

2024 STATE —OF THE— *City*



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MAYOR'S ADDRESS

On this beautiful morning in our City, Welcome and thank you for attending. It is such an honor for me to be sharing the State of the City at a time so rich with promise as we continue our progress toward a bright future for all citizens. Our residents, neighborhoods, and businesses have come together around a vision for opportunities for all who live here and our citizens quality of life is our priority.

Let me begin with a sincere thank you to the citizens of Pueblo. I know that you love our City as much as I do. Your support, resilience, heart, and hard work inspire me daily. I am so proud of the team we have assembled and the accomplishments we have made in the last five years. You have a document at your table called "Making a Difference" that summarizes some of them. We have compiled the 2024 State of the City report that will be available in a few days on the City's website and will be presented to City Council in accordance with our charter.

In the past year, city projects and improvements have multiplied with development, innovation, and technology. Many are in progress which will come to fruition in this new year. It takes time to do projects right and have noticeable changes occur.

What is the state of our city today? We are a city of many opportunities. We are a city of many challenges. We are a city whose future will continue to grow and prosper when we come together to solve problems, build community, and take action. Ladies and gentleman, we have come through the COVID-19 pandemic and are still facing lasting concerns of businesses rebuilding, individuals who lost jobs and are now homeless, increase in crime, and others. With full commitment and a renewed sense of purpose about who we want to be as Puebloans, we are rebuilding, we are bringing new companies to Pueblo, we are increasing job opportunities that provide a living wage for families, we are building new homes, we are initiating new ways for our Police Department to be able to respond to crimes and provide safe neighborhoods. We are Pueblo!



Mayor's Address

ECONOMY

The reality is that the state of our city is strong! While our city sales tax increases have stabilized, our economy is doing well. Over the last five years we have had record sales tax increases and we have more funds in reserve than when I took office in 2019.

In April, we had the largest job announcement in the history of our city at CS Wind with 850 new anticipated jobs. EVRAZ is completing the construction of their long rail mill. Fomcor announced 87 news jobs and will open officially this March. There are large economic development prospects in the works.

DEVELOPMENT

In the last two years we have had more than 3,200 land use applications and certifications. In 2023, we saw a 50% decline in multi-family and single-family building permits which are directly attributable to the increase in interest rates and the inflationary cost of building materials. Land use applications showed a decrease of 40% from 2022, for the same reasons. Nevertheless, the demand for housing remains strong.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the refurbishment of the Holmes Hardware building which had been vacant for decades. The Fuel and Iron Food Hall on the historic Union Avenue opened in 2023 featuring six food vendors on the street level and 28 housing units on the upper two floors. It is not an exaggeration to say that this project was years in the making. The restoration of the Holmes Hardware Building received the History Colorado 2024 Stephen H. Hart award and Governor's Choice award for an exemplary project preserving historic structures in Colorado.

The City collaborated with private developers, non-profits, and the State Division of Housing to accelerate affordable housing construction. Forty-nine units of affordable housing were constructed in 2023 using HOME Investment Partnership Funds awarded to the City and the County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Community Development Block Grant funds were used to rehabilitate 26 owner-occupied homes throughout the City. Projects entailed selective demolition, mold remediation, roof replacement, accessibility modifications, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical repairs, and retrofits.

One of the bright spots for Pueblo is the increased interest in development in our city. In the next decade, we will see unprecedented growth. We have had a record number of inquiries and development applications in our Planning Department. We are working hard to accommodate that growth. We are investing more than eight million dollars in our sanitary sewer system to accommodate additional growth in Pueblo's north, west, and south side neighborhoods. We are continuing to make it easier to do business with Pueblo Place, the online permitting and licensing system. In the last five years we have had more than 4,000 new sales tax applications in the city.

AIRPORT

At the Pueblo Memorial Airport, our expectations are high. We expect a safe travel experience, on-time flights, and dependable access.

Mayor's Address

2023 continued to see challenges faced by the airline industry. We have had those challenges with our new essential air service provider, Southern Airways. Airlines continue to battle pilot shortages and aging aircraft fleets. As a result, Pueblo's partner, Southern Airways, has experienced a drop in passenger numbers and flight frequencies. We continue to work closely with Southern executives to execute a plan to turn this trend around. Without a turnaround, I will personally seek a new essential air service provider that can serve Pueblo and Southern Colorado with quality and safety.

In 2024, the Airport will benefit from over \$12 million in Federal and State funds to rehabilitate the primary runway, improve deteriorating pavement, and possibly construct much needed hangars on the airfield. Discussion is also continuing with possible grant opportunities to renovate the airport terminal and build a new Air Traffic Control Tower. Federal and State investments help to demonstrate the importance of Pueblo Airport to our community.

Pueblo has been selected as one of the finalists to become the new home of the National Championship Air Races, previously held in Reno, Nevada. Since late summer we have been working with the site selection committee and providing them with information about Pueblo airport's ability to become their new home. We expect a decision by them within months as they have committed to an announcement in the first quarter of 2024. It is anticipated that the air races will bring in 100,000 or more visitors and the selection of Pueblo as the new permanent home would be an economic boost, not just to Pueblo but to our entire region.

PARKS AND RECREATION

With 81 Parks in our city, the parks department continues to provide exemplary services and programs to our citizens and youth. Neighborhood parks are safe gathering places for our families and are protected by Park Rangers. Additionally, the Department continues to partner to improve recreational amenities and opportunities for our community.

In 2018, the City and the Pueblo Conservancy District partnered to fund and construct the Arkansas River Levee Trail Project. Approximately \$3.3 million in grant funding was awarded that matched the \$6 million that was raised to purchase and install two pedestrian bridges that would connect the existing trail along the Arkansas River to the new trail which is located on top of the levee. The first pedestrian bridge was installed in 2021 and the second bridge was installed late summer 2023. This neighborhood connector project connects the westside, the Grove and other neighborhoods to downtown and each other.

Our Parks Department is also overseeing our community cleanup program on public property. The ARPA Neighborhood Cleanup Project was established to clean up trash and debris throughout the community in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) of the City. Other areas the "Team Up to Clean Up" Program also concentrated on the Fountain Creek and Arkansas River corridors, and Veteran's Park at Lake Minnequa. In 2023, they removed and disposed of approximately 180 tons of trash, over 1,600 tires, over 17,500 used hypodermic needles, and 2,500 shopping carts from the community. This program continues to make a significant impact on the city; however, is reactive to concerns. I am committed to work toward a pro-active approach with more intensive, more focused policies and practices for a "clean Pueblo".

PUBLIC SAFETY

We have our problems with crime like every other city in America. The residents of Pueblo deserve to not only feel safe in their neighborhoods, but they also deserve to BE SAFE! My attention and concerns are on Pueblo, the Pueblo Police Department, and the crimes in our City. Crime remains a problem even though part one crimes (homicides, burglary, etc.) are down by 12% from a year ago.

The issue of homelessness and the unhoused remain a problem. The solutions to these problems are not easy. We work hard every day to minimize the effect of these problems on our community. With a shared vision and collaborative action, 2024 will see Pueblo be a city where fewer people live on the streets. In 2023, we were successful in supporting the opening of a permanent warming shelter operated by the Pueblo Rescue Mission.

While we have hired more than 70 new police officers during my term of office, our police department is still short of officers despite a 28% increase in starting pay and a \$10,000 retention bonus in the last 12 months. Despite our efforts to improve officer morale by the retention bonus, allowing them to wear beards, short sleeve shirts that reveal tattoos, allowing them to wear shorts in the summertime and provide them with uniforms, officers continue to leave.

We are working smarter to fight crime with the implementation of a Real Time Crime Center. We are diverting calls from patrol officers with the Solutions Outreach Service (SOS) program in partnership with our emergency services dispatchers and Health Solutions. Instead of sending police officers, the SOS program sends a mental health professional, an EMT and a peer to certain calls. This reduces the burden on police officers and allows them to more quickly respond to more serious calls.

The types of calls this unit responds to include mental health calls, non-violent suicidal person calls, welfare checks, and other low acuity calls.

The Real Time Crime Center or RTCC we are implementing will take advantage of technology to assist our officers and will utilize civilian staff to begin investigating crimes almost as soon as they occur. If there are cameras or license plate readers in the area of a call, the staff manning the RTCC will begin investigating as soon as the call comes into the dispatch center.

The Directed Investigations and Community Engagement (DICE) Team continues to make a difference in our community. This 4-person unit continues to be directed to focus on low-level crime to include shoplifting, loitering, public decency, and other crimes affecting the business community and the quality of life in our city. In 2023, the DICE Team made 4,609 citizen contacts, issued 823 citations, recovered 25 stolen motor vehicles, made 654 warrant arrests, issued 119 PR bonds, conducted 466 COP calls, recovered \$109,478 in stolen merchandise, handled 622 calls for service, seized 51.99 grams of methamphetamine and 160 Fentanyl pills, issued 1,185 trespass notices, and recovered 13 stolen handguns.

In 2023, the Community Service Officer program was increased from four CSOs to six. The CSOs handle a variety of cases where suspects are no longer on scene to include burglaries, motor vehicle theft reports, recovered, unoccupied motor vehicle thefts, criminal mischief, frauds, and forgeries, missing persons, and runaway reports, found property, handle traffic hazards, and conduct follow up for cases.

Mayor's Address

The CSOs have had a dramatic impact on the response times and number of calls holding for service by handling 3,408 calls for service and writing 1,173 reports. This has also allowed our patrol officers to be more proactive despite the manpower issues we face.

These are some of the serious initiatives we implemented to address and reduce crime. It may seem like nothing is being done about crime. The reality is different. In 2023, we doubled the number of drug arrests in the city of Pueblo. In December, we had 36 inmates in the Pueblo County jail on municipal offenses. Eight of those inmates were there awaiting trial, 24 of those inmates were serving sentences ranging from 30 days to 660 days.

We can and will do more. When the new County Jail is completed, we will have more capacity to hold people accountable for their actions. "if you do the crime, you should have to do the time".

Another essential element of our public safety is our Fire Department. To accommodate new growth and development and to reduce the response time, we are proud to be building three new fire stations in 2024. Two will replace existing stations that are outdated and do not accommodate female firefighters and modern equipment and one will be a new station on West 24th Street. The new Fire Stations will be built with "net zero" alternative energy resources. Last month, we closed on the financing of the stations and obtained \$34,450,000 at 3.68% interest. We have been planning, acquiring property, and designing the stations for the last three years and are excited for construction to begin in a matter of months. With the assistance of grant funds and through the use of ARPA funds, we are already acquiring the new equipment that will be needed for the additional Fire Station.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Our Code Enforcement officers work tirelessly to uphold compliance with the City Code, handling over 8,000 complaints last year. They have abated 451 properties as well as cleaned up illegal dump sites, homeless camps, and other areas. In doing so they have removed over 500 tons of debris and taken it to the landfill, picked up and disposed of nearly 1,200 tires.

The vacant property registry is in full swing, and the City has seen what the entire process looks like at this point. From identifying a vacant property through the sale of the lien, the processes are now in place. At the end of November 2023, the City has placed \$170,000.00 in liens on private properties that failed to register. Since the start of the program in 2021, 348 properties have been registered.

For those that remain completely neglected, the City is taking steps to deal with those and get them into the possession of people who will return them to their intended use. In the next few weeks 33 more liens will be available for the public to bid on for vacant houses. This will be an online auction process with Code Enforcement, the City Law Department, and the Purchasing Department.

For those that remain completely neglected, the City is taking steps to deal with those and get them into the possession of people who will return them to their intended use. In the next few weeks 33 more liens will be available for the public to bid on for vacant houses. This will be an online auction process with Code Enforcement, the City Law Department, and the Purchasing Department.

We have seen some very good results from this program in that many of the properties that have been vacant and neglected for years have been sold and occupied throughout the course of the last three years. Some property owners, while they did not want to sell their properties are now aware of the requirement to take care of them and pay the fees. This year, the Code Enforcement unit has collected \$75,500 in vacant property registration fees.

STREET REPAIRS

For years, the number one concern of our citizens has been the condition of our streets and roads. Our Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 lane miles (approximately 500 roadway centerline miles) in the City of Pueblo. Work on the City's roads completed in 2023 was funded primarily from two sources the Highway User Tax Fund and the General Fund.

Fees for the City's Street Repair Utility Enterprise were initially suspended in January of 2022 and will remain suspended through the end of 2024.

In 2023, \$10 million dollars was budgeted to repair City roadway infrastructure. This amount is consistent with the City's investment in road repair and maintenance made in 2021 and 2022, and the same amount has been budgeted for 2024. The funds budgeted to this effort in 2023 allowed for the resurfacing of over 48 lane miles of aging roadways across the City. Not only were deteriorated pavements repaired, but damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps were also upgraded.

A selection of the road repair projects completed in 2023 included the following:

- Prairie Avenue (from Northern Avenue to Pueblo Boulevard)
- Prairie Avenue (from Farabaugh Lane to Prairie Hawk Lane)
- Ridge Drive (from US Highway 50 to Eagleridge Boulevard)
- Abriendo Avenue (from Cleveland Street to Washington Street)
- W. 11th Street (from Pueblo Boulevard to Adee Avenue)
- Cheyenne Avenue (from W. 11th Street to W. 14th Street)
- Starlight Road (from Bridle Trail to the City limit)
- Cleveland Street (from Abriendo Avenue to Goodnight Avenue)
- Goodnight Avenue (from Cleveland Street to City Park)
- Troy Avenue (from US Highway 50 Bypass to Rawlings Avenue)
- Rawlings Avenue (from Troy Avenue to the Colorado State University Pueblo campus)
- Baltimore Avenue (from US Highway 50 to W. 29th Street)
- St. Clair Avenue (from Princeton to Temple)
- W. 18th Street (two blocks constructed from Perry Avenue to Sun Mountain Boulevard)
- W. 32nd Street/Morris Avenue (sidewalk/curb and gutter repairs only)

Mayor's Address

ADA curb ramps were also upgraded on Court Street and Northern Avenue in preparation for road resurfacing work that will take place on those streets in 2024. In addition, Public Works has completed the design work for the resurfacing of Lime Road.

The following projects tentatively being planned for design and construction in 2023-2024:

- Northern Avenue (Prairie Avenue to I-25)
- Dillon Drive (Eagleridge Drive to Carruth Lane)
- Dillon Drive (Elizabeth Street to City Limit)
- Court Street (City Center to W. 24th Street)
- Cheyenne Avenue (W. 19th Street to W. 27th Street)
- Lime Road (I-25 to City Limit)
- Alan Hamel Drive (Santa Fe Avenue to Main Street)
- B Street (Mechanic Street to cul-de-sac)
- D Street (Main Street to Oneida Street)

ARPA

The City of Pueblo was the recipient of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, authorized to address negative impacts caused by the public health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city received a total of \$36.4 million dollars plus \$1,971,818.94 in interest revenue to date. \$10 million dollars was approved for revenue replacement, government services expenditures.

The City Council has approved ARPA projects and expenditures in the amount of \$25,221,893.10. A total of 110 different community projects have been supported through ARPA funds since 2021. ARPA funds remaining, not including pending projects, total \$2,746,762.17.

In 2023, The largest expenditures of ARPA funds have been to partially fund the United Way service center and remodeling of the harm reduction center at Abriendo and Northern.

Grants

Grant funds received by the City of Pueblo support important programs and services. These funds allow the City to extend preexisting services, introduce new initiatives, and gain technological advances. The City's aggressive grant program most assuredly assists the General Fund Budget and positively impacts a variety of services including security, economic development, public safety, transportation, recreation, infrastructure improvement and maintenance, among others.

The City of Pueblo submitted 100 grant applications in 2023:

- 54 requests were awarded for a total of \$28,591,123;
- 16 requests were declined for a total of \$13,039,872;
- 30 requests are still pending, totaling \$76,151,187.

Mayor's Address

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS

We are proud to have received a grant to support the Financial Empowerment Center in partnership with our provider, the United Way of Pueblo County. In our efforts to reduce the poverty level we have partnered with other provided services to provide financial counseling to individuals. On October 24, the City of Pueblo in partnership with the national Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund celebrated the grand opening of City of Pueblo's Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), offering professional, one-on-one financial counseling and coaching as a free public service to local residents. The grand opening took place at the Department of Human Services with Pueblo County Government.

Pueblo FEC currently has 6 co-locations throughout the community where financial counseling is being offered. Clients can also receive information and referrals through area partner organizations and programs. These services can help people with their credit scores and can help educate them about finances. This investment will lower our poverty rate over time and people will take advantage of financial institutions other than pawn shops and pay day lenders.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Our Municipal Court is utilizing the Financial Empowerment Center as part of its Courts Assessing Fines and Fees Equitably program, a national program sponsored by the National League of Cities. Through the program, the Court has considered new ways to incentivize payment of fines and costs.

As a result of the program, the Court is now offering community service hours against fines for participation in financial counseling through the City's Financial Empowerment Center. This is just one-way defendants may work off their fines.

Every defendant may work community service to work off fines assessed in their case except for traffic infractions which must be paid in full at the time the defendant is found guilty or enters a plea of guilty or no contest.

Last year adult and juvenile defendants worked off \$112,772.12 in fines and provided 11,277 hours of useful public service to the community. In addition, adult defendants received a total of \$38,370.00 in credits against court fines for completion of over 3,837 hours of drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment. These numbers reflect a 57% increase in community service hours credited in 2023 compared to 2022.

BROADBAND

Advancements are being made in the City in Broadband and Digital Equity Developments focusing on access, equity, inclusion, and digital literacy. In partnership with CoCreate, and their research with NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information) the data shows the areas within the city that lack broadband access. Changes are underway with several grants received by organizations in Pueblo totaling more than \$158 Million Dollars. You can see that fiber being installed all over town.

Mayor's Address

Transit

The Transit department's participation in the State SB 22-280 funded "Zero Fare for Better Air" was a huge success in the program's second year. Ridership was increased by 30% in June, 35% in July and 15% in the month of August, putting Transit ahead of pre-pandemic numbers for the year. This added to an already successful recovery year with steady growth in ridership averaging 3% for the other nine months of the year.

