

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

January 2025

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

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

Completed Projects

Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application

Funds supported staff research activities, concept designs, and consultant technical expertise to assist with preparing a federal grant application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program. Our project was selected for full funding, drawing in \$305,000 in state funding and \$1.6M in federal dollars for further project development of a grade separated railroad overpass. The project is expected to last 2.5 years.

Projects in Progress

Air Products Infrastructure Development

Following a sale of land in the airport industrial park to Air Products (pending FAA approval), the Commission voted to approve up to \$1.1M in sales tax dollars for infrastructure development for the site. Funds will be used for street paving and curbing, sewer line extension, and water line extension for the site. Across three phases, the new facility will support 45 new jobs with an average salary of \$50k.



Pickleball Courts

Installation of four pickleball courts at Blue Bonnet Park north of the rental building began last month. This work is being completed in-house to reduce costs. We are awaiting forms for a final concrete pour before completing the courts. These will open in Spring 2025.

LPD Cadet Program

The Police Dept. is recruiting cadet program applicants for their Spring semester. Students must be between the ages of 14-20.

Launch Liberal 2035 Plan

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

Community Art Mural

Concept designs have been received from our artist, and we will be putting forth a new public survey soon for residents to select their favorite design. More info is available at cityofliberal.org/art.

Washington Ave. Sidewalks, Curbs, & Gutters

Work is ongoing to replace sidewalks, curbs, and gutters along Washington Avenue from Second Street to Fourth Street on both sides of the roadway. These changes are improving safety, accessibility, and visibility in Downtown Liberal.

CityBus Transit Facility

Building plans are being 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.



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. The target completion date is March 3rd.

Liberal Cemetery Expansion

We are in the early phases of developing a planned cemetery expansion. Property will need to be annexed to extend the cemetery North. Early concept designs plan for enough plots to accommodate needs for the next 50 years.

2025 Kansas Legislative Session

Economic Development funds support advocacy efforts year-round. City staff, Watkins Public Strategies, and the Southwest Kansas Coalition all work on Liberal's behalf during the legislative session to monitor bills, pursue special funding opportunities,

provide testimony on bills, and stay in touch with multiple state departments. January – March is a busy season for these activities.

Project Update

Hickory & Larry Street RHID

Staff are preparing documents for Commission consideration to change the Hickory & Larry Street RHID (G&G Developments). The development, previously approved under an RHID funded by the developer, has been under consideration to be redrafted with the City of Liberal funding the infrastructure costs and recouping expenses under the RHID. Early estimates show infrastructure costs of \$1.47M dollars. The development plan shows 65 new single-family homes priced around \$200k.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

The following awards were provided from January – December 2024:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	57	\$19,950
First Time Homebuyer	38	\$108,000
Housing Construction Incentive	11	\$80,000
Emergency Home Repair	65	\$182,995

Façade Improvement Program

This program exceeded available funds last year, and new applicants have already submitted requests for 2025 awards. The following awards were provided under the façade grant program from January – December 2024:

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

