

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

February 2025

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beautification
Community Development
Economic Development
Infrastructure

Crime, Drug, &
Alcohol Prevention
Housing
Project Maintenance

New Projects

Housing Programs Updates

The City Commission approved a series of existing, modified, and new housing programs offered to residents, including:

- **First Time Homebuyer Grant:** extends a zero-interest, three-year loan up to \$3,000 for eligible first-time homebuyers to use for down-payments and/or closing costs.
- **Home Repair Program:** provides financial assistance to senior citizens, individuals with physical disabilities, or residents in very low-income households to address emergency home repairs or accessibility modifications. The Commission approved changes to extend this program to residents in the 3-mile extraterritorial area, as well as eligible veterans.
- **Paint the Town Program:** provides vouchers to eligible homeowners to purchase exterior paint, primer, and related painting supplies. Commissioners increased the voucher amount from \$350 to \$500 and added more local vendor options accepting vouchers.
- **New Construction Housing Incentive:** encourages development projects by providing a \$7,500 incentive per new single-family home or a \$5,000 incentive per unit for multi-family construction.
- **Water Improvement Waiver Program:** waives the \$6.25 water improvement charge from water bills for seniors 60 or older living under 125% of median income.

- **Safe at Home Program:** Provides free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to eligible residents living in their permanent residence. The program was approved to include a NOAA weather radio for program recipients.
- ***NEW - Fence Program:** provides up to \$3,000 for the repair or installation of a fence for eligible residents who have adopted a dog from the Liberal Animal Shelter. Recipients must have an eligible fence project that is repaired or installed by an approved licensed and insured contractor.

Projects in Progress



Willow Tree Golf Course Renovation

The Willow Tree Golf Course clubhouse is being remodeled to better accommodate guests, host events, and improve the amenities offered by the golf course. New paint and flooring installation is complete with bathroom renovations and fixture installations in progress. The target completion date is early March.

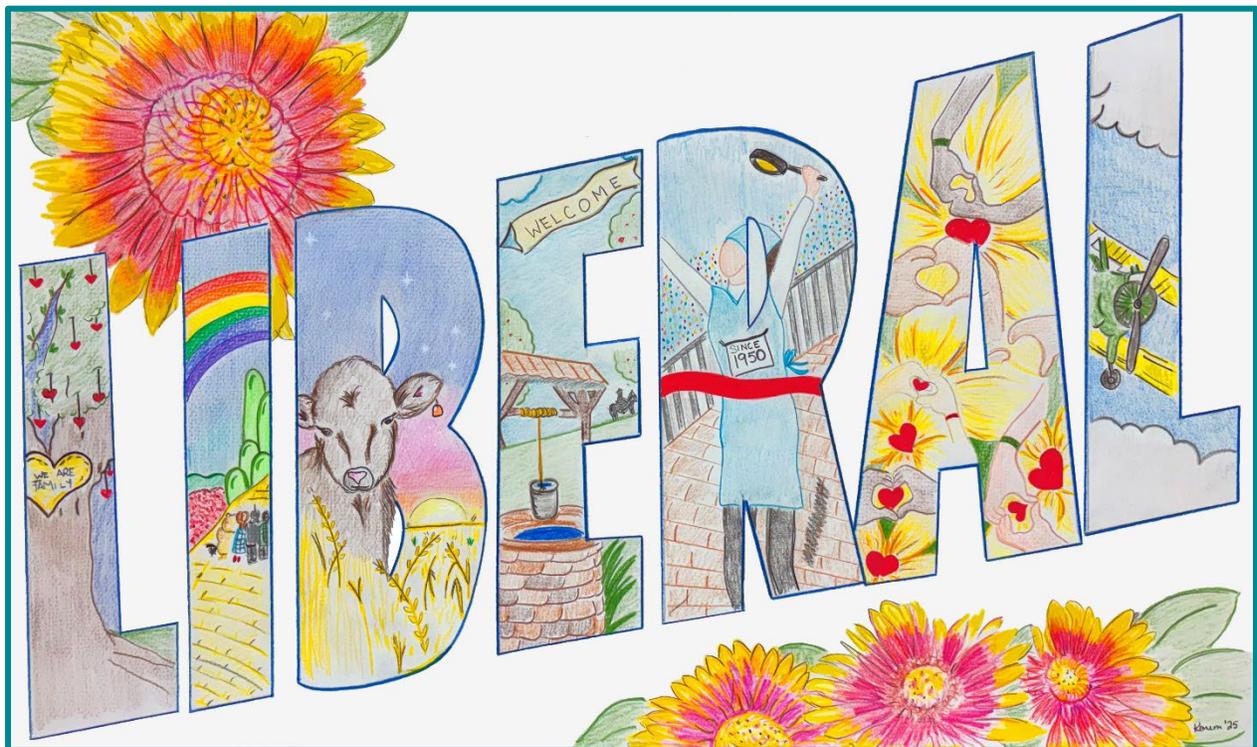
Pickleball Courts

Installation of four pickleball courts at Blue Bonnet Park north of the rental building will soon be completed by in-house staff. Courts have been poured, fenced, and lighting has been installed. Final touches and connecting sidewalks will be added by April 1.

Comprehensive Plan & 7-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Liberal's comprehensive plan has continued moving forward in the strategy development phase before consultants draft an implementation plan for review. A draft final plan will be presented in Spring for public comment, Steering Committee review, and final Commission approval and adoption.

Projects identified by the comprehensive plan, items from Focus on the Future, and large capital improvement investments identified by staff and Commissioners will be incorporated into a formal 7-year capital improvement plan to assist with long term financial planning for projects.



Community Art Mural

Public voting for the final design of our community art mural has launched with positive feedback and community participation. Community engagement will continue via social media, community updates, and project presentations to encourage participation over the next few weeks. More info and the link to view and vote on the designs is available at cityofliberal.org/art.

CityBus Transit Facility

Building plans continue to be developed for a new bus facility located at 118 E. 4th Street. The facility will provide secure indoor parking for the bus fleet and staff office space. The project is funded in large part by Kansas Dept. of Transportation.

Hickory & Larry Street RHID

Staff and Commissioners have been working on legal notices and documents for the Commission to consider changing the Hickory & Larry Street RHID from an RHID funded by the developer to an RHID where infrastructure development is funded by the City of Liberal. A public hearing regarding the RHID project is scheduled for March 11.

Future Projects



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.

Recreation Center Lighting

Enhancements are needed to improve exterior lighting on the North side of the Recreation Center. This will improve safety at several building access points and improve the guest experience for special events such as our annual Trunk-or-Treat.

Dog Park

Plans continue moving forward to establish a community dog park with a targeted completion date this year. Locations have been considered at McCray Park and North Blue Bonnet Park. This project has been frequently requested by our residents.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

The following awards were provided for January 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	0	\$0
First Time Homebuyer	4	\$12,000
Housing Construction Incentive	2	\$15,000
Emergency Home Repair	11	\$25,980
*NEW: Fence Program	<i>Program development in progress.</i>	

Façade Improvement Program

The following awards were provided under the façade grant program for January 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Façade Grant	1	\$10,000