax Question \$815.48; Esther Montoya \$25.00; Etta Walker \$281.50; Evercom Systems Inc \$382.76; Filesafe Inc \$75.00; Finley Motors Inc \$940.65; First Bankcard \$148.19; First National Bank \$113,608.56; Fixsen Electronics \$15.50; Flipse & Flipse Law Office \$718.00; Free Fair \$19,399.46; Frontier Equity Exchange Inc \$47,021.17; G.W. Van Keppel Co \$538.80; Garden City Community College \$450.00; Gary Farris Enterprises \$1,321.00; Glaxosmithkline Financial Inc \$951.35; Glen L Dehart & Sons Inc \$222,166.00; Goodland Area Chamber Commerce \$810.00; Goodland Car Wash \$50.00; Goodland Cemetery Association \$29,187.18; Goodland Greenline Inc \$436.57; Goodland Lions \$81.00; Goodland Machine and Auto LLC \$48.00; Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy \$66.70; Goodland Nutrition Project \$1,574.72; Goodland Public Library \$9,458.30; Goodland Regional Medical Center \$239,291.70; Goodland Senior Citizens Center \$21,004.04; Goodland Star-News \$1,549.77; Goodland Yost Farm Supply \$156.63; Grass Roots Lawn Service LLC \$295.00; Hays Daily News \$139.00; Hays Fire Equipment Sales & Service Inc \$35,577.36; Hays Mack Sales and Service Inc \$458.71; Heiman Inc \$421.02; Hemocue Inc \$90.00; Herl Chevrolet-Buick Company Inc \$54.14; High Plains Mental Health \$16,298.21; High Plains Office Supply LLC \$4,103.81; Highland Hotel & Convention Center \$238.76; Historical Society \$9,014.65; Holiday Inn Holidome-Topeka \$216.24; Homestead Nutrition Project \$3,994.71; Hospice Services Inc \$4,650.37; Hutchinson Community College \$114.00; Ideal Linen Supply \$787.81; Ikon Office Solutions Inc \$602.43; In The Can LLC \$1,934.10; Infinitec \$7,631.51; Inland Truck Parts Company \$24.76; Iris Scheopner \$156.74; J.O.M. Pharmaceutical Services \$739.47; Jackie Jorgensen ARNP \$620.00; Jacqueline Finley \$81.77; James M Milliken, Chartered \$269.58; James W Baker DDS \$263.00; Janet Rumpel \$16.77; Jason Showalter \$75.00; Jimmie Construction \$749.68; John Stroyek \$30.45; Judith Finley \$13.19; Jury Duty \$732.80; Kanorado Cemetery Association \$3,648.40; Kanorado Cooperation Association \$178.56; Kanorado Senior Citizens Center \$11,080.96; Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police \$25.00; Kansas Association of Counties \$1,636.14; Kansas Association of District Court Clerks and Administrators \$125.00; Kansas Association of Local Health Departments \$262.18; Kansas County Appraisers Association \$150.00; Kansas County Association Multiline Pool \$92,435.00; Kansas County Clerk & Election Officials Association \$50.00; Kansas County Commissioners Association \$280.80; Kansas County District Attorney Association \$265.00; Kansas County Highway Association \$45.00; Kansas County Treasurers' Association \$520.00; Kansas Department of Revenue \$6.00; Kansas Judicial Council \$350.00; Kansas Narcotic Officers Association \$40.00; Kansas Pathology Consultants PA \$604.00; Kansas Register of Deeds Association \$150.00; Kansas Sheriffs Association \$75.00; Kansas Silver Haired Legislature \$158.24; Kansas State