Two new hybrid buses were purchased with 2019 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds. Additionally, Pueblo Transit received an E Transition Planning Grant to prepare the map for transitioning to an electric Transit fleet. We also ensured children Kindergarten through 12th grade were able to ride public transportation for free with the help from the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) providing funding for the 2023-2024 school year.

FRONT RANGE RAIL

It is an exciting time for the future of Front Range Rail in Colorado to include Pueblo. Colorado is in the Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program which is a pipeline for future rail projects. National Transportation officials have shared that Colorado is a model for other states in terms of rail planning. Pueblo has the potential to benefit from more jobs in this industry. The Front Range Rail will create dividends for generations of Coloradoans to come.

JUST TRANSITION

With the planned 2030 closure of Xcel Energy's Comanche 3 plant, the City of Pueblo has been designated a Tier 1, Just Transition Community by the State. I would like to talk about the news that broke a week ago and that is the report from the group formed by XCEL Energy to study the transition when Comanche 3 closes in 2030. Titled "Pueblo Innovative Energy Solutions Advisory Committee Report" the study concluded that advanced nuclear technology was the only power generation alternative that would replace the property taxes and jobs that exist at Comanche 3.

The report recognizes that nuclear technology will not be available by 2030 when Comanche closes. Two years ago, I established a Just Transitions committee made up of local leaders to begin planning for the transition that will occur when Comanche closes. We received a grant from the State of Colorado to hire a coordinator and we are in that process.

The focus on the local committee has been on the jobs and property tax that will be lost when Comanche closes not on the generation capacity that will be lost, because, as you know the energy generated by Comanche is used in Denver. Locally, our focus has been how do we replace the jobs and property taxes we will lose, not on the lost generation capacity.

It might be that some of the jobs and property taxes will be replaced by new generation facilities at Comanche, but it would be unrealistic to count on new generation to replace the jobs and property tax by 2030. Our just transition plan must not be limited to new power generation.

Mayor's Address

I am committed to exploring all avenues to replace the jobs and property tax and, if in the future nuclear technology is developed to the point that it appears feasible, the community will decide whether that is desirable. Our goal as a community should be to replace the jobs and property tax lost at Commanche long before nuclear technology is developed so the decision to place a nuclear power plant in the City of Pueblo can be a choice and not a desperate decision for economic survival.

In Summary, on this day and every day, thank you for serving one another with care and compassion and for protecting the city we all love, to make our community better and stronger. We are building on the progress that has come before us. We have a plan for today and a vision for tomorrow. I believe that Pueblo has a bright future.

Thank you to my partner, Jan Pullin and to my family who have supported me unconditionally.

Thank you all.

Nick Gradisar



Nearly 300 individuals joined Mayor Nick Gradisar for the State of the City Address at Pueblo Convention Center.

PUEBLO QUICK FACTS

Pueblo is a community known for its proud traditions and cultural diversity. As a full-service City, Pueblo provides many essential services. The 749 full-time and 206 temporary or seasonal dedicated City and Pueblo Transit employees work diligently to provide services to residents of Pueblo in an efficient and effective manner. General services are provided through human, financial and physical resources of the City's General Fund. Other services are provided by the City through separate enterprise funds such as Wastewater and Stormwater Departments.

The City of Pueblo also carries the title of "America's Home of Heroes." This moniker was in a speech in 1993 by then Colorado Representative Scott McInnis as he spoke to Congress about the uniqueness of a city Pueblo's size having a record four recipients of the Medal of Honor claiming Pueblo as their hometown: William J. Crawford, Army WWII; Carl L. Sitter, Marines Korea; Raymond J. "Jerry" Murphy, Marines Korea; and Drew D. Dix, Army Vietnam.



At the time, all four men were alive. The Historic Arkansas Riverwalk and Colorado State Fair are landmarks of Pueblo and its beautiful community. With a history in steel and a future in green energy, Pueblo is the backbone of Southern Colorado.

Current population	112,368
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Race & Hispanic Origin	
White alone	89.3%
Black or African American alone	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	3.4%
Asian alone	1.2%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	0.2%
Two or more races	3.2%
Hispanic or Latino	43.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	51.0%

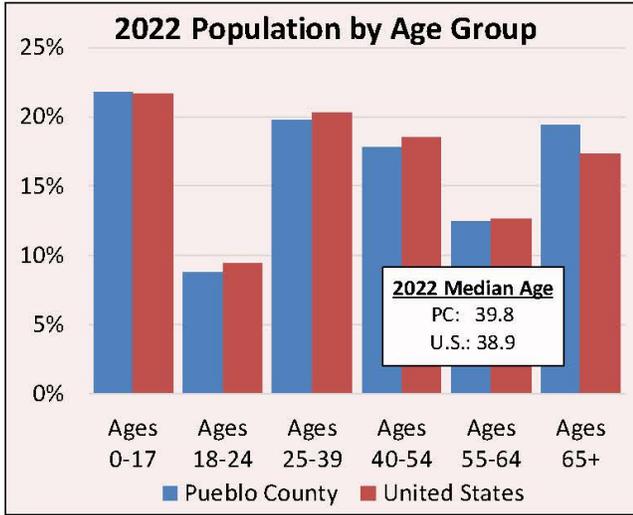
The following departmental information is included in this report: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), City Council, Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Finance, Pueblo Memorial Airport, Housing and Citizens Services, Grant and Resource Development, Community Engagement, City Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Boards & Commissions, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works, Pueblo Food Project and Wastewater. The City Departments work together for the benefit of all Puebloans under the direction of the Mayor.

PUEBLO ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

This page contains information from the Pueblo Economic Dashboard provided by the company Data Driven Economic Strategies on a monthly basis. Information shared reflects the December 2023 report which also can be found on the website www.pueblo.us/2820/Economic-Dashboard.

Pueblo Economic & Workforce Development Dashboard

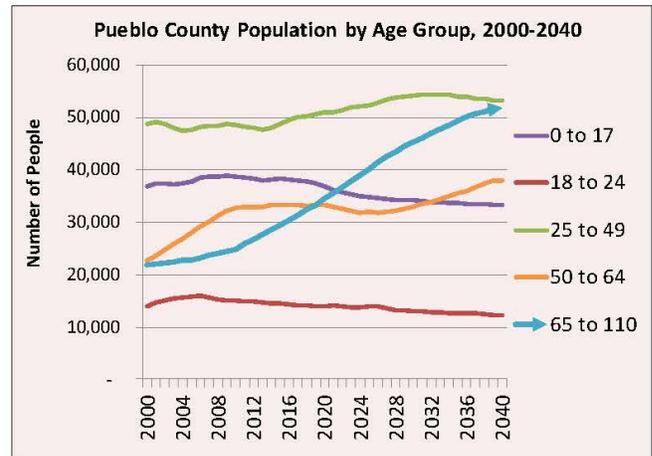
DEMOGRAPHICS (PAGE 6)



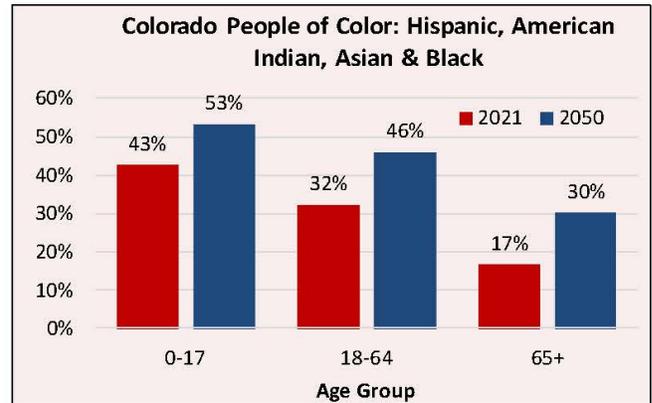
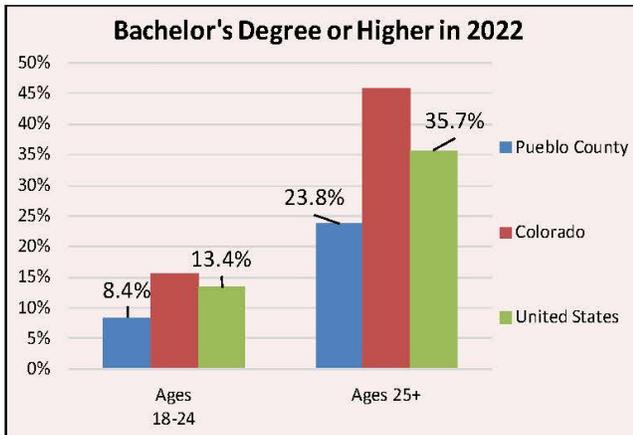
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Estimates Program

Population Estimates		
Region (Growth Rate)	2022	2050
Pueblo County (14%)	169,383	193,446
Colorado (29%)	5,838,736	7,491,886

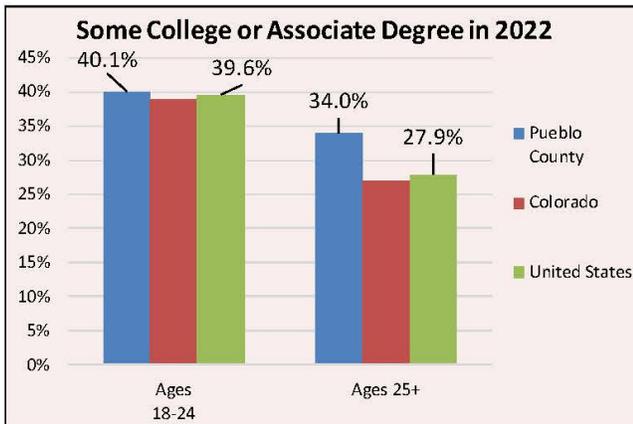
Source: Colorado State Demography Office



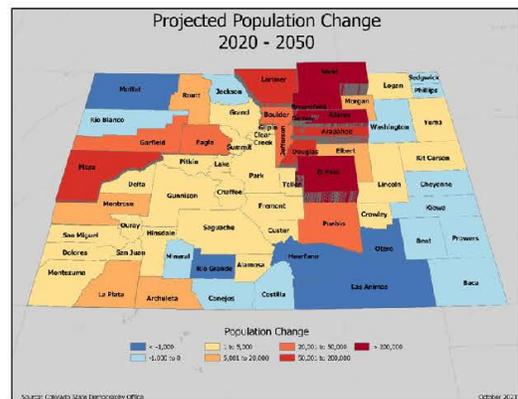
Source: Colorado State Demography Office



Source: Colorado State Demography Office



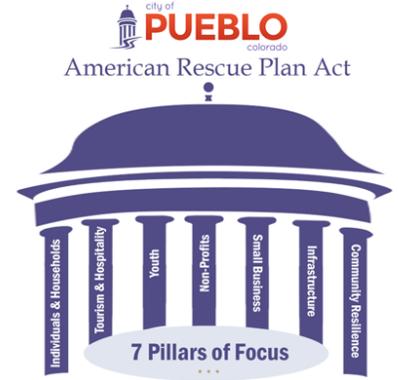
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates



Source: Colorado State Demography Office

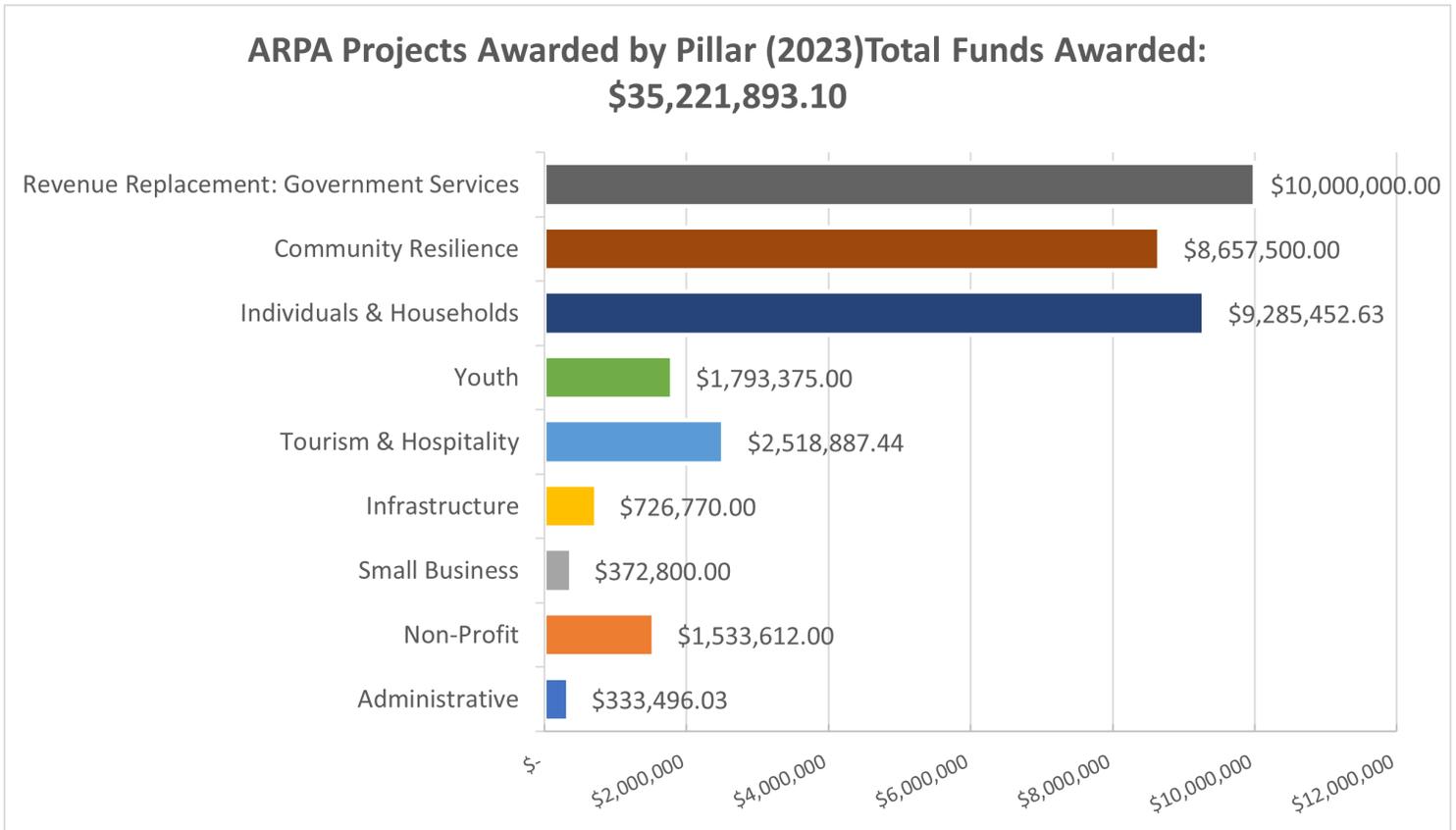
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The City of Pueblo was the recipient of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, authorized to address negative impacts caused by the public health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City was authorized to receive a total of \$36.7 million dollars. \$18,203,500.50 was received May 11, 2021; out of which \$10 million dollars was approved for revenue replacement, government services expenditures. The second \$18,203,500.50 was received on June 7, 2022.



The US Department of Treasury, 31 CFR 35.6 provided that American Rescue Act Plan Funds are approved to be used for:

- Replace lost public sector revenue; funding to provide government services.
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative impacts of the pandemic; by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector.
- Provide premium pay for essential workers; those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

The preliminary financial information for the year ending December 31, 2023, provides the total receipt of ARPA funds in the amount of \$36,407,001 plus \$1,971,818.94 in interest revenue.

The City Council has approved ARPA projects and expenditures in the amount of \$25,221,893.10 with an additional \$10,000,000.00 for revenue replacement, governmental services expenditures. A total of 110 different community projects have been supported through ARPA funds since 2021. ARPA funds remaining, not including pending projects, total \$2,746,762.17.

In 2023, the Mayor and City Council worked strategically to identify, support, and approve funding for projects under the major categories of Revenue Replacement; Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure; Negative Economic Impact; Premium Pay; Public Health; and coordination and compliance administrative costs.

The following graphs and charts provide a snapshot of the ARPA projects awarded in 2022 totaling \$35,221,893.10.

Pillar	Amount Awarded by Pillar
Administrative	\$333,496.03
Non-Profit	\$1,533,612.00
Small Business	\$372,800.00
Infrastructure	\$726,770.00
Tourism & Hospitality	\$2,518,887.44
Youth	\$1,793,375.00
Individuals & Households	\$9,285,452.63
Community Resilience	\$8,657,500.00
Revenue Replacement	\$10,000,000.00
Total	\$35,221,893.10

Pillar	
Individuals & Households	26
Tourism & Hospitality	12
Youth	19
Non-Profit	10
Small Business	4
Infrastructure	10
Community Resilience	7
Administrative	2
Revenue Replacement	20
Total	110

The following non-inclusive list of projects were recommended by the Mayor and approved by City Council in 2023:

- Crime Stoppers - Lights on For Safety
- Crossroads Turning Points - support for new facility
- United Way of Pueblo County - LEAD Center
- Southern Colorado Harm Reduction - Bessemer Wellness Center
- Pueblo Police Dept. - Real Time Crime Center
- City of Pueblo - Police Officer Retention Bonus
- City of Pueblo - Premium Pay - General Service Employees
- Streetscape Improvements - Northern Ave., Orman to Elm

CITY COUNCIL

City Council is the legislative and policy setting body representing the citizens of Pueblo in the creation and operation of municipal services, functions, and activities.

Mission Statement

We, the City of Pueblo, representing a community of diverse culture, character, and history:

- Commit to upholding the City Charter, all City Ordinances, and the highest standards of conduct.
- Commit to promoting and enhancing the well-being and quality of life for Pueblo's residents, visitors, and businesses by providing excellent services in an efficient, respectful, and courteous manner.
- Commit to responsible stewardship of community resources and values and to support all segments of the community.
- Commit to a model of professionalism that ensures respectful and complete consideration of all decisions and decrees; and
- Commit to strategic growth, all facets of economic development, and sustainability.

Vision Statement

By uniting our energies and working cooperatively with the citizens of Pueblo, we will develop Pueblo, Colorado into one significant, influential, and prosperous community with opportunities for all.



