

By EARL WATT

- Daily Leader

Bob Carlile has served his community in a variety of positions.

He's been a city commissioner (four years), school board member (12 years), and he has served on the planning commission (nine years).

Carlile most recently pulled off a major coup by convincing former Major League manager Mike Hargrove to return to Liberal to coach the Bee Jays.

Now Carlile is ready to return to public office. Earlier today Carlile filed for Liberal City Commission.

"With my business experience, I think I can help address some of our issues," Carlile said. "We need to be a business-friendly community."

Carlile said for the community to continue to grow, housing issues also need to be addressed.

And Carlile said a focus needed to be placed on economic development.

"I think we can be a lot better," he said. "We are falling behind Dodge and Garden so fast it could make your head swim. Even Guymon is outdoing us. I think we can turn the corner with the right people and right attitude."

Carlile is owner and operator of J&R Sand, a company his family has operated for 49 years.

Carlile was selected as Citizen of the Year in 2008 and was the Chamber of Commerce Merit Award winner in 2007.