Firefighters Association Inc \$50.00; Kansas Withholding Tax \$14,978.93; Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative For Counties \$48,224.00; Kansas! \$25.00; Kansasland Tire-Goodland \$12,021.77; Karlin Barton \$486.43; Kathy Bahe \$75.00; KDEH-BMW \$100.00; KDEH/Nutrition and Wic Services \$70.00; Kendal Cooper \$1,200.00; Kenneth Palmgren \$15.20; Kevin Butts \$75.00; Kevin Sanderson \$269.60; Kit Carson County Sheriff \$81.56; Knott Just Books \$164.85; Knox Consultant Service \$1,270.50; KU Medical Center \$75.00; Kustom Signals Inc \$158.34; Lampton Welding Supply Company Inc \$177.49; Lance Goodman \$81.81; Larry's Professional 2-Way \$1,119.60; League of Kansas Municipalities \$135.00; Leann Friedrichs \$113.60; Lewis & Beims LTD \$212.50; Lina Zinn \$415.60; Lockwood Company Inc \$818.22; Lydia Garcia \$60.00; Mac Tools Distributor \$207.99; Malsom Welding & Repair \$30,796.19; Marietta L Whalen Revocable Trust UTA \$750.00; Martin Tractor Company Inc \$11,724.21; Marty Electric \$6,936.11; Marvin Duell \$47.20; Mary Ann Snethen \$270.00; Massco-Ar Supplies \$406.21; McClure Plumbing and Heating Inc \$471.78; McKesson Medical Surgical \$782.67; Medical Arts Clinic/Hellerud \$360.00; Melvin Sieck \$33.60; Merck Human Health \$842.67; MHC Kenworth-Salina \$7,665.20; Michael D Miller \$5,775.00; Mid-Continent Micrographic Inc \$10,315.75; Midwest Energy Inc \$600.80; Midwest Truck Equipment Inc \$214.77; Mile Saver Shopper \$31.00; Miller's Home Center \$130.00; Mitch Tiede Terracing \$37,409.40; Mobile Connections \$3,589.26; Mr Good Rinse \$9.90; National Academies of Emergency Dispatchers \$45.00; National Association For Court Management \$100.00; National Association of Counties \$380.00; National Emergency Number Association \$95.00; National Information Data Center \$49.90; National Sheriffs' Association \$50.00; National Sign Company \$509.00; Norwest Recreation Inc \$82.48; NW Kansas Ambulance Service \$28,911.23; NW Kansas Area Agency On Aging Inc \$2,248.50; NW Kansas County Clerks Association \$25.00; NW Kansas County Officials Associations \$60.00; NW Kansas Family Shelter \$1,000.00; NW Kansas Highway Officials Association \$25.00; NW Kansas Planning & Development Commission \$6,202.00; NW Kansas Silvered Haired Legislature \$158.24; NW Kansas Substance Abuse Unit \$3,419.33; NW Kansas Technical College \$38.00; NW Kansas Travel Council Inc \$100.00; NW Local Environmental Protection Group \$896.00; Office Works & Home Furnishings Inc \$567.06; OMB Police Supply Inc \$59.94; Orschelns \$236.68; Overhead Door Company of NW Kansas \$7,805.05; Parts House-Napa Auto Parts \$1,920.40; Pat Juhl \$18.00; Pawnee County District Court \$396.00; PDQ Emergency Products \$96.35; Penco Engineering PA \$4,800.00; Pete Whalen \$567.64; Pheasants Forever \$100.00; Phillips 66-Conoco-76 \$171.41; Physicians Reference Lab LLC \$164.80; Pioneer Health LLC/Eisenbart \$50.00; Pioneer Health LLC/Krayca \$37.00; Primidea Business-Info Data \$9.90; Prints & The Paper \$835.90; Priority Dispatch Corp \$629.00; Public Health Foundation \$30.50; PVD Educational Fund \$100.00; Quad County Fire Equipment \$370.30; Quartermaster \$113.93; Rasure