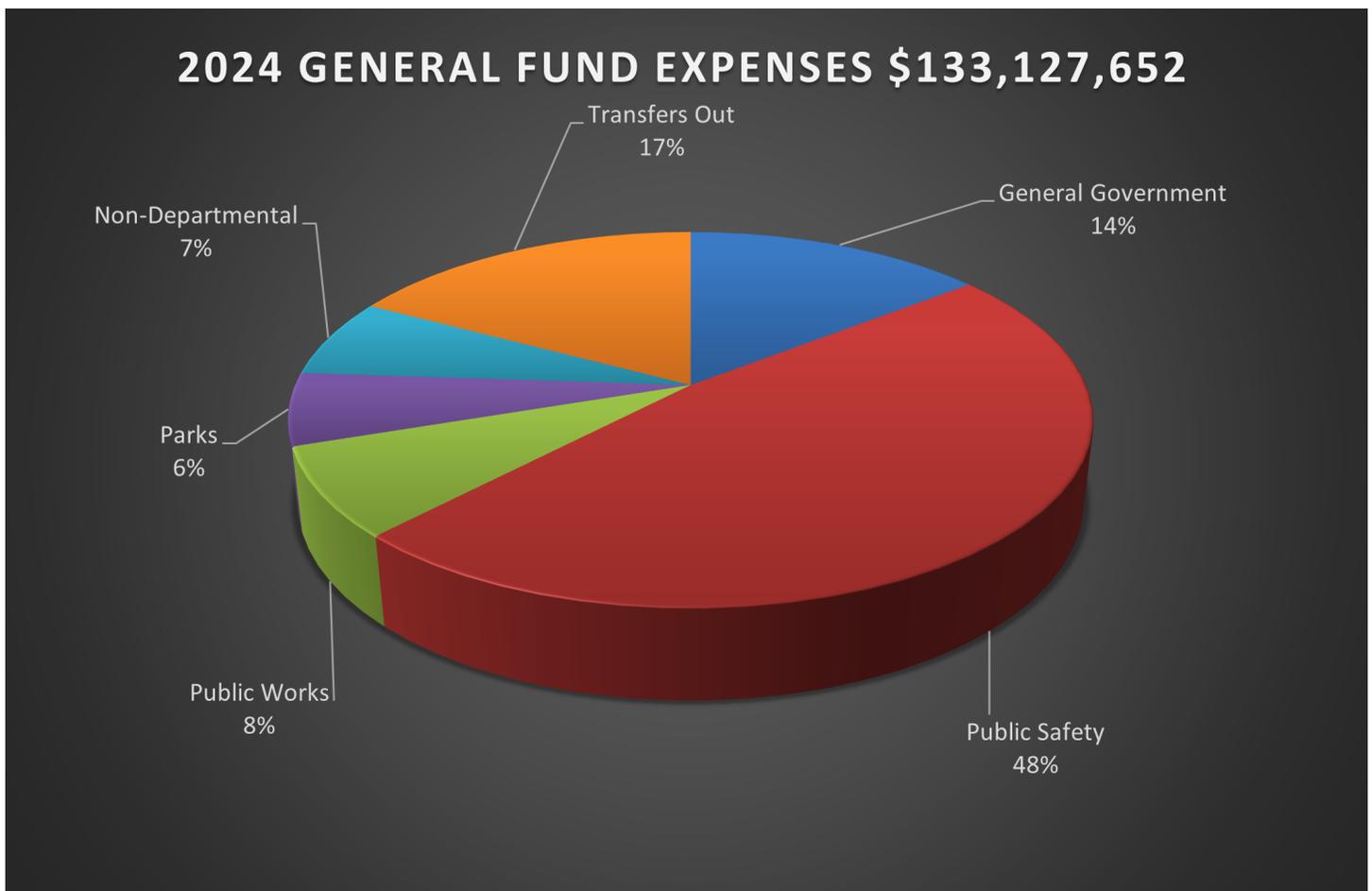
Front left to right: Larry Atencio, District 2; Heather Graham, At-Large; Regina Maestri, District 1.
Back left to right: Vicente Martinez Ortega, District 4; Sarah Martinez, District 3; Lori Winner, At-Large; Dennis Flores, At-Large.

FINANCE AND SALES TAX

For FY2024, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$122.4 million dollars; an increase of approximately 4.3% relative to FY2023 adopted budget.

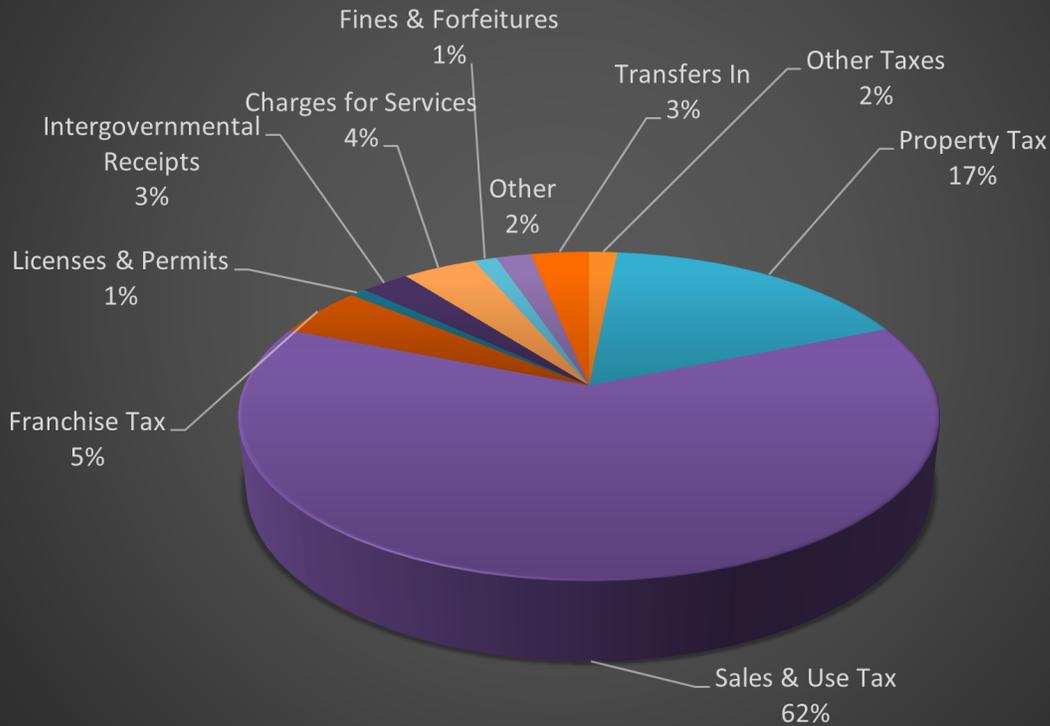
In 2023, there were 862 new sales tax licenses issued in the City of Pueblo. That signifies increased economic activity and business growth within the City. Many of those new applications were from online retailers who remit sales tax for online purchases made by the citizens of Pueblo. Approximately 62% of the City's budget comes from Sales & Use Tax. For the first 10 months of 2023, sales tax collections were down slightly at about 1.2%. The City is estimating an increase in revenue for sales and use tax in the last 2 months of 2023. That will bring the total sales and use tax collected in 2023 close to what was received in the prior year.

At the end of 2023, the 2024 budget was submitted and approved by City Council. The budget calls for expenditures of \$133.1 million to provide services to the citizens of Pueblo. The City of Pueblo is committed to providing those services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.



Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 48% of the city budget.

2024 GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$122,435,629



General Fund Sales and Use Tax Collection Summary 2019 - 2023**

Gross Sales & Use Tax Receipts General Fund	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Unaudited
January	\$3,809,969	\$3,899,609	\$4,644,553	\$6,130,037	\$6,354,907
February	\$3,783,801	\$3,867,356	\$4,703,075	\$6,066,684	\$6,250,032
March	\$4,678,440	\$4,152,725	\$6,554,999	\$7,377,97	\$7,716,126
April	\$4,125,045	\$3,796,533	\$6,181,903	\$6,854,714	\$7,059,458
May	\$4,349,769	\$4,592,783	\$5,613,571	\$7,018,878	\$6,745,120
June	\$4,608,230	\$5,144,153	\$6,274.574	\$7,921,788	\$7,357,053
July	\$4,431,027	\$4,736,521	\$5,658,482	\$7,081,470	\$6,899,981
August	\$4,830,567	\$4,801,070	\$5,813,580	\$7,636,966	\$7,193,543
September	\$4,624,476	\$4,972,940	\$5,936,694	\$7,366,849	\$7,420,059
October	\$4,211,280	\$4,527,389	\$5,753,943	\$6,868,700	\$6,497,673
November	\$4,291,501	\$4,540,092	\$5,656,403	\$6,514,251	\$6,731,176**
December	\$5,192,944	\$5,794,007	\$7,196,966	\$8,123,704	\$8,394,233**
Total	\$52,937,049	\$54,825,178	\$69,988,742	\$84,962,012	\$84,619,352

**November and December 2023 receipts estimated.

GRANT AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

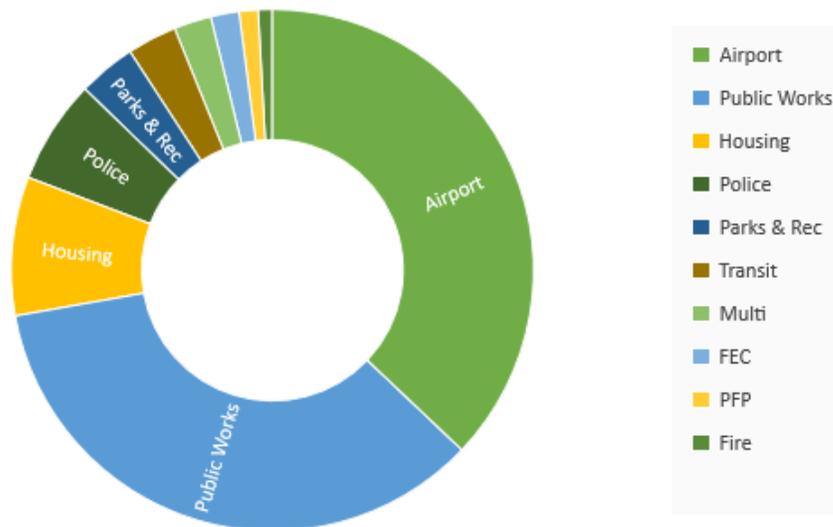
Grant funds received by the City of Pueblo support important programs and services that the City provides to the community. These funds allow the City to extend preexisting services, introduce new initiatives, and gain technological advances. Grant funds are dispersed throughout the City and impact a variety of efforts including security, economic development, public safety, transportation, recreation, infrastructure improvement and maintenance, among others.

The City of Pueblo submitted 100 grant applications in CY/FY23:

- 54 requests were awarded for a total of \$28,591,123;
- 16 requests were declined for a total of \$13,039,872;
- 30 requests are still pending, totaling \$76,151,187 with a match of \$4,846,982 of Non-Federal funds required for a match.

Secured Funding

A total of \$33,073,504 was requested. \$28,591,123 in cash was secured with a Notice of Award. An additional \$100,000 in in-kind donations in the form of learning cohort participation and DOC work crew labor was accepted. Matching, non-federal dollars totaling \$4,954,510 are statutorily required.



Pueblo is experiencing unprecedented funding opportunities as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Grants under the BIL can help rebuild Pueblo's roads, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every Puebloan has access to high-speed Internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and invest in neighborhoods that have too often been left behind.

56.02% of all secured monies are from Federal government sources; 42.67% of all secured monies are from State government sources; 0.07% is from local government sources; and 1.24% is from private foundations (local and statewide).

Pending Funding

As of 31 December, 28 grant applications are still pending, totaling \$76,151,187.

Declined Funding

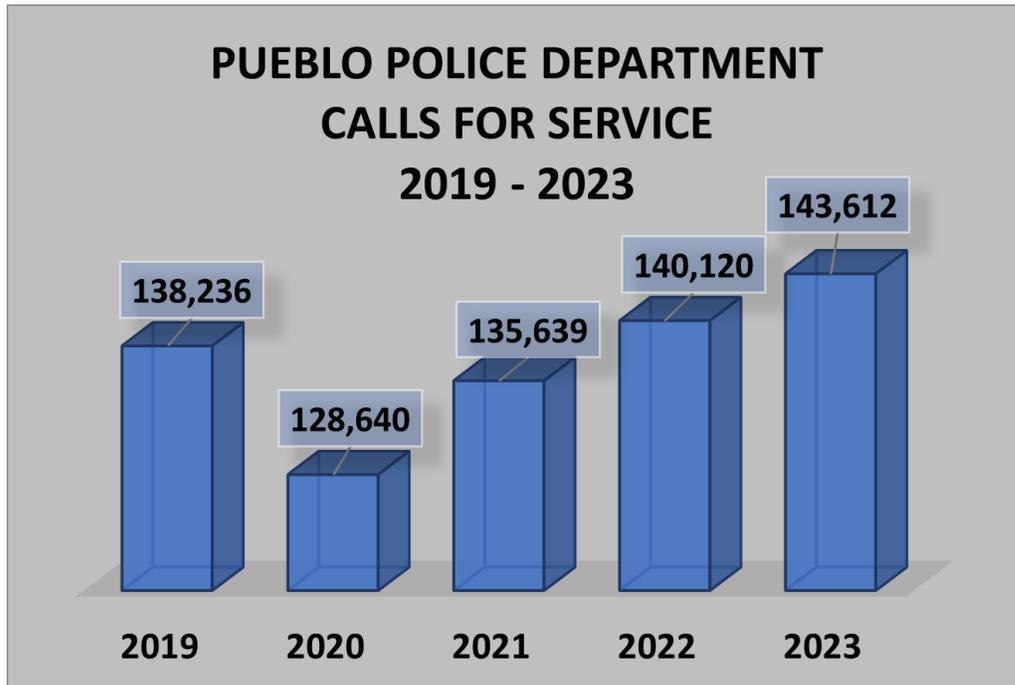
As of 31 December, 21 grant applications were declined, totaling \$12,994,872.

Secured Funding by Source	Awarded	Project
CDOT Discretionary Aviation Grant	\$276,521	runway 8R-26L rehabilitation, taxiway removal
FAA Airport Improvement Grant	\$1,007,835	airport taxiway rehab
FAA Airport Improvement Grant	\$9,316,522	airport runway rehab
CODL Expanding Financial Coaching	\$500,000	FEC match and gap funding (2 years)
CDPHE Resource for Emergency and Trauma Ed	\$17,950	EMS training costs (50%) for 4 students
COSWAP DOC-SWIFT	\$50,000	SWFIT day crew, 16 weeks, for fire mitigation
DHS AFG Fire Prevention and Safety	\$37,080	Fire Station 11 pumper and equipment
FEMA Assistance to Firefighters	\$37,080	firefighting equipment and PPE
Packard Fund 911 & ER Optimization	\$15,000	DOTS operating support
PTAC Charitable donation (post dissolution)	\$80,000	DOTS operating support
UWPC Community Impact	\$14,017	DOTS operating support
HUD CDBG	\$1,430,540	production or preservation of affordable housing
HUD HOME	\$1,025,859	production or preservation of affordable housing
CDLE CO Rural Workforce Consortium	\$271,889	reskill/upskill workers
CEO Local Government EV Readiness Planning	\$40,000	develop city EV readiness plan
FCC Affordable Connectivity Program	\$299,850	digital navigation (access, devices, training)
Harvard City Leadership Initiative	\$50,000	civic engagement learning cohort
Clean Fleet Vehicle & Technology	\$48,000	park ranger electric trucks (4)
CPW Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$875,000	ADA trails in/around Minnequa Park
EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation	\$100,000	launch office of outdoor recreation
CHDHS Local Food Purchase Assistance	\$120,000	food pantry/hunger relief
CO Blueprint Healthy School Means for All	\$12,000	food system access
CO Blueprint Supplemental Food Pantry	\$53,625	food pantry, Los Probes partnership
One Colorado Community Revitalization Grant	\$54,000	PFP capacity building
One Colorado Education Fund	\$55,000	improve food access, health, nutrition
Packard Fund, Children, Youth and Families	\$20,000	PFP cooking classes
PDPHE Healthy Beverages for All	\$20,000	decrease consumption of unhealthy beverages
BJA Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$1,339	bullet proof law enforcement vests (30)
BJA Byrne Memorial JAG	\$86,000	FARO 3-D camera for crime scene documentation
BJA Edward Byrne Memorial JAG	\$84,745	multiple projects
BJA Small Department Violent Crime Reduction	\$300,000	PD ShotSpotter
CDOT Transportation Safety Grant APP-000270	\$75,000	Police OT for traffic safety programs
DOJ Synthetic Opiate Poisoning Investigation	\$164,145	truck, field tests, investigative tools, narcotic unit
OAJJA Project Safe Neighborhoods	\$152,714	PD shot spotter
OAJJA SMART Recruitment and Retention	\$791,811	PD vacancy recruitment, training
OAJJA Synthetic Opiate Poisoning Investigation	\$9,580	opioid field testing
POST Central Region Training Administration	\$174,166	training, equipment, scholarships, grant mgt., prog. delivery
POST In-Service Continuing Education	\$4,947	grappling mats (128)
CDOT Colorado Off-System Bridge Program	\$105,000	8th Street bridge renovation planning
CDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	\$870,000	Pueblo Blvd & Mirror Ave. signalization
CDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	\$1,350,000	Lake & Jones roundabout
CDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	\$1,485,000	W 13th & Grant roundabout
CDOT LOMA contingent for Federal Funding	\$5,036,225	matching funds for Union Ave Bridge reconstruction
CDOT Revitalizing Main streets	\$222,750	pedestrian lights on Northern Ave corridor
CDOT Safe Routes to Schools	\$482,297	Parkview Elementary and Risley Middle routes
CEO Charge Ahead Colorado	\$45,000	Level II chargers in Weisbrod and Main St. garages
CEO Direct Current Fast-Charging Plazas	\$445,000	DCFC plaza at Main St garage for I25 corridor
CASTA Ozone Season Transit Grant	\$414,899	Free Fare for Cleaner Air, three months
CDOT MMOF	\$65,000	free bus fare for youth K-12
CDOT ZEV Transition Planning /Transit	\$100,000	planning for transit e-fleet transition
FTA 5307 ARP	\$297,737	transit computers + operations subsidy

PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 continued to be a year of challenges related to manpower. This past year, Pueblo Police Department saw an increase in calls for service of 2.5%. This is the highest number of calls for service dating back to 2011.



