

2024 State Legislative Priorities

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

Andy Ryder, Mayor
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are on the ancestral land of the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek, including the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Squaxin Island Tribe. We acknowledge, and remember those Tribal People not recognized today who were absorbed or relocated into other tribes for survival. We recognize the ancestors and their descendants who are still here. We recognize and respect the Tribal People of the Treaty of Medicine Creek as the traditional stewards of this land since time immemorial and their role today in taking care of these lands in perpetuity. We recognize and have the responsibility to call attention to the histories of dispossession, forced removal, and abridged treaty rights that allowed our nation, state, and city to develop as it has today. We recommend that community members read the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

See inside pages for more details.

1. CAPITAL REQUEST: Emergency Coordination Center
The City is currently planning for a new police station that will include a fully equipped Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). Like many local jurisdictions around the country, the City was underprepared for the global pandemic. Currently, the City is

also inadequately prepared to handle other major emergency incidents, natural or human-made. The ECC would support the community by enabling multi-agency coordination which ensures the City is more efficient at providing resources, coordinating communications and advance warnings, prioritizing response during an emergency, and implementing recovery programs. The ECC is anticipated to include over 1,440 square feet of mission-critical equipment, including: workstations, monitors, radios, emergency generator, emergency management software, and more. This project will break ground in Winter of 2024 and open in the Fall of 2025.

The City requests \$500,000 to help develop a new ECC to better serve the community in times of crisis.

2. CAPITAL REQUEST: Regional Athletic Complex LED Replacement lights

The Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) is one of the finest outdoor sporting venues in the state. This 100-acre, regional facility features spectacular views of Mt. Rainier, five softball/baseball fields, and six regulation-size soccer/football/rugby fields, as well as picnic and outdoor event facilities, playgrounds, a concession stand, two miles of walking trails, family restrooms and much more. This project will convert 239 aging high-intensity discharging (HID) lamps to more energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights. This conversion will bring the facility into alignment with the City's adopted climate plan, the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan, which calls for LED lighting installation in public-sector buildings and infrastructure. Compared to the HID lamps, LEDs are safer, produce brighter lights, provide lighting you can control, last significantly longer and do not contain mercury.

The City requests \$300,000 to make these improvements and help support environmental resilience, energy conservation, youth sports, and economic development.

3. Develop long-term funding solution to support supportive housing acquisitions.

The City appreciates the state's continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis. With the Rights of Way Initiative, Thurston County received \$37M to acquire a hotel and turn it into emergency housing, Maple Court. The long-term plan is to convert this enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. This conversion will require significant capital investment. Although the State

committed \$2M to operating costs for the first two years of this project, the City and other local partners are concerned with long-term operating needs and future capital investments.

The City requests a sustainable operating and capital funding source(s) for the continued success of supportive housing funded initiatives and other similar projects across the state.

4. Continue funding for Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The 2023-25 Capital Budget invests \$35.8 million in defense community compatibility projects throughout the state. This investment leverages over \$126 million in local and federal funds. The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations.

5. Continue focus on I-5 Corridor between Mounts Road & Tumwater

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. However, the current design of I-5 impedes critical ecological functions of the Nisqually River Delta critical to salmon survival, is at risk of being flooded by the Nisqually River resulting in national security concerns, and is inadequate to meet the growing commerce and transportation demands of our state.

The City remains committed to long-term solutions along this corridor which is essential to the state's environmental, commerce, and transportation priorities, as well Joint Base Lewis-McChord's mission readiness.

In 2022, the State Legislature allocated \$75 million in the Move Ahead Washington package specifically to the Nisqually River delta (Mounts Road to Marvin Road) and in 2023, continued advocacy resulted in programming of these funds, \$32.5 million in 2025-2027 and \$26M in 2027-2029.

These are important steps but more work is necessary in the future.

While continuing to work with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and regional partners on a holistic approach to the I-5 corridor, the City

supports planning for and implementing practical solutions, like prioritizing the design and construction of the funded State Route 507 roundabouts. The City also supports a future part-time shoulder use project on southbound I-5 between Sleater-Kinney and Henderson Boulevard.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

6. Childcare and Early Learning Access: Young Child and Family Center

There is a critical need for early learning and indoor recreation resources in Lacey. The demand for high-quality childcare programs has outpaced industry growth for several years with a nation-wide decrease in supply starting in 2019. The City supports policies and programs that increase access to affordable, quality childcare in Washington and policies that expand access to preschool. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this crisis. Beginning in the spring of 2020, COVID-related operating restrictions and decreased enrollment caused over 30% of childcare centers to close. According to the Washington State Department for Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), most North Thurston Public Schools (NTPS) service area falls within an “extreme childcare access desert.” The City, NTPS, and South Sound YMCA are partnering to assess the feasibility of a Young Child and Families Center, estimated to cost around \$50 to \$70 million.