Lumber Do-It Center \$222.13; RDJ Specialties Inc \$469.66; Reno ASAP/Alcohol & Drug Services \$85.00; Resource Management Company Inc \$445.78; Retailers' Sales Tax \$158.81; Rhea Daise \$2.00; Richard Allaman \$12.00; Robert McClure \$99.93; Roger Studer \$75.00; S & T Communications LLC \$5,034.87; S & T Communications Media Services \$1,161.94; S & T Telephone \$2,377.30; Samantha Siruta \$75.00; Sanofi Pasteur, Inc \$44.59; SBC \$2,514.52; SBC Global Services Inc \$1,000.00; Scheopner's Water Conditioning Inc \$377.60; Scott Gilmer \$134.14; Scott Showalter \$5,912.50; SE & EC Recycling Association \$6,895.20; Service Oil Company \$124.70; Share Corp \$472.10; Shell \$29.84; Sherman County Atlac Account \$2,014.64; Sherman County Convention/Visitors Bureau \$20,756.98; Sherman County Fireman Relief Association \$1,327.20; Sherman County Health Department \$255.90; Sherman County Health Department-Distributions \$33,166.75; Sherman County Rural Fire Special #1 \$280.00; Sherman County Sheriff's Department \$37.26; Sherman County Soil Conservation \$13,694.35; Sherman County Treasurer \$1,524.36; Sherrelle Miller \$6.58; Sherryl Ketter \$10.00; Shores Bumper to Bumper LLC \$700.63; Stan Purvis \$3,465.00; Stanley Pettibone \$69.60; Star Programming \$3,610.00; Steve Evert \$30.00; Sunflower Extension District #6 \$142.12; SW Mgmt Fund-KDHE \$1,094.91; Taylor Weissbeck \$9.84; The Consortium Inc \$506.00; Thomas County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council \$3,554.33; Thomas County Treasurer \$2,271.36; Thomson Healthcare DMS, Inc \$69.90; Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp \$1,395.15; Topside Office Products Inc \$3.57; Treasurer Paid Out Checks \$3,650,175.93; Trego County \$2,090.00; Truck & Tractor Repair LLC \$2,327.99; US Identification Manual \$82.50; UAP Distribution, Inc \$11,837.27; United States Postal Service \$4,536.78; Universal Lubricants Inc \$74.00; USDA-FSA Aerial Photo Field Office \$50.00; Van Diest Supply Company \$17,684.32; Van's Body & Frame Inc \$2,213.92; Veatch Chemical Company \$378.39; Vegetation Management Supply Inc \$76.27; Vignery & Mason LLC \$5,255.20; Viking Office Products \$958.51; Voice Products Inc \$18,052.37; Vonfeldt, Bauer, Vonfeldt Chartered \$7,383.82; Wagner Equipment Company \$329.86; Walmart Community \$2,188.94; Walter F Stephens Jr Inc \$384.10; Waste Connections Inc \$5,514.18; Wear Parts & Equipment Company Inc \$3,556.89; Weis Fire Safety Equipment Company Inc \$33.00; Weis Oil Company \$2,002.00; Wells Fargo Financial Leasing \$1,104.30; West District Weed Directors Association \$190.00; Western Prairie RC & D \$625.00; Western State Bank \$54,826.65; Western Times \$3.60; Western Uniform & Towel Service Inc \$171.40; Wichita County Economic Development Inc \$5,000.00; Wilkens Manufacturing Inc \$91.99; Willard Crumrine \$15.20; William Knitig \$75.00; Witness Fees \$535.60; Witzel & Rhea Implement Co \$1,475.40; Woofter Construction Inc \$40.24; Wyeth Pharmaceuticals \$343.82; Zerox Corporation \$168.00; Zeller Brake Service, Inc \$380.90; Zimmerman Plumbing Inc \$138.46; TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$11,146,997.90