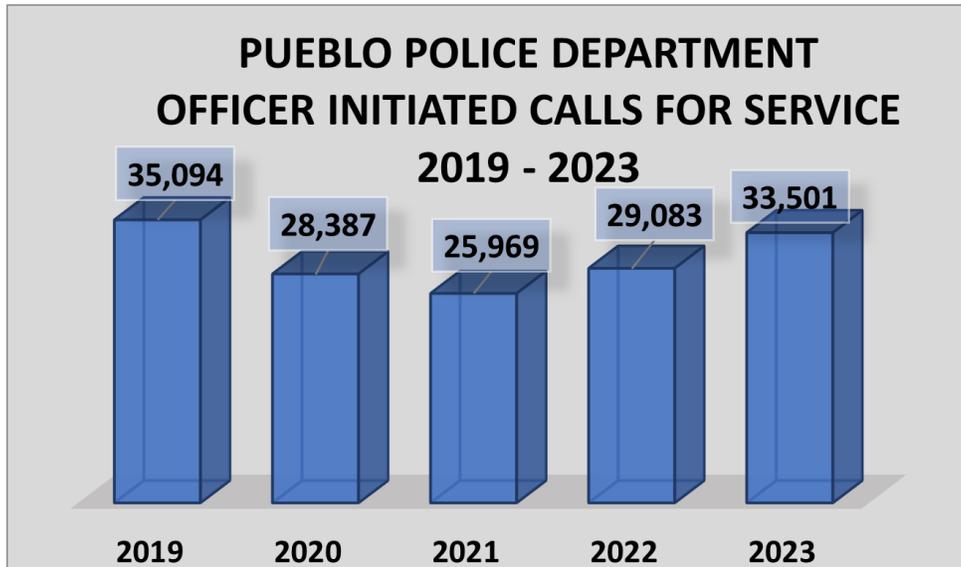
In addition, officers conducted 33,501 self-initiated calls where officers are conducting proactive enforcement, often consisting of traffic stops, suspicious persons contacts, etc. This is an increase of 15.2% over 2022.

Community Oriented Policing (COP) calls increased significantly by 98% in 2023 to 6,179 calls.

There are several measures police departments use to measure performance, one of these is response times to calls for service. This measure is often a significant factor from a customer service standpoint. While the response times to calls for service did increase in 2023, these increases were minimal given the manpower and other issues Pueblo Police Department faced this past year.

	2021 (Year End)	2022 (Year End)	2023 (Year End)	Difference (Year End)
Priority	2021	2022	2022	Response Time Change
1	000:10:46	000:12:17	000:13:03	+ 46 sec
2	000:18:03	000:20:32	000:22:17	+1 min 45 sec
3	000:34:14	000:38:22	000:46:14	+ 7 min 52 sec
4	000:53:16	001:00:13	001:09:17	+9 min 4 sec
5	000:59:25	001:01:24	001:07:10	+1 min 59 sec
6	001:03:00	000:59:23	001:16:32	+17 min 9 sec

In late 2022, the department began using CompStat, a data driven approach toward deployment of personnel to address crime problems. Every week, the Crime Analyst gathers crime statistics and compiles the data showing what crimes are increasing over the prior week and creates heat maps showing where the highest number of calls for service are occurring. This data is then shared throughout the department to allow Watch Commanders, Sergeants, and patrol officers to make daily decisions on allocation of manpower and resources between calls for service. This approach gives officers the information they need to identify areas of concern during their shifts to address crime in a proactive manner and it provides accountability within the organization to increase proactive work.

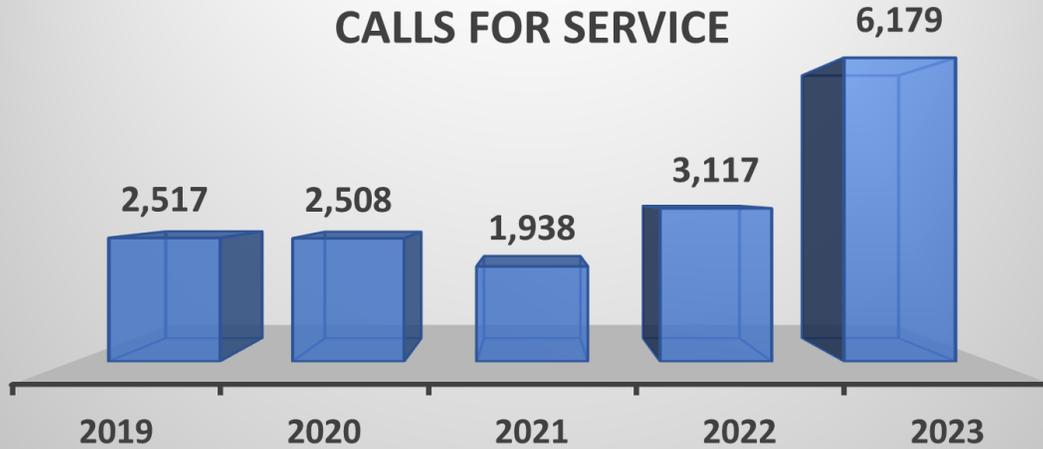


Using this approach, our officers reduced Part 1 crime 13% from 2022. We saw decreases in every category of crime except Auto Theft, which continues to plague our city and state.

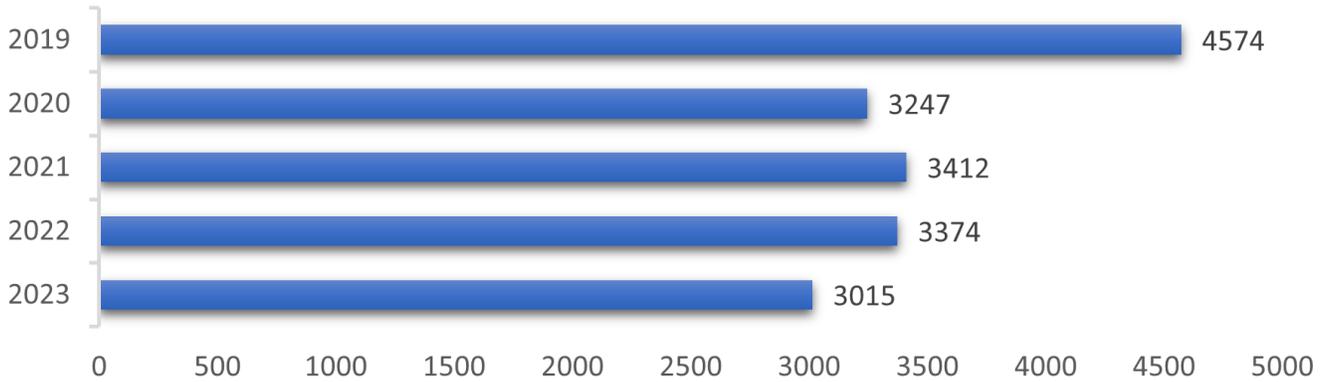
During 2023, officers worked tirelessly to make a major impact on crime in the Pueblo community. While there is still much more work to do, the impact is real and is a testament to the men and women of the Pueblo Police Department.

Pueblo Police Department			
Part 1 Comparison January 1- December 31			
Nature	2022	2023	% Change '22-'23
Aggravated Assault	869	845	-3%
Arson	86	66	-23%
Auto Theft	1735	1918	11%
Burglary	1284	971	-24%
Homicide	28	26	-7%
Robbery	351	277	-21%
Sexual Assault	271	225	-17%
Theft/Larceny	4235	3415	-19%
Grand Total	8859	7743	-13%

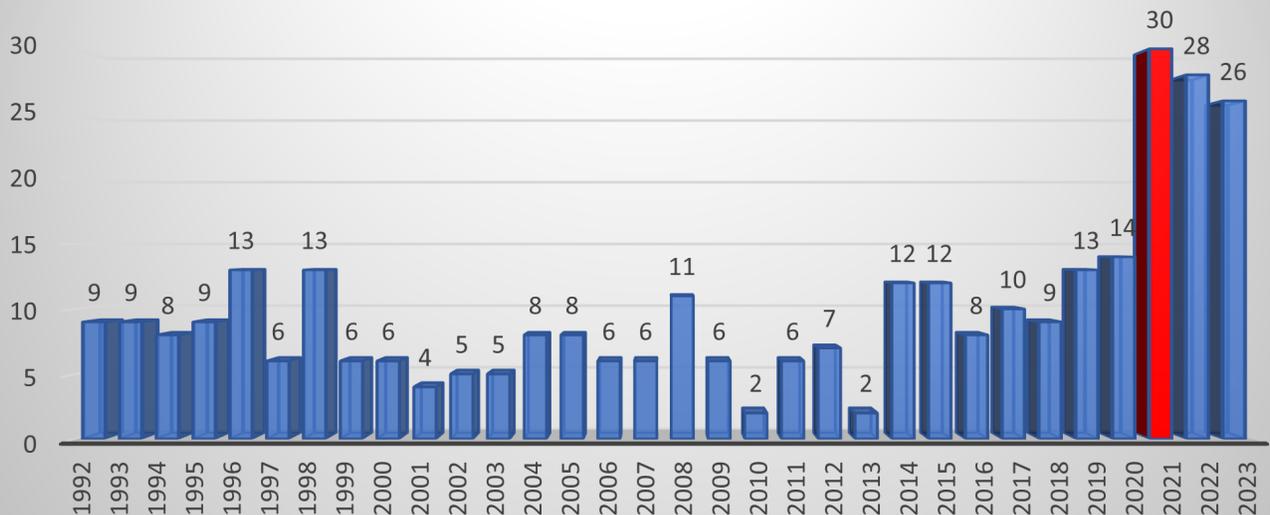
PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING (COP) CALLS FOR SERVICE



ARREST DATA 2019-2023



Homicides 1992-2023



Directed Investigations and Community Engagement (DICE) Team

In 2023, the Directed Investigations and Community Engagement (DICE) Team continued to make a difference in our community. This 4-person unit continues to be directed to focus on low-level crime to include shoplifting, loitering, public decency, and other crimes affecting the business community and the quality of life in our city.

Since its creation, the DICE Team has had a dramatic impact on addressing low-level crime and has received accolades from the community and business owners. The DICE Team has allowed Pueblo Police Department to free up patrol officers to handle other higher priority calls and at the same time provided for more proactive patrolling related to these crimes.



Featured is an evening view of the Pueblo Police Department parking lot and a view of the downtown area of Pueblo.

In 2023, the DICE Team made 4,609 citizen contacts, issued 823 citations, recovered 25 stolen motor vehicles, made 654 warrant arrests, issued 119 PR bonds, conducted 466 COP calls, recovered \$109,478 in stolen merchandise, handled 622 calls for service, seized 51.99 grams of methamphetamine and 160 Fentanyl pills, issued 1,185 trespass notices, and recovered 13 stolen handguns.

The DICE Team was also involved in several Homeless Outreach projects in 2023. These clean-ups were coordinated by Code Enforcement and included multiple city departments to include Public Works, Storm Water, Fire Department, and Parks and Recreation. We also partnered with several non-governmental organizations to provide resources to those living along the Fountain River. This was all accomplished with only four officers.

Solutions Outreach Services (SOS)

In September of 2023, the Pueblo Police Department partnered with Health Solutions to create the Solutions Outreach Services (SOS) Unit. This unit is based on the Denver STAR Team and responds to non-violent mental health crisis calls that do not require a police officer. This frees up our officers to do more vital work and pairs the person in mental health crisis with a clinician, EMT, and a peer support professional. The types of calls this unit responds to include mental health calls, non-violent suicidal person calls, welfare checks, and other low acuity calls. To date the unit, which currently is only available 3 days per week, has handled 157 calls for service and conducted 31 self-initiated calls. The availability of this team diverted these calls from our patrol officers and freed them up for other work.

Community Service Officer program

In 2023, the Community Service Officer program was increased from 4 CSOs to 6. The CSOs handle a variety of cases where suspects are no longer on scene to include burglaries, motor vehicle theft reports, recovered (unoccupied) motor vehicle thefts, criminal mischief, frauds and forgeries, missing persons, and runaway reports, found property, handle traffic hazards, conduct follow up for cases, etc.

The CSOs have had a dramatic impact on the response times and number of calls holding for service by handling 3,408 calls for service and writing 1,173 reports. This has also allowed our patrol officers to be more proactive despite the manpower issues we've faced.

In addition to the DICE Team and CSOs, the Property Crimes Unit conducted 37 Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) operations in Pueblo working with the Colorado State Patrol, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, Colorado Department of Corrections - Parole, Canon City Police Department, and Fountain Police Department. This is a 68% increase over 2022. These operations focus on addressing auto theft and recovering stolen automobiles. These operations were very successful and resulted in the recovery of 142 stolen vehicles and trailers, with a combined value of \$1,844,946.00, a 94% increase over 2022. They also arrested 119 individuals, 43 of whom were charged with motor vehicle theft. This unit is also currently a four-person unit.

Crimes Against Persons Unit

The Crimes Against Persons Unit, which includes 1 sergeant and 6 detectives, investigated 80 major cases, 26 of which were homicide investigations. Of the 25 homicide investigations, 14 have been sent to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



Armed robbery suspect arrest in May 2023

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) received over 3,000 cases of which 200 were investigated by SVU Detectives. Due to massive manpower shortages in this unit, two School Resource Officers were assigned to work with this unit over the summer break. Personnel on light duty are also assigned to help with the workload in this unit.



Featured above is a Pueblo Police Department officer on the scene of a child abuse call

Special Investigations Division

The Special Investigations Division, which consists of the Gang and Narcotics Unit also had a huge impact in 2023. With the rise in violent crime in the past two years, the work of the Gang Unit, which consists of 4 officers and a sergeant, has become more important. The unit works with the FBI Safe Streets Task Force and the ATF Task Force to address these crimes and bring the suspects to justice.

This past year the Division, working with our federal partners, obtained 17 federal indictments and nine federal convictions with sentences totaling over 140+ years for violent crimes. These detectives also work a tremendous amount of overtime and adjusted their schedules over the summer to address the dramatic increase in gun violence in our community in previous years. The Gang Unit reviewed 443 gang and firearm related cases which resulted in 151 arrests for a variety of violent gang and gun related crimes. This year also saw an unfortunate increase in juvenile crime with the arrest of 20 juveniles for gun crimes. The work the Gang Unit did resulted in a 22% reduction in drive-by shootings.

In addition to the work done with our federal partners, we also continue to work with the Pueblo District Attorney's Office to address our increased violence.

Narcotics Unit

The narcotics unit, which includes four detectives and 1 sergeant, conducted several high-profile narcotics cases throughout the year that resulted in the seizure of 6.6 pounds of fentanyl, 1 pound of heroin, 5 kilograms of cocaine, and 30.4 pounds of methamphetamine.

The Southern Colorado Drug Task Force, which has 3 Pueblo Police Officers assigned to it disrupted or dismantled numerous drug trafficking organizations in Southern Colorado and beyond. These cases resulted in the seizure of 82 pounds of fentanyl, 7 pounds of heroin, 13 kilograms of cocaine, 255 pounds of methamphetamine, other narcotics, the seizure of \$678,773 dollars in assets, and the arrest of 50 individuals.

Traffic Unit

Traffic safety is another area of concern and responsibility for the police department and unfortunately this is an area where the department saw a significant decrease in our productivity. In years past, patrol officers were detailed to help address traffic issues with the Department's Traffic Unit and volunteered to work extra overtime, which is funded through a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant. With the impact to our manpower, we have not been able to assign patrol officers to work portions of their shift to addressing traffic issues.

While traffic accidents in 2023 (3,240) were significantly lower than 2022 (3,570), Pueblo Police Department also saw an increase in the number of fatal traffic accidents (24) to the highest level in decades.

The goal of the Traffic Unit is to increase traffic safety through a combination of education and enforcement with the emphasis not being on the number of citations written. However, looking at the number of citations written is one method of determining productivity of a traffic unit. Citations were down in 2023 (4,596) compared to 2022 (5,575) while DUI arrests increased 25% over 2022 numbers to 265.

Traffic Unit (continued)

Currently, the Traffic Unit has seven personnel assigned to it with an authorized strength of 12 officers with one of the officers assigned to the unit out much of the year on a long-term work-related injury, further reducing available manpower. Other departments around the state and country, who are facing the same manpower issues have disbanded their traffic units to add personnel to the patrol division. Thus far we have been able to avoid that decision, but their manpower has had a dramatic impact on the performance of the unit.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Unit

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Unit was particularly busy in 2023. With this unit, the department has 7 FAA Part 107 licensed pilots (6 officers and 1 sergeant). These officers have flown 678 missions (104.75 flight hours) and 157 training flights (14.01 flight hours). The real-world missions were broken down as follows: 62 traffic accident-related flights, 170 patrol flights, 70 investigations flights, 7 flights related to the Pueblo Metro Bomb Unit, 26 flights for the Pueblo Fire Department, 12 SWAT Team related flights, and 25 special events flights. The unit has nine UAVs with various capabilities.

Pueblo Police Department members of the UAV unit received additional training throughout 2023.



