



**ROBERT PIERCE**

• **Leader & Times**

In the past three decades, the Seward County government entity has seen many improvements.

A new jail was built, along with a new administration building. Upgrades have been made to the county's fairgrounds, and currently, county officials are looking to relocate the health department.

Since 1995, though, one project has been left undone, but it was completed late last year, and Wednesday, county leaders and community members officially welcomed a new facility for the county's Road and Bridge department with an open house and ribbon cutting hosted by the Liberal Chamber of Commerce and Seward County.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tony Herrman said other facilities getting upgrades is what left the new building on the table for so many years.

"There were other projects in the county that the commissioners had to make decisions on and prioritize, so we were chosen to put on the back burner," he said. "We've had a lot of improvements throughout the county. They had to build a new jail. They had to take care of the attorneys and the offices at the administration. They had the health department improvements and different things. It just finally got to a point where we could go for it again."

The new facility is significantly larger than the former home of Road and Bridge and has several new features, one of which Herrman is particularly excited about.

"The other buildings we had, just a couple of them had heat," he said. "This has got all floor heat to where it's comfortable to work on and work out of. It just makes a nicer facility for the guys to do maintenance and repairs."

The home of Road and Bridge is now located on Salley Road northeast of Liberal on land the county bought after it was put up for sale. Herrman said officials with the local 911 communications system are wanting to locate a new tower on the land for radio communications as well.

"We have room to do that out here," he said. "We also have the contaminated animals, and in the event that we have something like that happen, you need to have a facility that can accommodate several loads of cattle or animals to keep them isolated. It can all be incorporated out here on this quarter of ground that the county bought."

After waiting nearly 25 years, Herrman said he is excited to finally see the new Road and Bridge

facility become a reality.

“We’ve got a very nice facility for the county and employees, and the county as a whole has a good facility to be here for a lot of years,” he said.