7. Joint Animal Services: Regional Animal Facility

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County and serves over 303,976 community members in 774 square miles of urban and rural terrain. JAS provides humane law enforcement, sheltering and medical care of strays (intake of over 2,600 animals in 2022), impounded and surrendered animals, adoption services, licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility which was formerly a warehouse. A recent study found that the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain. In addition, the facility was not purpose built and the spaces do not meet current industry stands of care. Finally, JAS operations have outgrown the space. JAS partners, Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and Thurston County, are starting efforts to construct a new JAS shelter facility, estimated to cost around \$20 to \$25 million.

8. Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies and Training Center

Police departments across Washington state are experiencing significant police staffing shortages. The City supports ongoing and enhanced funding for Basic Law Enforcement Academies (BLEA). As communities continue to grow and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retirement, it is imperative this program receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. The City supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies and requests future funding be allocated to provide a training center and two BLEA classes in Thurston County to expedite the training of police officers once hired.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS – DETAILS:

1. Emergency Coordination Center

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST: The City requests \$500,000 to develop a new Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to better serve the community in times of disaster and crisis.

Project Description

Over the past two years, the City has been working on developing a new Lacey Police Station. The new station will be approximately 40,000 square feet to meet community needs now and for the next 30-40 years. The project includes a plan to construct a dedicated space for an ECC, which the City does not currently have.

Currently, during a major emergency or public safety incident, the City uses a makeshift 300-square-foot meeting room within City Hall. This space can only accommodate ten people at a time. This set-up slows down and limits the City's emergency management and preparedness capabilities. In addition, the space does not meet recommended FEMA design functions for an ECC as it is not flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, or fully interoperable.

The City plans to include an ECC that is at least 1,440 square feet and built to current category IV standards in the new police station. The ECC would have enough space to maintain City operations for over 72 hours and serve as the City's central coordination point for:

- All Large-scale Emergency Operations.
- Information Gathering and Dissemination, Including Meeting all Main Functions within National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Command and Coordination.
- Coordination with Local Governments, Outside Contractors, Mutual Aid, and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs).
- And more!

During non-emergency periods, the ECC would serve as an ADA-accessible event/meeting space for the community and City.

ECC FEATURES:

- 1,440 sq. ft. Facility @ approximately \$750 per sq. ft.
- Laptop Work Stations
- Large, Wall-mounted Monitors
- Storage Space for Technology and Equipment
- Operational Supplies and Equipment Outlets, Network Drops, Wiring and Infrastructure Required for an ECC
- Communication Equipment for Local and Areawide Information Management
- Kitchenette
- IT Server Closet
- Emergency Generator
- State-of-the-art technology solutions

2. Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) LED Replacement lights

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST: The City requests \$300,000 to make these improvements and help support environmental resilience, energy conservation, youth sports, and economic development.

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PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES	FUNDS
City of Lacey	\$1,000,000
RCO Youth Athletic Field Funding or WWRP (2024)	\$329,000
Other funding sources	\$771,000
State of Washington – Capital Projects	\$300,000
TOTAL	\$2,100,000

CITY OF LACEY ALSO SUPPORTS THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF:

Association of Washington Cities

South Sound Military & Communities Partnership

Thurston County Shared Legislative Agenda

Regional Housing Council – Top Three legislative priorities:

1. Increase funding for rent assistance and low-income renters
2. Long-term operational funds for Rights-of-Way Initiative projects
3. Increased funding for Housing Trust Fund

THANK YOU:

During the 2023 Legislative session, several significant City-championed achievements were accomplished, including:

- Secured total investments of \$1.15 million for the new Greg Cuoio Park for an ADA-accessible path and inclusive playground.
- Secured investment of \$103,000 to upgrade a transformer at the Regional Athletic Complex to meet community demand for electric vehicle charging stations.
- Helped address some of the City of Lacey's public safety concerns, including: the commercial airport citing process; law enforcement vehicle pursuits to allow peace officers to return to a reasonable suspicion standard for certain dangerous crimes; and reaching an agreement to permanently address the criminality of drug possession and use in Washington.
- Continued state leadership on the homeless crisis by adopting an operating budget that supplied \$60 million to local governments and non-profits to provide housing and other wrap-around services to unhoused individuals residing in state rights-of-ways.
 - Continued advocacy for the improvement of the Interstate 5 Corridor between Mounts Road & Tumwater resulting in the transportation budget programming \$32.5 million in 2025-2027 and \$26M in 2027-2029 for this project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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