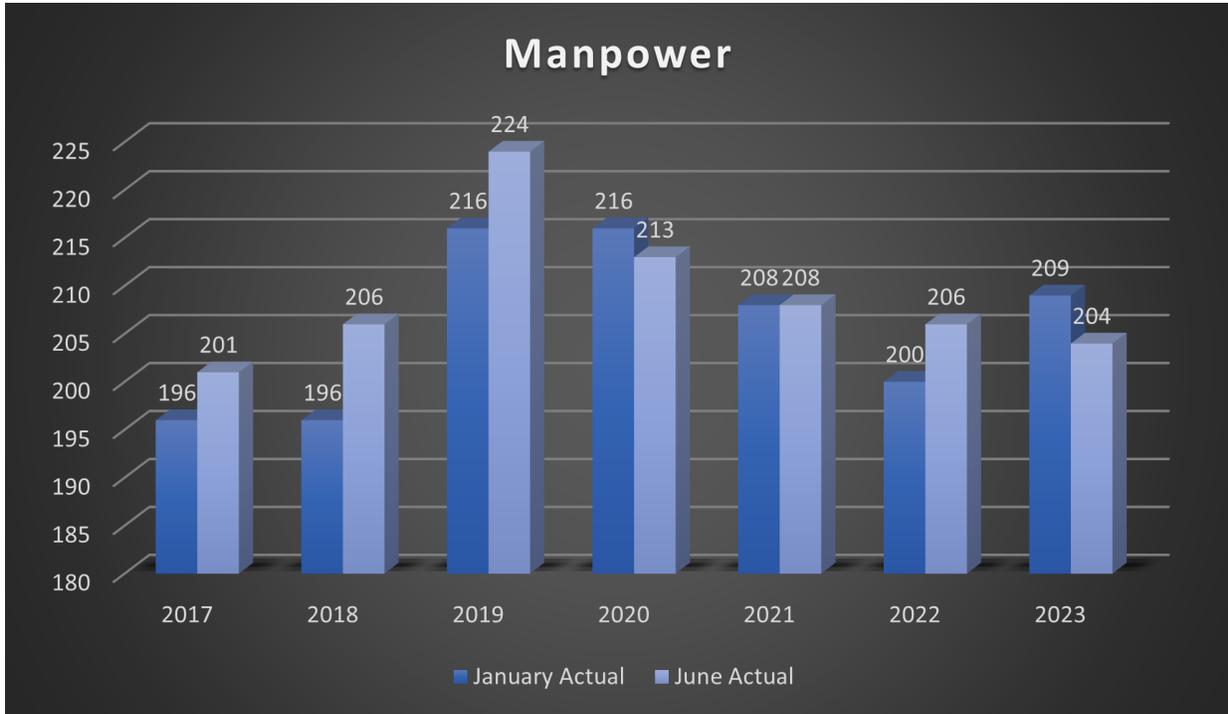
Heroes and Helpers is made possible each year with the funds raised at the Ice Cup between Pueblo Police Department and Pueblo Fire Department. Featured is Chief Chris Noeller, Santa and a child attending Heroes and Helpers.



With every challenge, opportunities are found, and Pueblo Police Department has identified several opportunities in addition to the DICE Team and CSO Officers. For example, efforts toward recruiting are being stepped up with a full-time Recruiting Officer position being created in the fourth quarter of 2022. In 2023, the Recruiting Officer made 6 out of state trips to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma; Ft. Cavazos (Hood), Texas; New Mexico Highlands, Las Vegas, New Mexico; Warren AFB, Wyoming; University of Wyoming, Barton Community College, Great Bend, Kansas; Fort Hays State University, Kansas; Fort Riley, Kansas. Cpl. Roman also established the ride with a recruiter program which allowed many potential candidates to get a firsthand view of the job.

Training Unit

The Training Unit has also done a phenomenal job training our future officers and working with the Human Resources Department and Civil Service to streamline the hiring process. Since 2021, they have instructed 5 different police academy class with a total of 27 officers. They also provide in-service training to sworn staff ensuring that that required training mandated by Colorado Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) are completed as well as advanced training. In 2023, the unit oversaw or coordinated over 31,000 hours of training.



Pueblo Police Department is also working with a variety of internal City departments and outside organizations to identify ways to recruit and retain our officers. While numbers fluctuate frequently throughout the year, we did see some loss in personnel in 2023 from January to June numbers. However, as we continued to move through the year retirements and officers leaving our department for other departments both in and out of state or who have chosen to leave the profession altogether led to a decrease in manpower to 177 at the end of 2023.

While the sworn side of our house gets the most attention it is also important to note that another vitally important part of our organization is having a critical manpower shortage. Currently, the Dispatch Center is operating at 71% staffing with 24 positions, 17 of which are filled. This is much better than the 54% staffing level at this same time last year. In addition, the mayor has also authorized 5 over-hire positions, which allows us to hire as many as 29 dispatchers. The hiring process for these positions is ongoing throughout the year.

The work outlined in this report does not cover every unit in the department nor does it give the credit due to the officers and civilian staff who work very hard day in and day out to make our community better.

While there were many challenges in 2023, the work completed by the limited staff of the department shows a level of work that far exceeds the number of employees in the organization. It also demonstrates their level of commitment to the community they serve. We will continue to capitalize on opportunities as we move forward into 2024.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

A Division of Pueblo Police Department



The Pueblo Police Department Code Enforcement Unit serves the citizens of Pueblo by protecting the health and safety of the community. Quality of life issues are very important to the residents of Pueblo, and Code Enforcement does what it can to improve those standards through enforcement of municipal Codes relating to litter, weeds, minimum standards of habitability through the International Property Maintenance Code, zoning codes, and more.

Before abatement



After abatement



As of November 29, 2023, Code Enforcement has handled over 8,000 complaints. They have

abated 451 properties as well as cleaned up illegal dump sites, homeless camps and other trashy areas. In doing so they have removed over 500 tons of debris and taken it to the landfill, picked up and disposed of nearly 1,200 tires.



Before abatement



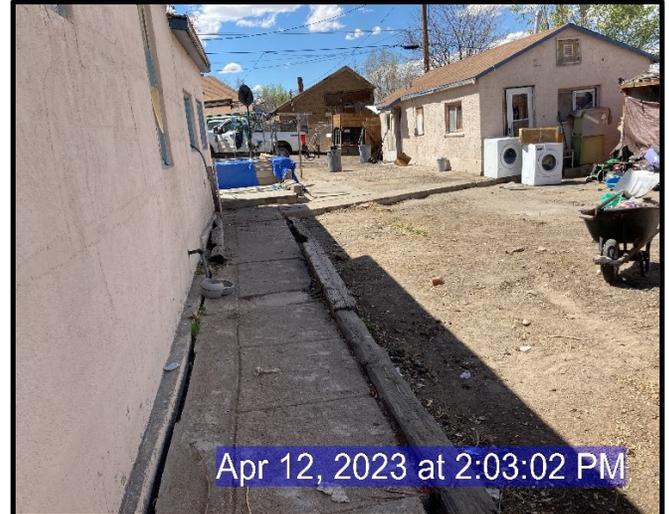
After abatement

Due to the large number of private properties that were storing junked vehicles, this year Code Enforcement was able to start removing inoperable vehicles from private properties according to the ordinance. Junk vehicles stored on residential property can cause an array of problems. Toxic fluids can leach into the ground, odor, and they can be shelter for unwanted animals. If on blocks, they can be very dangerous to children and others.



Apr 12, 2023 at 8:56:59 AM

Before abatement

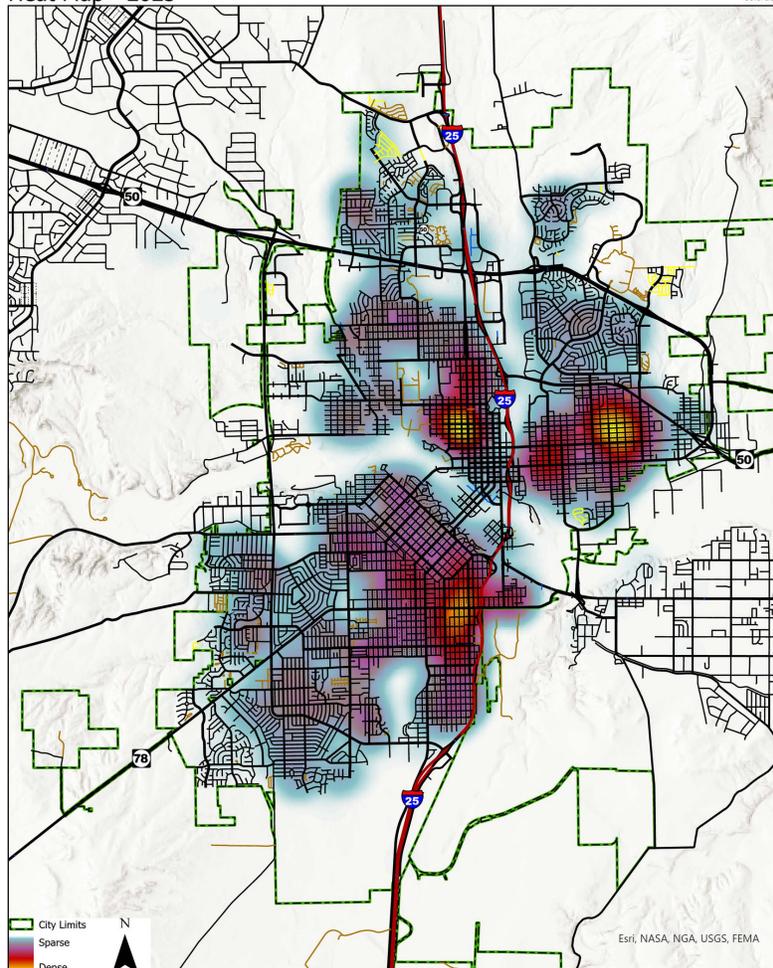


Apr 12, 2023 at 2:03:02 PM

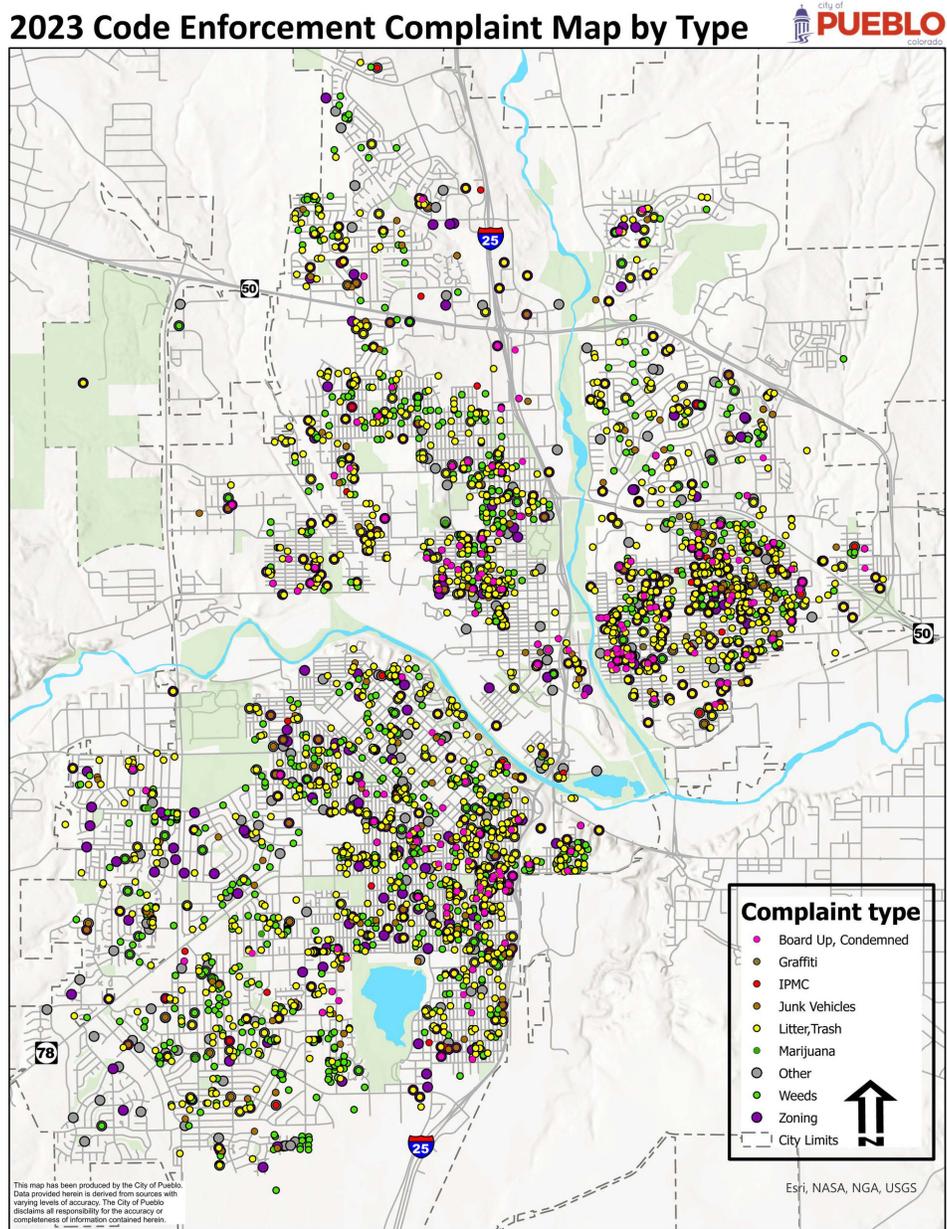
After abatement

Partnering with Parking Enforcement, Community Service Officers and Patrol, Code Enforcement was able to remove 51 vehicles from private property this year. Vehicle removal along with abatement is a lengthy legal process that must be followed.

Code Enforcement Total Complaints
Heat Map - 2023



2023 also brought a new program regarding shopping carts due to the nuisance they have become. Stores have not been able to keep carts on site and have been running out, and the carts when abandoned become an issue for traffic, and water ways. The unit has picked up nearly 300 carts and returned them to the stores from where they came. They have disposed of many that were so damaged they were no longer viable.



Code Enforcement has had staffing issues through the course of the year. Officer staff was down to five officers for the better part of the year but is finishing 2023 strong with 9 officers. Once they are all trained and working independently, the unit has plans to be involved with patrol and collaborating on project areas to have a greater impact at the neighborhood level.

The abatement staff however has dwindled to its lowest numbers since 2014 due to attracting and retaining staff. Right now, there are six part time crew members who are among the hardest working people. When this team goes onto a property to clean it, the results are like night and day!

Moving into 2024, there is a possibility of hiring at least two full time abatement crew in addition to the part time people. This is exciting news, and Code Enforcement hopes this will have an impact in attracting and retaining more people. The division continues to try and fill the part time positions as well. In spite of that, the unit has performed a total of 487 abatements valued at \$188,572.66 for the year. These were filed in the form of liens on properties and if left unpaid are rolled into the tax bill for the following year.

Vacant Property Registration

The vacant property registry is in full swing, and the City of Pueblo has seen what the entire process looks like at this point. From identifying a vacant property through the sale of the lien the processes are now in place. At the end of November 2023, the City has placed \$170,000.00 in liens on private properties that failed to register. Since the beginning of the program in 2021, 348 properties have registered. Managing this registry is labor intensive because this list is ever changing. Properties become occupied and new ones vacate.



Starting November 1st of each year, letters are sent to the property owners who registered their properties reminding them that their registrations and fees are due by January 1st of the following year. Then the process of notification to all of the other property owners who failed to register, that their registration is due and the process of placing the liens on the properties is time consuming.

Code Enforcement has seen some very good results from this program in that many of the properties that have been vacant and neglected for years have been sold and occupied throughout the course of the last three years. Some property owners, while they did not want to sell their properties are now aware of the requirement to take care of them and pay the fees. For those that remain completely neglected, the City is taking steps to deal with those and get them into the possession of people who will return them to their intended use. This year, the unit has collected \$75,500 in vacant property registration fees.



This is one of the formerly vacant properties put back into productive use as a result of the Vacant Property Lien program.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

A Division of Pueblo Police Department

The Code Enforcement staff is continually evolving and trying to meet the needs of the community. The demand for services is changing and expectations are increasing too. With new staffing levels, we look forward to rising to meet those challenges.



Bottom row, left to right: Anna Ciordia (Records Staff) Gerardo Ciordia, Morgan Borrego, Brenda Walter, James Jean, Charlie Renteria

Top row, left to right: Karen Willson (Code Enforcement Manager), Brad Gasperetti, George Vasquez, Mike Cira, Richard Unrein, Jennifer Maranto, Arlene Workman

Abatement staff: Jeremiah Shields, Perry Archuleta, George Ross, Steven Lempka, Jade Clark, Jodipaul Kohler.

PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT



It has been an honor to serve the community in 2023. The year has been productive and progressive. The Pueblo Fire Department plans to continue providing excellence in customer service as the department expands with the city in 2024.

Below are some key points for the Pueblo Fire Department growth and development in 2023:

- New AMR contract; 5 years
- Negotiated 3-year contract with IAFF local 3
- Reaccredited (4th) August 2023
- Six new positions added in preparation for 2025's additional fire station on the West side.

New Apparatus:

1 replacement pumper for engine 32 will be in service Jan 2024.

