

CENTURYTEL INC
Form 4
April 18, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
EWING R STEWART JR

(Last) (First) (Middle)

100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE

(Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
04/17/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Ex. VP & CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code V Amount (A) or (D) Price \$			
Common Stock	04/17/2006		F	1,524 D 37.64 <u>(1)</u>	81,705.48	D	
Common Stock					1,176.51	I	By 401(k) <u>(2)</u>
Common Stock					16,888.82	I	By ESOP <u>(3)</u>
Common Stock					3,594.84	I	By PAYSOP <u>(4)</u>
					16,738.48	I	

Common
StockBy Stock
Bonus Plan
(5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.SEC 1474
(9-02)**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001 ⁽⁶⁾	02/21/2010	Common Stock	85,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.03					05/21/2002 ⁽⁷⁾	05/21/2011	Common Stock	81,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003 ⁽⁸⁾	02/25/2012	Common Stock	81,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.48					02/24/2004 ⁽⁹⁾	02/24/2013	Common Stock	81,000
Employee Stock	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004	02/25/2014	Common Stock	62,500

Option
(right to
buy)

Employee
Stock

Option \$ 33.4
(right to
buy)

02/17/2005⁽¹⁰⁾ 02/17/2015 Common Stock 62,500

Employee
Stock

Option \$ 35.41
(right to
buy)

03/15/2007⁽¹¹⁾ 02/20/2016 Common Stock 62,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
EWING R STEWART JR 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			Ex. VP & CFO	

Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart,
Attorney-In-Fact

04/18/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Closing price on vest date.
 - (2) As of most recent statement available
 - (3) As of most recent statement available.
 - (4) As of most recent statement available.
 - (5) As of most recent statement available.
 - (6) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/21/2001, one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2002, and one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2003.
 - (7) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 5/21/02, one-third are exercisable 5/21/03, and one-third are exercisable 5/21/04.
 - (8) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/25/03, one-third are exercisable 2/25/04, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/05.
 - (9) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/24/04, one-third are exercisable 2/24/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/24/06.
 - (10) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.
 - (11) One-third of the options are exercisable 3/15/07, one-third are exercisable 3/15/08, and one-third are exercisable 3/15/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.