Published in The goodland Star-News on Friday, April 22, 2006.

matters of record

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Feb. 14 — Jonathan S. Klimek, \$138 for speeding.

Feb. 16 — Kenneth L. Schneider, \$159 for speeding.

Feb. 18 — Ryan Elbert Whitney, \$150 for speeding.

Feb. 23 — Daniel M. Wynne, \$120 for speeding.

Feb. 25 — Bryan N. Morgan, \$144 for improper parking.

Phillip R. Pierson, \$90 for speeding and \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.

March 1 — Jerry T. Mosier, \$210 for violation of motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

March 4 — Ruben C. Medrano, \$78 for speeding and \$360 for no vehicle insurance.

March 5 — William V. Meyers Jr., \$144 for speeding.

Lynn R. Wallestad, \$231 for speeding.

March 10 — Michael J. Sodusta, \$144 for speeding.

Ryan C. Ullom, \$150 for speeding.

Michael M. Wente, \$214 for speeding.

March 12 — Garrett S. Stahl, \$126 for improper parking.

March 15 — Edward C. Preble III, \$204 for speeding.

Bradley P. Stringer, \$240 for speeding.

Leatha L. Wampler, \$120 for speeding.

March 16 — Darya M. Orent, \$177 for speeding.

Mac E. Smoot, \$120 for speeding.

Mark A. Trail, \$120 for speeding.

March 17 — Robert L. Rivers, \$144 for speeding.

March 18 — Eli J. Moffitt, \$120 for speeding.

Sherri E. Powell, \$138 for speeding.

Patricia M. Sprading, \$114 for speeding.

Austin K. Vaclavik, \$186 for speeding.

March 19 — Stephen S. Larson, \$159 for speeding.

Marelo Ramirez, \$126 for speeding.

Kevin D. Zeiler, \$159 for speeding.

March 21 — Luisa P. Calderon-Carpio, \$254 for transporting an open container and \$117 for speeding.

March 24 — Donald R. Cook, \$132 for speeding.

Kirk B. Neuroth, \$138 for speeding.

Anthony N. Panos, \$126 for speeding.

March 25 — Tim E. Poling, \$150 for improper parking.

Carl R. Quenisert, \$216 for speeding.

David S. Vernon, \$138 for speeding.

March 26 — Scott L. Dickson, \$138 for speeding.

Thomas J. Holahan, \$240 for failure to yield to emergency vehicle.

March 28 — Aileen Elkadi, \$186 for speeding.

James R. Vahling, \$102 for speeding.

April 1 — Richard A. Smith Jr., \$115 for speeding.

Jill L. Townsend, \$150 for speeding.

April 2 — Brandi A. Hawkins, \$150 for speeding.

April 6 — Ilmar Heinicke, \$228 for speeding.

Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

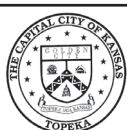
April 1 — 11:36 p.m., 321 E. 9th, Karen Nelson reported aggravated assault and criminal damage to property. Case referred to county attorney.

April 3 — 10:09 a.m., 912 W. 12th, West Elementary School reported criminal damage.

April 4 — 10:32 a.m., 204 W. 11th, Wilkens Truck and Trailer reported theft of license plate.

April 6 — 7:15 p.m., 1700 Cattletrail, arrested Shannon Butler failure to yield at stop sign, driving while license suspended, second time.

CITY OF TOPEKA PLANT OPERATIONS MANAGER



Seeking an energetic, detail-oriented individual for the Water Pollution Control Plant Operations Manager. This position will assume management and supervisory responsibility for the staff and infrastructure of the city's wastewater and storm water collection and pumping systems. For full requirements and application materials, please visit www.topeka.org.

The City of Topeka is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Urgent news for people who took SEROQUEL.

Seroquel[®], an antipsychotic drug, has been linked to **diabetes, pancreatitis, diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and even death.** If you or a loved one have experienced any of these health problems, **call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation.** We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

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FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Looking for a few days of fun and engaging in current leadership topics?

Then mark your calendar for the first ever Leadership 101: College Camp for Grownups, June 8-10, 2006. Held on the Fort Hays State University campus, the camp is sponsored by the Center for Civic Leadership and FHSU Department of Leadership Studies. Learn about current leadership topics, engage in round table discussions, participate in the Ropes Course, experience the revitalized downtown Hays, and have fun while participating! Graduate and undergraduate credit is available.

Register online at www.fhsu.edu/cc/lead or call 785.628.4303.