1 new pumper for fire station 11 ordered; eta Nov 2024

1 new platform for a second truck company on order. ETA Dec 2024

1 new ladder for the other truck company on order. ETA 2025



New replacement pumper for engine 32 arrived in December 2023

Promotions in 2023:

- 1 Captain
- 1 Emergency Medical Officer
- 3 Engineers
- 18 new personnel through two academies

PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Major Incidents of 2023

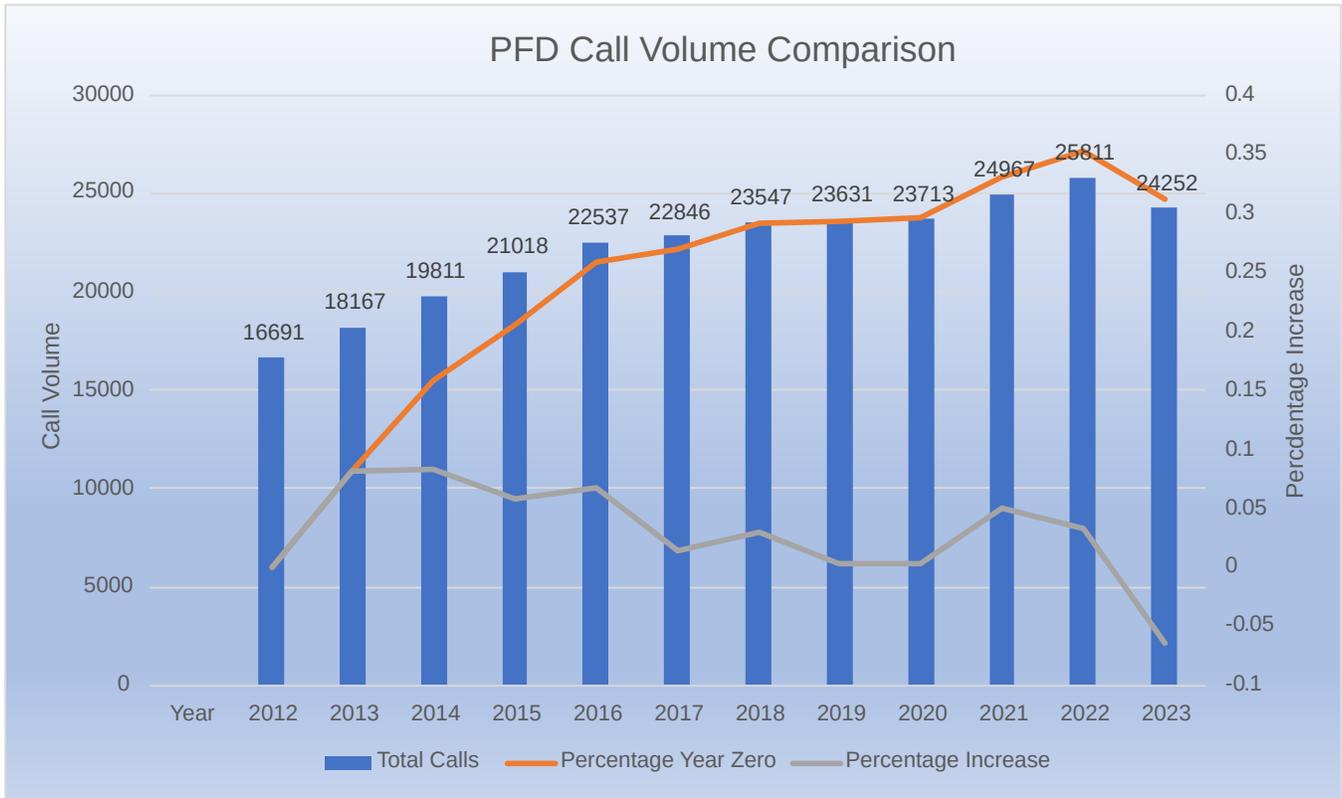
- Lake Minnequa Fires: November and December
- Flooding in Spring: Homeless evacuation
- BNSF railroad derailment on I-25
- Semi truck extrication south of the city on I-25

Pueblo Fire Department assisted with evacuations along Fountain Creek during major flooding in the spring of 2023. This was a combined effort with Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and Pueblo Police Department to assist with notification.

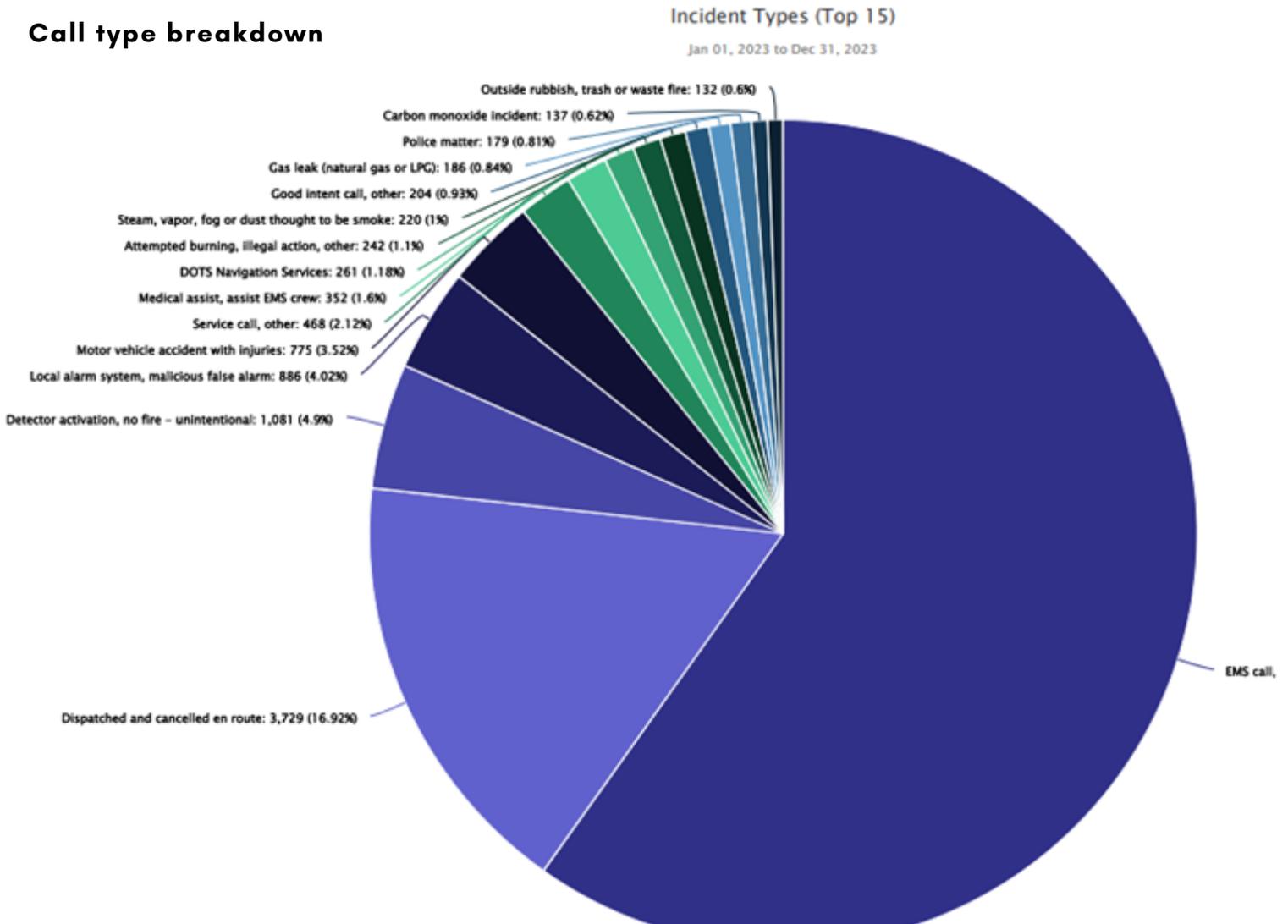


Pueblo Fire Department responds to house fires and other emergency calls throughout the year. Shown left are two firefighters speaking with a mother and child after a reported call for service.

Call volume overall was down from 25,811 in 2022 to 24,252 total calls in 2023.



Call type breakdown



PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Pueblo Fire Department participated in two Sound the Alarm events in partnership with the American Red Cross. This effort helps local home owners and residents install free smoke alarms to ensure everyone is safe. Volunteers also share fire safety information and assist with creating an escape or safety plan for residents.



Fire Fit Kids

2023 was an amazing year for the Fire Fit Kids program. Fire Fit Kids received an ambulance donation from AMR that will be the primary vehicle and provide storage for equipment and city literature. Fire Fit Kids also received an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant in 2022 that allowed the purchase of a fire house inflatable in 2023. The inflatable provides a another way to teach fire safety in a new and exciting environment during outreach activities.



Fire Fit Kids hosted 10 events in fire stations which brought the community into each of the 10 fire stations that included the firefighter obstacle course, fire station tour and community safety messaging.

Tim Trujillo with Fire Fit Kids is pictured at the City of Pueblo employee health fair hosted by Human Resources at the Colorado State Fairgrounds.

Other partnerships throughout the year included the United Way of Pueblo County middle school mentoring program, both school districts 60 and 70, the Pueblo City-County Library district, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo Parks and Recreation, Pueblo Food Project, Little Caesars Pizza, Pueblo farmers market, The Colorado State Fair, SoCo Equality and Pueblo PRIDE to bring fire safety, education, mentoring and fun to numerous events throughout Pueblo county.

Fire Fit Kids averaged around 100 kids and adults at each of its fire station nights and hundreds more at other community engagements.

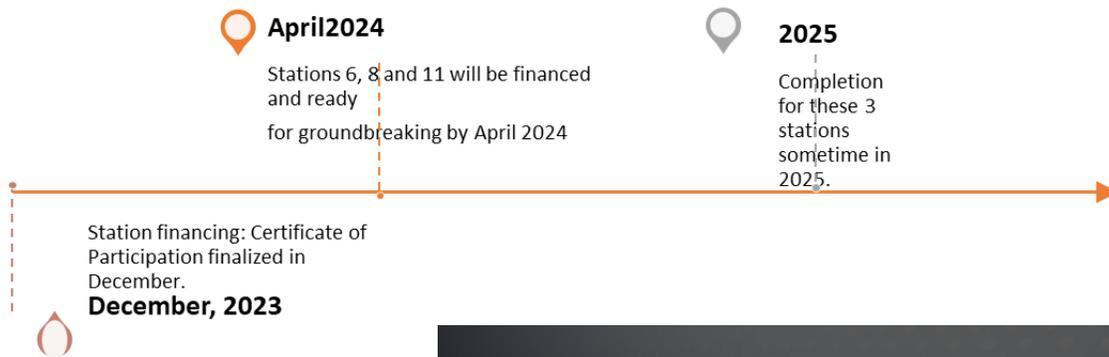


2024 will be another busy year for the program with better access to the community and new and exciting teaching tools!

Updates in 2024

The City of Pueblo sold certificated of participation in a competitive sale to finance the expansion of Pueblo Fire Department. The first fire station to begin construction will be Station 6, located on Pueblo’s east side. Station 8, which is also the City of Pueblo Fire Administration Building, is anticipated to be updated with a new build on the northside of the city closer to the University Park area. The third fire station to be built, Station 11 will be located on the west side.

The new stations provide healthier living conditions, updated equipment, improved safety for the firefighters and added training facilities. The addition of Station 11 will expand the City of Pueblo Fire Department’s reach and improve call times with new growth and housing development on the west side of town.



Growth in 2024 all includes adding needed positions for second ladder company and new station 11 2024/5.

Thank you to the Mayor, City Council and the citizens of Pueblo!

Other budget approvals: 2024

-  -F550 (RESCUE EQUIPMENT CROSS STAFF) RESCUE
-  -OFFICE VEHICLE.
-  -COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SPECIALIST: EXPANDED

PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT

Operated by the City of Pueblo Department of Aviation, the Pueblo Memorial Airport provides safe, secure and reliable facilities for the transportation of people and materials into the National Airspace System. This is accomplished through professionalism, integrity, a high level of training and by being responsive to the needs of the community as well as the tenants of the airport.

Pueblo Memorial Airport welcomed Air Force One and President Joe Biden during his visit to Pueblo and to CS Wind on November 30, 2023.



In 2023, Pueblo Memorial Airport continued to see challenges faced by the airline industry. Airlines continue to battle pilot shortages and aging aircraft fleets. As a result, Pueblo's partner, Southern Airway's, has experienced a drop in passenger numbers and flight frequencies. Airport Admin is working closely with Southern executives to execute a plan to turn this trend around.

Despite the many challenges facing the aviation industry, Pueblo Airport is committed to growth and is finding creative ways to promote and enhance the community. Pueblo Airport is partnering with the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum (PWAM) to host Historic aircraft visits and annual events like the popular Wings and Wheels Car Show.

In 2024, the Airport anticipates over 12 million dollars in Federal and State funds to rehabilitate the primary runway, improve deteriorating pavement, and possibly construct much needed hangars on the airfield. Discussion is also continuing on possible grant opportunities to renovate the airport terminal and build a new Air Traffic Control Tower. Federal and State investments help to demonstrate the importance of Pueblo Airport to our community.

In 2024, the Airport hopes to explore additional ways to showcase our airport to the community. Plans are being discussed to bring airshows and other aviation related events to Pueblo.

CITY CLERK

The City Clerk's office continues to provide quality support as the record-keepers for the City Council, City Administration and Departments, and the Citizens of Pueblo, serving as a direct link between the community and their government. In addition to running the 2023 City election in conjunction with the County Clerk & Recorder, the City Clerk's Office maintained its support and service of the liquor, tobacco, and marijuana business licensing needs in Pueblo.

The 2023 City elections had one citizen's initiative put forward that did not make it to the ballot and one item that City Council voted to place on the ballot, which was 2A: Lodging Tax for Childcare. The Clerk's office aided 32 candidates running for various offices this year, and will be running a stand-alone election in January 2024 to complete the runoff for the Mayoral race.

All the candidates who made it to the ballot for the Nov 2023 election came to draw their ballot order.



The cookies were part of the ballot draw process for the City Council races

Pueblo City Clerk attended her third year and graduated from the Colorado Municipal Clerk Association (CMCA)'s Institute. She also earned both a Certified Municipal Clerk certification and a Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks this year, as well as becoming an Athenian Fellow for the society.

The Pueblo City Clerk's Office also oversaw the 2023 disbursement of the settlement funds granted to the City by multiple opioid lawsuits. This year, funding went to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment's Substance Use Response Ecosystem (SURE) program, a coalition working to enhance Pueblo's response to substance use, striving to prevent substance use, reduce deaths, and improve access to treatment and recovery resources. Funding also went to School District 60 to support the creation of an Intervention Coordinator position, which intends to provide Botvin Life Skills Training to every middle schooler within the district as well as engage with parents, conduct school and community education programs and campaigns, and assist with the reduction of community-wide stigma.

These are the officers that were sworn in early for President Biden's visit,



The Pueblo City Clerk continued her role as an active member of the state-wide Colorado Municipal Clerks Association, serving as the Vice Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Liquor Committee, coordinating with the head of the state's Liquor Enforcement Division to discuss process bottlenecks and smooth the communication between the local and state authorities throughout the state during this dual licensing process.

Local trainings and educational presentations were also prioritized this year, with Pueblo playing host to both the Liquor Enforcement Division (LED) and the Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) throughout the year. The City Clerk also taught a Nuts & Bolts training for new clerks and their staff, moderated a panel on Employee Retention and Incentives during the annual CMCA conference, and presented to the Colorado Association of Fairs & Shows at their annual convention about liquor licensing options for fairgrounds.

This year, the Clerk's Office tested and internally launched new software to streamline and capture data on Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) requests processed by this department. An external launch is expected in early 2024, which will allow the public to submit requests online as well as to pay any fees for those requests digitally. Approximately 290 CORA requests were processed by the Clerk's Office in 2023.

Type of Marijuana License	2023
Retail Grow	5
Retail Testing	1
Retail Store	8
Retail Product Manufacturing	4
Total Retail Licences	18
Medical Grow	2
Medical Testing	1
Medical Store	2
Medical Product Manufacturing	3
Total Medical Licenses	8
Total Active Marijuana Licenses	26

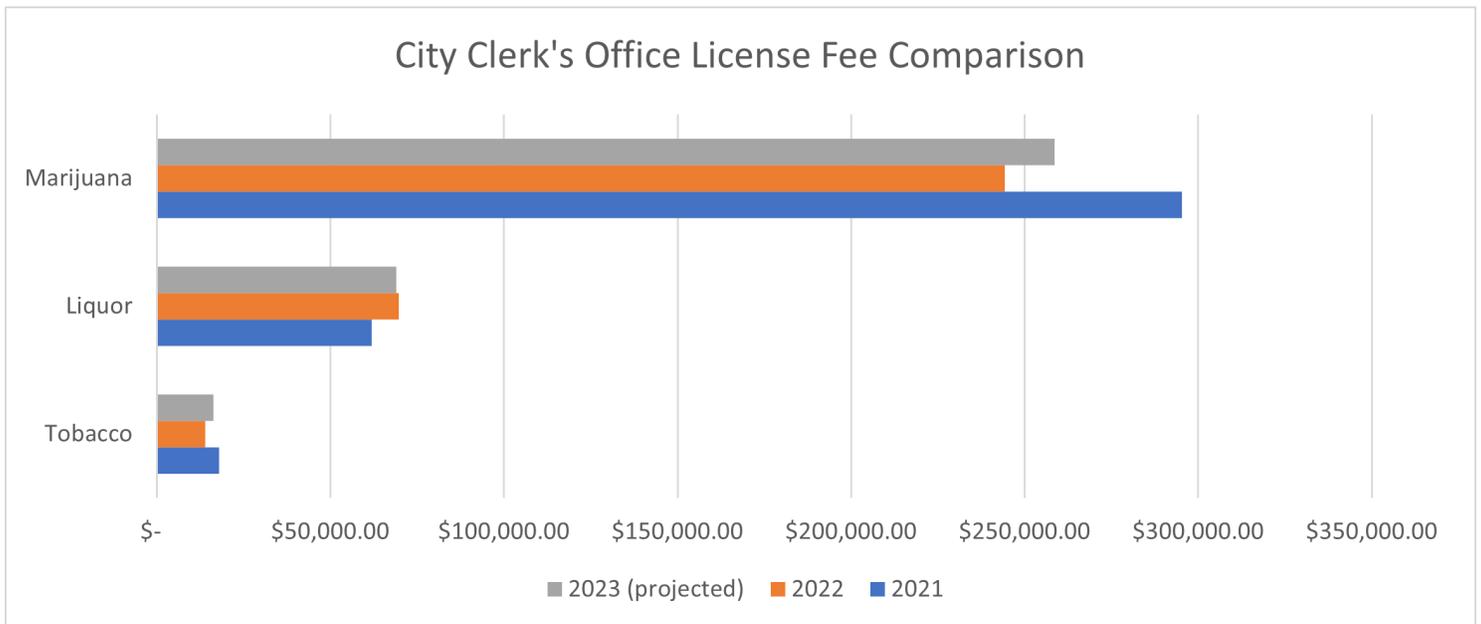
Licensing Fees remained steady for Liquor, Tobacco, and Marijuana. Marijuana fees continued to be lower than in 2021 with the economic difficulties facing the industry. While 6 licenses were surrendered this year, there were also new licenses added to the mix, mostly from larger, experienced marijuana businesses opening shop in Pueblo.

