

# ***FOCUS ON THE FUTURE***



# **PROJECT REPORT**

March 2025

# 1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beautification  
Community Development  
Economic Development  
Infrastructure

Crime, Drug, &  
Alcohol Prevention  
Housing  
Project Maintenance

## Completed Projects



### Pickleball Courts

Our four new pickleball courts were opened in April and have been very well-received by the community. These courts were prepared in-house by our Street and Park Department staff. The courts are located north of the Blue Bonnet rental building and have lighting for game play during the evenings.

## Recreation Center Lighting

Outdoor lighting has been installed on the North side of the Recreation Center to improve safety for staff and visitors. This will improve security at several building access points and enhance the guest experience for special evening events, such as our annual Trunk-or-Treat.



## Willow Tree Golf Course Renovation

The Willow Tree Golf Course clubhouse renovation is complete with custom merchandise fixtures, new flooring and paint, improved lounge areas, and remodeled restrooms. This beautiful new space is much more inviting for guests and functional for community groups looking to host tournaments at the course.

## Spring Tree Match Program

Our Spring season tree match program was once again a very popular incentive for residents. Within 1.5 days, all 125 available trees were sold. There were six varieties offered this season for \$30 each.

# Current Projects

## Spring Cleanup Coupons

Our Spring cleanup coupons are now available for water customers to redeem for one free haul of solid waste materials to the Seward County Landfill. Customers can bring a copy of their April or May utility bill to City Hall to receive a coupon. Coupons must be used by May 31st, 2025 and residents must transport their own items for disposal.

## Launch Liberal 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Elements of our comprehensive plan draft have been presented to our community steering committee and the Liberal Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission for initial review. The next step in the process is to present the plan for public comment prior to final adoption by both Commissions.



## Community Art Mural

Public voting for the final design of our community art mural is complete and the mural wall will be erected soon at Light Park. More than 1,100 community votes were cast to help guide the direction of the mural design. Design #2 was selected by majority vote.

## **Rock Island Depot Repair**

The city has been awarded \$77k from the Kansas Historical Society's Heritage Trust Fund program to assist with needed repairs to the Rock Island Depot. The building's roof and gutter system will be addressed with these grant funds and matching funds from the one-cent sales tax. Future repairs to the building's foundation will be required.

## **Hickory & Larry Street RHID**

A new RHID (rural housing incentive district) project for Hickory & Larry Streets was approved following a public hearing in March. The new RHID includes the City of Liberal as the developer for necessary infrastructure improvements. The development plan involves the addition of 66 new single-family homes. These homes are expected to be priced for sale under \$300,000. Bids for infrastructure construction will begin soon.

# **Future Projects**

## **Dog Park**

Plans continue moving forward to establish a community dog park with a targeted completion date this year. McCray Park near S. Pershing Ave and W. Pine Street has been selected for the site. This project has been frequently requested by our residents.

## **Park Lighting**

Staff are arranging plans to add additional lighting to city parks to improve safety and the overall visitor experience.

## **Gun Range Relocation**

Relocation of the current gun range has been an ongoing project idea under discussion. City staff have continued to evaluate an appropriate site location for a proposed range to include an area for the public and a separated space for law enforcement training.

# Program Reports

## Housing Programs

The following awards were provided for housing programs from January-March 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	16	\$8,000
First Time Homebuyer	16	\$48,000
Housing Construction Incentive	3	\$22,500
Emergency Home Repair	33	\$79,980
*NEW: Fence Program	0	N/A

## Façade Improvement Program

The following awards were provided for the façade grant program from January-March 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Façade Grant	5	\$42,512