

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

October 2024

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beautification	Crime, Drug, & Alcohol Prevention
Community Development	Housing
Economic Development	Project Maintenance
Infrastructure	

Completed Projects

2024 Community Health Fair Lab Testing Fees

A one-time commitment of city funds for community development helped provide free general lab testing services for more than **1,200 individuals** at the Community Health Fair on October 5th.

Recreation Center Gym Roof

The aging gym roof at the Liberal Recreation Department has been replaced to make necessary repairs, as well as prepare for the installation of solar panel improvements.

Fall Tree Match

Six varieties of trees were made available for residents to purchase through our Fall tree match program. Within two days, all 120 trees were purchased. Residents pay a discounted rate of \$30 per tree.

Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application

Funds supported staff research activities and consultant technical expertise to assist with preparing a federal grant application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program. If awarded, the application will draw in \$305,000 in state funding and \$1.6M in federal dollars for further project development of a grade separated railroad overpass.

Annual Street Improvements

Street chip seal was completed recently in Northeast Liberal and on portions of Western Avenue. Street and crosswalk pavement markings have been completed on Tucker Road and Western Avenue. Pavement marking improvements have also been applied to areas of Kansas Avenue, 15th Street, and other major roadways in the city.



Liberal's Night Out

The Liberal Police Department held the Liberal's Night Out event on October 5th at Light Park with an impressive turnout. First responder services provided education and interacted with visitors while families enjoyed live music, vendors, games, and more.

Projects in Progress

McCray & Mahuron Park Splashpads

The splash pad play area installation is finished and final concrete work/fencing is estimated to be completed in November. A soft opening in September allowed families to enjoy the splash pads.

Pickleball Courts

Installation of four pickleball courts at Blue Bonnet Park north of the rental building will begin soon. Following a competitive bid process, it was determined that performing the work in-house would be more cost-effective.

Launch Liberal 2035 Plan

Liberal's comprehensive plan is nearing the final phase of strategy development to support identified community goals. A draft plan will be presented in the Fall for public comment, Steering Committee review, and final Commission approval and adoption.



Ortuno Housing Addition RHID

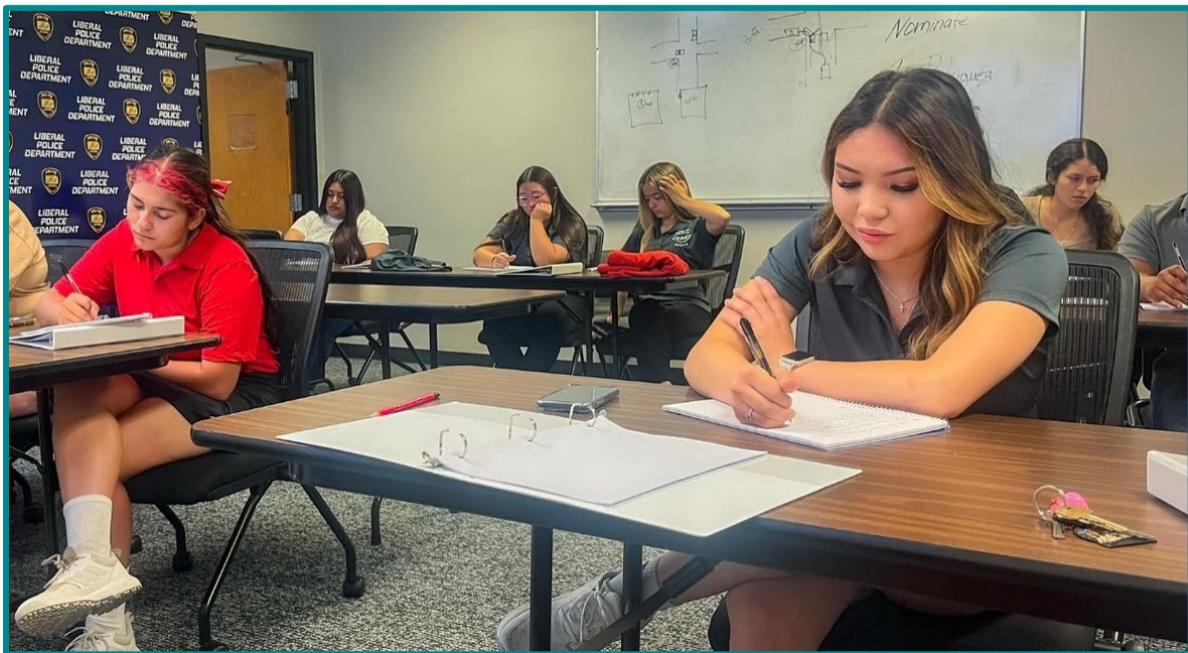
More than \$1.6M in infrastructure improvements have been committed to support the Ortuno Addition Rural Housing Incentive District, which has recently broken ground. This project is slated to add eight multifamily homes and 37 single-family homes to South Liberal.

Water Slide Repair at Adventure Bay

Gelcoat repair is being completed this month for the water slides at Adventure Bay Family Water Park to improve safety and reopen them for the upcoming 2025 season.

Community Art Mural

Engagement activities are underway for the creation of an art mural to be displayed at Light Park. The mural is funded in part by grant funds from the Kansas Arts Commission. An initial public survey will identify mural themes and ideas, while a second round of outreach will allow citizens to vote on the final design they like best. The mural will face Kansas Avenue and be illuminated at night. Project information is available at: www.cityofliberal.org/art.



LPD Cadet Program

The Liberal Police Department's cadet program began its first "Advanced" cadet class with 19 students in September. Cadets meet weekly to learn more about law enforcement divisions, participate in community events, and perform service for local organizations. This class will graduate in December. Since beginning the program in 2022, one former cadet has become a police officer for LPD and another now works as a 911 dispatcher.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

The following awards and funding were provided under housing assistance programs from January – September 2024:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	56	\$19,250
First Time Homebuyer	32	\$90,000
Housing Construction Incentive	10	\$75,000
Emergency Home Repair	46	\$126,695

Façade Improvement Program

The following awards and funding were provided under the façade grant program from January – September 2024:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Façade Grant	12*	\$92,792

*The Façade Improvement program has exceeded available funds, so applications for the current budget year have closed.