CITY CLERK

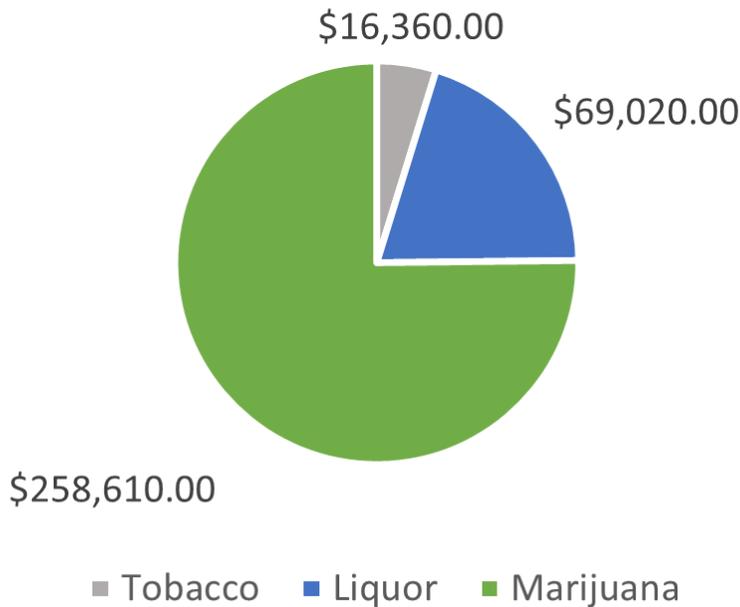
Type of Tobacco License	2023
Tobacco	141

Type of Liquor License	2023
Retail Establishment (formerly Art Gallery)	2
Beer & Wine	7
Brew Pub	2
Cabaret	38
Club	7
Hotel & Restaurant	59
Lodging & Entertainment	12
Off Premise Fermented Malt Beverage & Wine	57
On Premise Fermented Malt Beverage	3
Racetrack	0
Retail Store	29
Special Events	33
Tasting	3
Tavern	40
Total Active Liquor Licenses	292

The City Clerk's office weathered a number of changes to Liquor Licenses this year, including a transition in July which allowed all off premise fermented malt beverage (FMB) licenses to become off premise FMB & Wine licenses.



Projected 2023 City Clerk Licensing Fees



Tobacco	\$16,360.00
Liquor	\$69,020.00
Marijuana	\$258,610.00

	2021	2022	2023 (projected)
Tobacco	\$17,900.00	\$13,957.00	\$26,360.00
Liquor	\$61,819.00	\$69,742.00	\$69,020.00
Marijuana	\$295,350.00	\$244,200.00	\$258,610.00

A representative from the Clerk’s office visited every off premise FMB license in the City and discussed the changes with the licensee, performing an educational inspection and giving tips for the transition. This allowed for a smooth process and full compliance with the change in law. Additionally, the traditional art gallery permit was turned into a broader retail establishment permit, which will allow additional businesses to benefit from the sip and shop model with this type of license.

The City issued a number of additional Liquor Lodging and Entertainment licenses this year, working with business owners of less traditional establishments such as a barber shop and an indoor golf facility on compliance for this type of license. Pueblo’s first stationary food truck plaza and a food hall were also approved.

Finally, the City Clerk’s office underwent a CBI audit on their normal three-year cycle and passed with flying colors, maintaining their ability to process secure background checks for liquor and marijuana licensing procedure.

MUNICIPAL BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The City of Pueblo is supported by over 30 Boards and Commissions comprised of over 250 citizen volunteers and staff.

In 2022, the City completed an assessment aimed to bridge the gap existing between board and commission members and the Pueblo community. A digital toolbox for board members, the new name of Pueblo Engaged Advocates for Community (PEAC) City Boards and Commission Program, and online recruitment sessions were a few products of this collaboration between participants of this effort.



The selection as an active member of a Board or Commission provides a valuable opportunity for genuine public service and a chance to become involved in different aspects of local government. The City appreciates and thanks the following members of its boards and commissions for their contribution and service. The following members listed are those represented on each board or commission at time of publication of this report.

Board or Commission	Members
<p>ADA Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Donald Bruestle Sharon Campbell Tura Cowan Tiffany Garcia Rita Gonzales Elizabeth Harmes Mary Agnes Leonard Laura Leyba Robert Long Deborah MacIlroy Jennifer Thornton</p>
<p>Board of Appeals - Building</p>	<p>Brian Gray Andrew Hayes Mark Kleven, Ex Officio Robert Leverington</p>
<p>Board of Appeals - Electrical</p>	<p>Robert Berrier Daniel F. Henderson Albert Herrera, Ex Officio Charles Montera</p>

Board or Commission	Members
Board of Appeals - Mechanical	Eric Dunton Patrick Grubb Pat Noga, Ex Officio
Board of Elections	Alvin Rivera Marisa Stoller Sharon Sullenberger
Board of Health	Ed Brown Eileen Dennis, RN Zsuzsa Glasscock Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha, RN Donald Moore
Community Commission on Housing & Homelessness (CCHH)	DesiRae Arrieta Kim Bowman Jimmy Duffner Bryan Gallagher Veronica Gold Heather Maio Donald Moore Brittney Moudy Melissa Nereson Reah Santangelo Caroline Trani Ashleigh Winans Christine Zeitvogel Brandi Adakai Lori Arabie Lara Cartagena Nicole Dale Dianne Danti Alexis Ellis Shanna Farmer Eppie Griego Patrick Hurley Mary Lee Sarah Martinez Bart Mikitowicz Spencer Miles Teah Miller Joshua Montelongo Joe O'Brien Oren Olson Dean Pace Melanie Rapier Allison Rea Alexis Romero Stewart Nicholas Sheppard Deric Stowell Dustin Taylor

<p align="center">Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</p>	<p>Dynelle Abeyta Karen Callanan Anita Cofer Shanna Farmer *Ex Officio Bryan Gallagher *Ex Officio Cindy Lau Mary Lee Michael Messervy Tony Montoya Meg Scarlett *Ex Officio Sandra Sherrer Nick Trejo</p>
<p align="center">El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center Board of Directors</p>	<p>Mindy Armijo Thomas Carrigan Joseph Latino Maria Lopez Janelle Quick</p>
<p align="center">Fire Board of Appeals</p>	<p>Michael Carlisle Robert Hudgens Gary Micheli Frank Nemick Shawn Shelton</p>
<p align="center">Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control & Greenway District Governing Board</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Robert Barr Daneya Esgar Tamara Estes Dennis Flores, Alternate Terry Hart Nancy Henjum Jessica Mills Anthony Nunez Jim Romanello Zach Swearingen, Alternate Stan VanDerwerf</p>
<p align="center">Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>David Anderson Don Banner Rita Fox Heather Graham Sam Krage Dennis Maroney Zach Swearingen</p>
<p align="center">Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Foundation Board of Directors</p>	<p>David Anderson Marty Garcia Beth Gladney Eppie Griego Laurie Kilpatrick Brian Lucas Betty Martinez Larry Ohrdorf Tracy Velasquez</p>

<p>Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of pueblo Foundation Board of Directors (cont.)</p>	<p>Bill Vidmar Ken West Ken White</p>
<p>Historic Preservation Commission</p>	<p>Laurel B. Campbell Guy Chabot George Koncilja Jocelyn Martinez Sandra Morrison Anthony P. Perko Jan Schraner</p>
<p>Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board</p>	<p>Christopher Bratnick Matthew Larimore Zach Pittman Kyle Rayburn Michael Riley Warren Rivera Justin Skerjanec</p>
<p>Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo Board of Directors</p>	<p>Andrea Aragon Melanie Bravo Jack Quinn Phyllis Sanchez Steven Trujillo* Ex Officio</p>
<p>Liquor and Beer Licensing Board</p>	<p>Stephen Cornetta Modesto Cartegena Elizabeth Chapman Carma Loontjer Tom Rose</p>
<p>Planning & Zoning Commission</p>	<p>Patrick Avalos Alexandra Aznar Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Mike Castellucci Sarah Martinez Christopher Pasternak Cheryl Spinuzzi</p>
<p>Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Iris Clark Jeffrey Deherrera Stephanie Garcia Dustin Hodge Trisha Macias Doreen Martinez Fredrick F. Quintana</p>
<p>Pueblo Conservancy District</p>	<p>Bonifacio Cosyleon Carl Elley Corinne Koehler Marisa Lopez Dennis Maroney Donna Phillips Jim Pioreschi Ronald Serna Paul Willumstad</p>

Board or Commission	Members
<p align="center">Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Ed Brown Patsy Cresswell Eileen Dennis Kurt Madic Allan McConnell Jason Schierling</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Kenneth Danti Laura Getts Tyler Surat John Vigil Edgie Walrath Tom Corlett Steve Nawrocki Thea Rodriguez Alan Ward</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Human Relations Commission</p>	<p>Richard Blair Benjamin Caldera Jean Flynn Ray Gloria Gutierrez Kristin Hoffman Acasha Kerr Roxanne Pignanelli Kennedy Pugh Claire Schad Jesse Sena Riya Singh Adelia Tripp-Sena Callico Vargas</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Nathanael Dinsmore Todd Engel Ryan Frushour Heather Graham Vicente Martinez Ortega Michael Occhiato Peter Quinby Walter L. (Scott) Ross Jr. Kenneth Sanchez Janet Schraner Zach Swearingen</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Municipal Golf Course Enterprise Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Karen Conry Michael Ricottone Joseph Latino Tony Montoya Jerry Thomas</p>

Board or Commission	Members
<p>Pueblo Regional Building Commission</p>	<p>Larry Atencio Steven Contreras Eppie Griego Albert Herrera Andy Jesik Anthony Nunez Diana Oldermeyer Ace Spriggs Kent N. Stringer David Vaughn</p>
<p>Pueblo Streetscape Advisory Committee</p>	<p>William Adams Jean Eskra Rebecca Knapp Jean Latka Seth Rocco</p>
<p>Retail & Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority</p>	<p>Kimberly Archuletta Richard Berry Carla Flores Joseph J. Perko Tom Rose</p>
<p>Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Joey Andenucio Joe Arrigo Justin Bowen Rosemary Breckenfelder Harvi Callaham Janet Creswell Kristie Denbrock Rebecca Diaz Rita Fox Patricia Gonzalez Alice Hill John Lee Leslie Martinez Randy McCall Jessica Moore Duane Nava, Ex Officio Wendy Rapp Ray Romero, Ex Officio David Russell Rosina Sonntag Zach Swearingen, Ex Officio Paul Valdez Reid Weber</p>

Board or Commission	Members
Urban Renewal Authority of the City of Pueblo	Donald Banner Louie Carleo Dennis Flores Elizabeth Gallegos Jeanette Garcia Heather Graham Eppie Griego Betty Martinez Melissa Nereson Dr. James R. Valenzuela Jon Walker Ralph A. Williams
Zoning Board of Appeals	Steve Anselmo Elizabeth "Lisa" Bailey Mike Castellucci Yvonne Lujan-Slak Georgia Way
Bandera Special Improvement Maintenance District Advisory Committee	Bob Cook Andrew Hayes Ted Hernandez Steven Meier Alexandria Romero
SouthPointe Special Improvement Maintenance District Advisory Committee	Weston Burrer Maclovio Martinez John Scanio

HOUSING & CITIZEN SERVICES



The Department strives to preserve and enhance the quality and livability of the City's older neighborhoods and preserve the housing stock; to maintain the value of the real estate tax base; and to promote the economic viability and development of city neighborhoods. The department's mission is aided in part by the administration of two federal grants, funding for community services, and an annual private activity bond allocation.

This year, the City reserved its \$6,753,605 Private Activity Bond allocation for multi-family project financing to be issued through the Colorado Housing Finance Authority. The allocation provides an additional funding source for the residential housing market, and is reserved for families

making less than \$126,200, annually. Through this bond financing, CHFA offers a variety of programs specifically targeted to assist veterans, first-time home buyers, and individuals with permanent disabilities.

The City collaborated with private developers, non-profits, and the State Division of Housing to accelerate affordable housing construction. Forty-nine units of affordable housing were constructed in 2023 using HOME Investment Partnership Funds awarded to the City and the County by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This collaboration enabled the completion of Fuel & Iron located on Union Avenue.



Community Development Block Grant funds were used to rehabilitate 26 owner-occupied homes throughout the City. One Emergency Rehabilitation project was completed using general revenue. Projects entailed selective demolition, mold remediation, roof replacement, accessibility modifications, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical repairs and retrofits.

Enlisting the help of local non-profit agencies and service providers, the Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended grant funds to 32 agencies, distributing \$964,035 in local assistance to community service organizations in 2023. The Department managed \$6.2M in federal grant service contracts providing affordable housing financing, infrastructure improvements, and public services to include homeless prevention, substance abuse programs, victim's assistance, youth recreation programs, mentoring, daycare, senior transportation, museums, and cultural events.

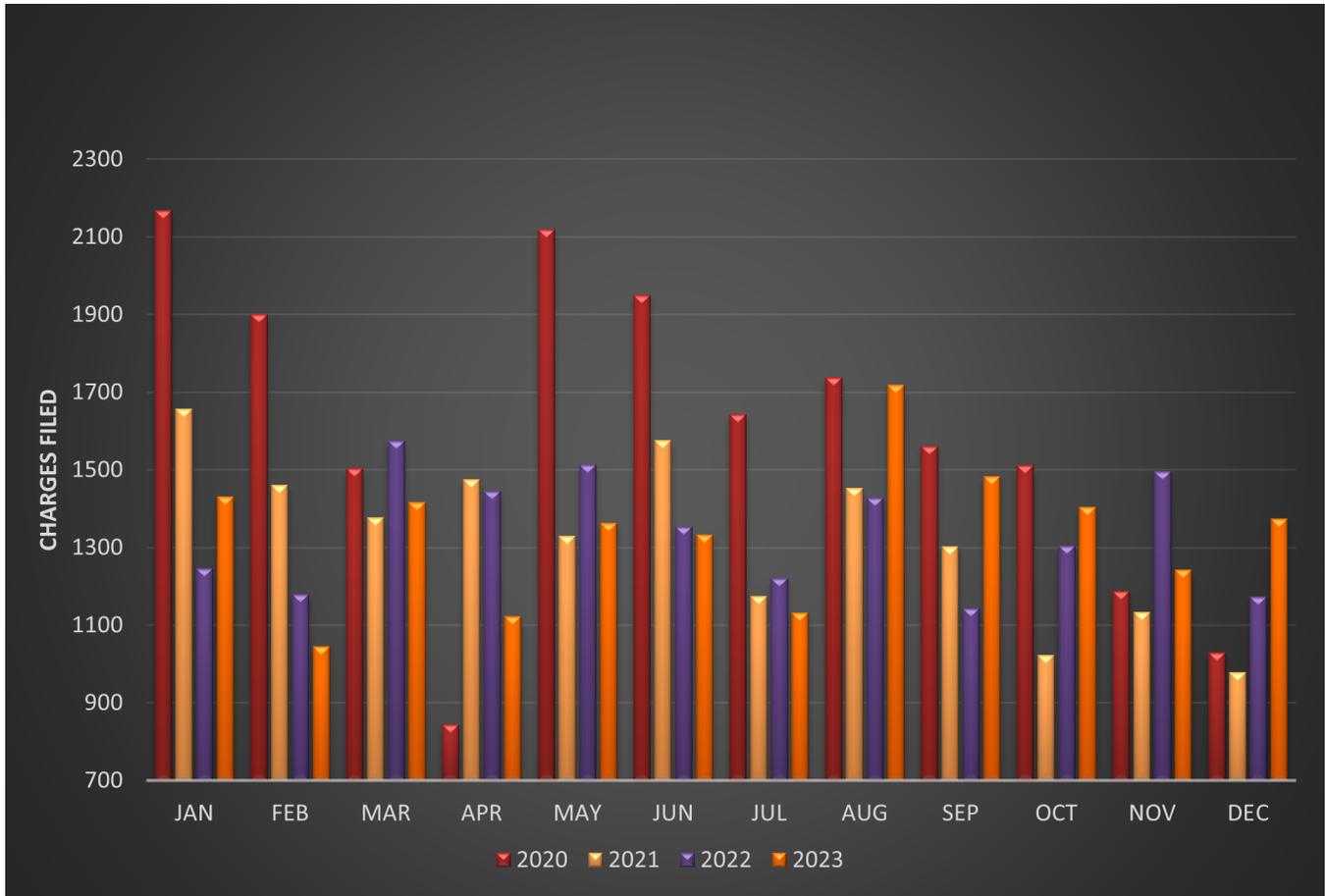
The Department would like to thank all the agencies and their frontline workers who helped those in need this year.

2023 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3, 4	Units
Public Infrastructure – Accessibility Improvements	\$1,889,648.18 in infrastructure improvements were installed using CDBG funding for streetscape, ADA curb ramps, sidewalk replacement, and demolition in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	27 low-income households served
2023 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Public Services – Total	\$1,177,785 invested in Public Services. Serving 36851 unduplicated individuals. The average cost of an unduplicated service was \$21.68 per person.
Senior Transportation	The City used \$13,750 of CDBG funding to match State funds for an ADA compliant bus to provide senior transportation.
After School Programs and Youth Recreation	Youth programs served 2,964 unduplicated individuals
Childcare	609 Children were provided daycare service through a funded program.
Healthcare Services	290 Individuals received healthcare services and 2,837 individuals received mental healthcare services provided by a funded program
Homeless Prevention	162 Unduplicated youth, and 199 seniors received assistance through funded programs. 2,341 homeless individuals received shelter and case management services.
Youth Educational Programming	5,250 Children participated in funded educational programs offered on Friday's or as an in-school fieldtrip activity.
Food Assistance Programs	Food assistance was provided to 10,283 clients. 123 tons of food were distributed by Care and Share and their partnering food pantries in the Pueblo community.
Victim Services	1,080 Unduplicated individuals received services through funded programs
Disability Services	7,620 hours of case management were provided to individuals receiving job training, employment, and services to maintain independent living.
2023 Activities QTRs: 1, 2, 3	Individuals
Education (Tutoring & Scholarships)	121 unduplicated individuals received assistance to obtain their GED, individualized tutoring, or assistance applying for higher education scholarships.
Cultural/Museum Activities	10,431 Individuals visited a funded museum or cultural event.
Veterans Services	1,023 Veterans received services through a funded program.

MUNICIPAL COURT

The City of Pueblo Municipal Court’s mission is to provide an efficient, equitable, and impartial forum to hear and resolve alleged violations of the City of Pueblo Municipal Code, to impose appropriate consequences, and to effectively and efficiently collect fines, costs, and penalties due the City of Pueblo. Pueblo Municipal Court is a court of record with exclusive original jurisdiction over all causes of action arising under the Charter and ordinances of the City of Pueblo. Municipal Court has concurrent jurisdiction with state courts on certain traffic infractions, traffic offenses and criminal violations.

