

2025 State Legislative Priorities

LACEY CITY COUNCIL

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1. Develop long-term funding solutions for supportive housing acquisitions.
The City appreciates the state’s continued leadership in responding to the homeless crisis, including funding for Maple Court. Since its inception, the plan for Maple Court has been to convert it from an enhanced shelter into needed permanent supportive housing. To date, the Regional Housing Council has allocated \$1.1M to support this transition. The City requests funding to help convert Maple Court into permanent supportive housing and for sustainable operational funding for Rights-of-Way Initiative-funded programs.

2. Thurston County Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies at the Lacey Regional Training Center

Police departments across Washington state face significant police staffing shortages. As communities continue growing and increasing numbers of law enforcement personnel retire, this program must receive adequate funding to provide training opportunities for new hires. Regional academies help reduce academy wait times and officer vacancy rates, and enhance local officer recruitment efforts.

They also provide more equitable training opportunities as they increase the ability for community members to participate in academies by eliminating the need for extended stays away from home. Around the South Sound, recent vacancies have adversely impacted public safety services. The City strongly supports the creation of more regional BLEA academies. The City requests \$1,000,000 for a regional BLEA academy at the Lacey Training Facility in 2026. Funding would be used to support academy operations.

Law Enforcement Vacancy Rates (Nov 2024)	
Lacey	0%
Olympia	10.1%
Tumwater	2.9%
Yelm	0%
Thurston County	8.6

3. Regional Animal Shelter and Control Facility

Joint Animal Services (JAS) is the animal shelter and control agency for the cities of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia, and unincorporated Thurston County (“Partners”). It 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, pet licensing, temporary emergency housing, and more. In 1996, JAS moved into their existing facility, a former warehouse. In addition to not meeting animal standards of care, a recent study found the facility is failing and requires significant investment to maintain. With the growth of the community, JAS operations have outgrown the space. A space needs assessment will take place in early 2025. This will determine facility needs and construction costs, estimated at \$25+ million. Facility design is anticipated to cost around \$2 million. The City, with its partners, requests \$2,000,000 for facility design.

4. Huntamer Park Civic Improvement Project

For decades, the City has actively worked to transform the Midtown District into a vibrant and community-centered urban core through planning and public project efforts. Huntamer Park, the “heart” of this area, is a 1.5-acre civic space in desperate need of updates to meet the growing community's needs. Previous significant improvements at Huntamer Park occurred in 2005. Since then, the surrounding Midtown District has grown significantly with new mixed-use and residential

Tentative Project Funding	
City	\$800,000
Federal	\$400,000
State	\$200,000
Total	\$1.4 million

(re)developments. This project would strengthen opportunities for civic engagement, improve equity by increasing park access and amenities in a Community Development Block Grant-qualified census tract, increase environmental resiliency, improve public health and wellness, and expand opportunities for economic growth and development. The City seeks \$200,000 to improve Huntamer Park, including adding plazas, a water feature, new landscaping, pathways, and furniture designed to create spaces for daily use while preserving civic spaces for important community events.

5. Public Defense Standards Impact

The City is concerned about the impacts of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Recommended Revised Standards for Indigent Defense (Recommended Standards). The City asks that the State examine the financial impacts of these proposed changes on local jurisdictions and commit to financial support sufficient to offset these impacts before requiring implementation.

6. Authorize Animal Control and Shelter Districts

The City requests the creation of an Animal Control and Shelter Special Purpose District or the amendment of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations to allow for Animal Service Districts.

7. Continue funding for the Defense Community Compatibility Account (DCCA)

The City requests the State legislature prioritize ongoing investment in this grant program that supports civilian communities near military installations

8. Increase availability of affordable and accessible childcare

The City supports efforts to increase affordable childcare access statewide, including reducing barriers for providers, supporting the construction of new facilities, enhancing workforce development, increasing access to state-subsidized childcare slots, and improving childcare availability in all areas.

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

Interstate 5 (I-5) is the lifeline of commerce, transportation, and JBLM's mission readiness in the Puget Sound Region. Maintaining existing funding for this project is vital.

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

Washington Recreation & Park Association

Thurston Regional Planning Council

LOTT Clean Water Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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