The number of charges filed in Municipal Court increased slightly from 2021 to 2022 but have remained static since then. Last year 16,060 charges were filed in Municipal Court. The Court expects this number to increase as the Police Department obtains full staffing for patrol officers.



City Council passed a new ordinance in 2023 mandating a minimum jail sentence of 3 days for all theft from merchant tickets involving \$300 or more of merchandise. This ordinance went into effect on May 12, 2023. Since that time, 68 cases of theft from merchant greater than \$300 have been filed in Municipal Court.

MUNICIPAL COURT

2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
TRAFFIC TICKETS	258	201	324	311	249	261	270	300	299	312	292	212	3289
GENERAL OFFENSE-ADULT	248	202	192	150	278	179	178	198	195	145	167	219	2351
GENERAL OFFENSE-JUVENILES	33	40	56	44	46	13	24	42	38	26	30	27	419
ANIMAL OFFENSES	72	92	87	119	87	112	102	122	65	135	114	83	1190
MISC. OFFENSES	558	283	441	346	345	436	260	545	409	481	264	347	4715
CODE ENFORCEMENT	106	58	65	25	84	47	49	119	47	52	93	123	868
PARKING TICKETS	155	168	251	127	274	284	249	393	430	253	282	362	3228
	1430	1044	1416	1122	1363	1332	1132	1719	1483	1404	1242	1373	16060

In 2023, the Court participated in the CAFFE (Courts Assessing Fines and Fees Equitably) program, a national program sponsored by the National League of Cities. Through the program, the Court has considered new ways to incentivize payment of fines and costs. As a result of the program, the Court is now offering community service hours against fines for participation in financial counseling through the City's Financial Empowerment Center. This is just one way defendants may work off their fines.

Every defendant may work community service to work off fines assessed in their case except for traffic infractions which must be paid in full at the time the defendant is found guilty or enters a plea of guilty or no contest. Last year adult and juvenile defendants worked off \$112,772.12 in fines and provided 11,277 hours of useful public service to the community. In addition, adult defendants received a total of \$38,370.00 in credits against court fines for completion of over 3,837 hours of drug, alcohol, or mental health treatment. These numbers reflect a 57% increase in community service hours credited in 2023 compared to 2022.



The Court operates its own community service program for juveniles and adults. The primary mission of the program is graffiti removal. Graffiti removal occurs citywide.

Graffiti removal is the primary mission of the community service program; however, the program also oversees the City's community garden, assists with community clean-up events, and helps local non-profit agencies. The community garden is maintained by community service crews and all food grown in the garden is donated to the local soup kitchen or food bank. Defendants participating in the community service program may also take some of the fruit and vegetables grown in the garden home.



Compliance with all diversion programs, including community service, is monitored by the Court's probation officers. Pueblo Municipal Court employs a full-time juvenile probation officer, one part-time juvenile probation officer, and two part-time adult probation officers. In 2023, the adult probation officers monitored approximately 619 cases, which is a sharp increase from the 348 cases monitored in 2022. In 2023, the juvenile probation officers monitored approximately 156 cases, down from the 212 cases monitored in 2022. The decrease in juvenile probation cases is a result of the increase in restorative justice offerings to juvenile defendants.

Beginning in 2022, the Court's juvenile probation department collaborated with the Police Department, community volunteers, non-profit agencies, and school districts to establish an ever-growing restorative justice program. The restorative justice program is a voluntary program that diverts juveniles from the criminal justice system, allows them to meet with the victim, take responsibility for their actions, and develop their own consequences. Juveniles do not need to have an open case in Municipal Court to participate in the court's restorative justice program. School Resource Officers, schoolteachers and administrators, and families can request restorative justice through the Court's probation department to help resolve conflicts or poor behavior. As a result, the number of juvenile sentences imposed in Municipal Court have decreased.

In 2023, the Court referred 139 defendants to the restorative justice program. Eighty (80) defendants were unable to complete the program for a variety of reasons. In some cases victims declined to participate. In others, the defendant did not qualify for the program after screening. Few defendants screened into the program failed to complete their agreement after participating in the restorative justice conference. Those that do not complete the process are arraigned and their cases handled through the traditional criminal justice process. Of those screened into the program, 37 defendants successfully completed the process and had their cases dismissed. There are 22 defendants currently going through the screening process or in the course of completing their restorative justice contract. The program boasts a zero recidivism rate for those defendants that successfully completed the program.

PARKS & RECREATION

The Department provides diverse recreational and leisure opportunities in safe, clean, and attractive parks and recreational facilities. The Department continues to operate their expansive footprint to keep the City's parks healthy, safe, and green.

The Department employs 46.0 FTEs and relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain our park facilities and oversee our many recreation and sports programs. Some of the most notable facilities include:

Facilities	Number
Developed Parks	80 parks (613 irrigated acres)
Open Space	3,849 acres
Streetscapes, Medians, and Highway ROW	39 acres
Playgrounds	41
Multi-Purpose Sports Fields	38 acres
Walking and Biking Trails	27 miles paved, 5 miles soft surface
Flower Gardens	81 flower beds, 63 rose beds
Tree Maintenance	12,000 plus - park and streetscapes
City Park Tennis Court Complex	17 lighted courts
Tennis Courts	22 courts
Pickleball Courts	8 courts
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	32 courts (20 lighted)
The Rides at City Park	9 rides
George R. Williams Memorial Carousel	1
Softball/Baseball Fields	5 adult, 3 youth
George L. Williams Hall (rental)	1
Municipal Golf Courses	2 courses (45 holes)
Mountain Park with amenities	1
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	4
Splash Pads	2
Ice Arena (indoor)	1
Skate Parks	2
Dog Park	1
Picnic Shelters and Outdoor Pavilions	11
Whitewater Kayak Park	1

Facilities	Number
El Centro Del Quinto Sol Community Recreation Center	1
Zoo	1
Cemetaries	2
Lakes	4
Fountains	4
Statues and Monuments	31
Environmental Education Centers	2
Auto/Motorcycle Sports	4 tracks
Municipal Shooting Range (indoor)	1
Pro/Am Disc Golf Course	1
Concessions stands (in-house)	7

The 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Performance Benchmarks indicate that the nationwide median for annual operating expenditures per capita for parks and recreation agencies at \$94.77. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department continues to do more with less with \$64.32 per capita annual operating expenditures.

The Mayor and City Council recognizes the importance of Parks and Recreation within our community by increasing FTE staffing levels and operating funding to help provide the Parks and Recreation team with the tools to produce the best parks and recreation experiences that can be offered. The Department continues to deliver quality services and programs.

The Department’s popular biannual program guide continues to be an important resource to provide our customers with the most accurate program and facility information available. This information is available digitally on the City’s website and limited copies are printed so our customers without digital access can access it.

The Department continued to offer a rich variety of youth and adult programming in 2023. Youth flag football, t-ball, coach pitch baseball, youth winter and summer basketball, youth and adult tennis and pickleball lessons, adult softball and kickball leagues, spring and fall adult cornhole leagues, Movies in the Park, recreational open swimming, El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center programs/special events, and the always popular Rides at City Park just to mention a few of the popular programs that our patrons were excited to see offered again this past year.



PARKS & RECREATION

Recreation Program	Number of Participants in 2021	Number of Participants in 2022	Number of Participants in 2023
Tennis/Pickleball (all ages)	1,297	1,560	3,680
Aquatics (all ages)	56,842	57,074	52,648
Youth Basketball	664	715	747
Youth Flag Football	168	207	220
Youth Baseball	517	526	528
Youth Track & Field	36	100	139
Adult Softball	360	456	456
Adult Kickball	120	288	240
Adult Cornhole (Spring/Fall)	...	92	106
El Centro del Quinto Sol	2,692	8,058	9,292
Rides at City Park	364,862	329,067	393,290
Movies in the Park	720	2,725	1,257
Park Facility Reservations	6,050	6,579	6,967

This past summer, the Parks and Recreation Department successfully reintroduced a highly popular aquatics program that has not been offered by the City since 2013. For the past nine summers, the Pueblo Family YMCA stepped up and filled the void by offering the Learn-to-Swim program at the four City pools. Due to declining numbers in the YMCA summer swim lesson program, newly hired Parks and Recreation Aquatics Coordinator, Eric Santoyo proposed a new Learn-to-Swim program for the 2023 summer season. After numerous training sessions in preparation for the new swim lesson format, a partnership with the Starfish Aquatic Institute was established. The 2023 Learn-to-Swim program offered four (4) morning sessions throughout the summer, focusing on water safety skills as well as swimming techniques. Each session was comprised of eight 30-minute lessons.



This past summer, the classes were offered at City Park and Ray Aguilera Park Pools and will be rotated to different locations in 2024 to reach different neighborhoods within the City. Because of the summer success of the program, two sessions of lessons were offered this past fall at South High School in partnership with Pueblo School District No. 60.

PARKS & RECREATION

The City Park Swimming Pool Parking Lot Project was completed this past summer shortly following the summer opening in early June. The \$500,000 Conservation Trust (Lottery) funded project included the replacement of curb and gutter, removal of old asphalt, new asphalt overlay, striping, parking lot islands with landscaping and irrigation, trees, and decorative streetlights. The final product of this project has added an attractive west entrance to City Park.

The final product of this project has added an attractive west entrance to City Park.



In 2018, the City and the Pueblo Conservancy District partnered to fund and construct the Arkansas River Levee Trail Project. Approximately \$3.3 million in grant funding was awarded that matched the \$6 million that was raised to purchase and install two pedestrian bridges that would connect the existing trail along the Arkansas River to the new trail which is located on top of the levee. The first pedestrian bridge was installed in 2021 and the second bridge was installed late summer 2023.

The two new pedestrian bridges were named after two members of the first Conservancy District Board following the Great Pueblo Flood of 1921, Mr. Charles W. Lee, and Mr. G. Harvey Nuckolls.

Pueblo was named TREE CITY USA for the 43rd consecutive year. Only Colorado Springs (46 years), Fort Collins (45 years) and Wheat Ridge (44 years) have been named a TREE CITY USA Community longer. This year's celebration was held on April 20 at University Park with students from Villa Bella Expeditionary School. City Councilor Larry Atencio read the proclamation and presented the Arbor Day poster contest winners with a young tree donated by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Team Up to Clean Up

The "Team Up to Clean Up" Program, aka ARPA Neighborhood Cleanup Projects, was established to clean up trash and debris throughout the community in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) of the City. Other areas the "Team Up to Clean Up" Program also concentrated on the Fountain Creek and Arkansas River corridors, and Veteran's Park at Lake Minnequa. In 2023, they removed and disposed of approximately 180 tons of trash, over 1,600 tires, over 17,500 used hypodermic needles, and 2,500 shopping carts from the community. This program continues to make a significant impact on the City having a cleaner and safer appearance.



Before clean up



After clean up

Parks Maintenance and Horticulture staff continue the exemplary maintenance of the over 613 irrigated park acres and streetscapes within the City. The team of dedicated staff continues to keep Pueblo's parks, trails, and streetscapes green, clean, and safe. Some of the projects completed in 2023 include:



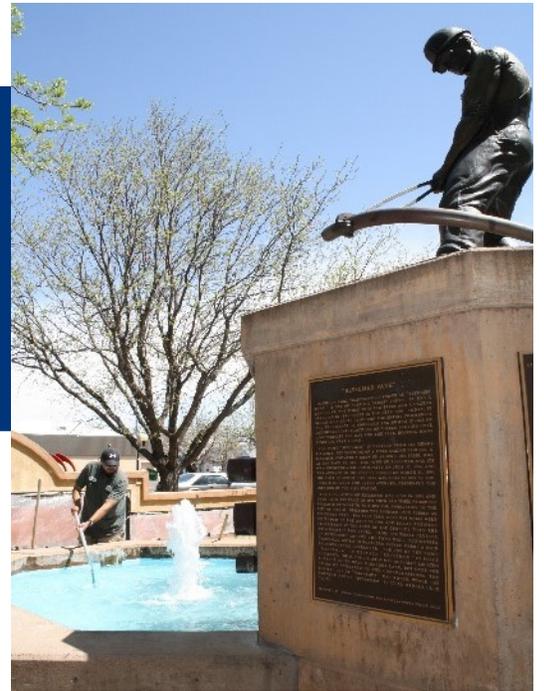
A new Administration Office sign was constructed using stone that was originally part of the 1935 Work Progress Administration (WPA) ballfield bleachers that were located at the City Park Tennis Complex.

Installation of “Cross Fitness” playground equipment at Veteran’s Park at Lake Minnequa. In late November, Parks staff began the installation of a new inclusive playground at Laura’s Park.



Streetscape improvements at Union Avenue and Abriendo Avenue Median (island) across from Rawlings Library and the SRDA Streetscape and Parking Area Landscaping Improvements.

Renovation of the Steelworker’s Fountain in Ray Aguilera Park. This fountain has been inoperable for approximately 10 years. Parks staff replaced the pump and motor and replaced the tile within the fountain. This fountain is once again a fitting tribute to the Steelworkers of Pueblo, past and present.



In May, City Council approved Resolution 15243 which authorized payment in the amount of \$150,000 from ARPA Project Funds for the Streetscape Renovation Project on Northern Avenue from Orman Avenue to Elm Street.



Keep Pueblo Beautiful and the Pueblo Streetscape Committee presented a list of beautification projects to City Council during the March 6th Work Session. This project renovated the existing streetscape, which was constructed in the late 1980’s, along Northern Avenue from Ray Aguilera Park to Elm Street. The project included the removal of dead trees, replacing soil, installation of new drip irrigation, planting of shrubs and perennial flowers, and adding groundcover.

PARKS & RECREATION

In 2019, all bleachers were removed from City ball fields due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was determined that these bleachers did not meet minimum safety height requirements and would require safety guardrails. During the June 5, 2023, City Council Work Session, it was requested by members of City Council that the Department should request ARPA funds to replace the



bleachers at Joe Santo's Field at Ray Aguilera Park and the two (2) youth diamonds at Stauter Field. A total of thirteen, five-row bleachers with safety guardrails were purchased for these facilities for a total cost of \$78,032. Bleachers will be assembled and in place by Spring 2024.



El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center has been without basketball backboards and goals since late 2021 when it was discovered that the existing wall mounted goals were compromising the gymnasium's brick walls. The mounted goal standards were removed to prevent any further damage while a structural engineer was contacted to evaluate the issue and make recommendations for repairs and installation of new ceiling mounted goals.

Once the brick walls were repaired, the decision was made to have architectural drawings created and quotes were requested for the replacement and installation of new backboards and goals. Fast forward over thirty months later to December 2023 to celebrate the installation of the new ceiling mounted goals and the return of basketball to the El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center.

The Parks and Recreation Department's Park Ranger Program saw some significant accomplishments in 2023:

A new full-time Park Ranger was hired in January 2023. The Mayor and City Council approved the addition of an additional full-time ranger to be hired in early 2024.

With the assistance from the City Legal Department, a Ride Along Release Form has been created for citizens and potential applicants to ride with a Park Ranger.



Additional in-service Park Ranger training implemented to enhance customer service and education to the park patrons.

Equipment upgrades:

- Park Ranger vehicle emergency lights have been upgraded to LED light systems
- Portable radios upgraded
- Level III vests and uniform upgrades



The Pueblo Bulls Hockey Club entered into a long-term lease/management agreement in late 2022 and instituted numerous program changes and improvements to the Pueblo Ice Arena this past year.

The facility is now known as the Pueblo Ice Arena and Event Center. To accommodate larger events and concerts, portable flooring was purchased to be used for temporary installation over the ice surface. The flooring allowed the Ice Hall capacity to increase from 800 to approximately 3,000 attendees. Country music star and Pueblo native Cody Cozz headlined the first ever concert in the Pueblo Ice Arena in August 2023.

Other noticeable changes include renovations of the lobby restrooms which included new toilets, sinks, counters, stalls, addition of baby changing stations, and installation of touchless paper towel dispensers and air hand dryers; construction of a women's locker room and relocation of the figure skating program office into the Ice Hall area of the facility.



The Birthday Party rooms were relocated into the main lobby and enlarged; new gas line was installed to accommodate new restaurant equipment for the snack bar; two beer gardens and serving areas were constructed within the Ice Hall area; installation of walk through security scanners; new carpet in building entry; Ice Hall area added new front row seating; new flooring in team bench areas; two large lofts and four small lofts built for VIP seating which include televisions and mini fridges; new scoreboard and time clocks at each end of the ice; ranch-style split rail fencing installed around the turf area located along the front of the arena with an enclosure near the front entrance for the Pueblo Bull mascot, "Pueblo the Bull"; and the installation of a new 5' x 10' digital sign with new logo on the back of building facing Court Street.

PARKS & RECREATION

“Experiencing the Collaboration and Community Engagement”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the need to collaborate with other agencies as well as to create opportunities for community engagement became a necessity to continue to work to bring the community back together. The following events and projects are shining examples of successful community partnerships and collaborations:

To help keep Pueblo beautiful, non-profit corporation Trees Please, Inc. requested to City Council funding in the amount of \$75,000 to hire a professional arborist to trim, remove, and replace dead and dying trees along the Abriendo Parkway from Dutch Clark Stadium south to Stauter Field. Funding was approved and the project was completed in August.

A special event permit was granted to the Food Truck Union in 2023 to host a food truck fest every Friday at Mineral Palace Park into the fall, weather permitting. Approximately twenty food trucks were in attendance weekly. The event has become so popular that the Food Truck Union added City Park to the permit for Sunday's May through October.



With support from the Department, the Southern Colorado Farmers Market and Craft Fair saw its fourth successful season at beautiful Mineral Palace Park. The market relocated from the Midtown Shopping Center to Mineral Palace Park in 2020. This successful weekly event was held every Friday morning from early July through the end of September. Vendors at the market accepted Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for purchase of their fresh food and produce.

August marked the inaugural “Battle of the Paddles” Pickleball Tournament. With the support of the Department, the Pueblo County Pickleball Association hosted the event at the new Mineral Palace Park Pickleball Courts. It was a huge success with over 160 players coming from across the nation to compete. Proceeds from the event help offset the improvement costs at the facility. The Department looks forward to supporting this event in the years to come.



The Colorado Lottery, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, and the Department’s annual “Runyon to Res” cleanup this past October saw over 125 volunteers pick up trash along the heavily used 7.5-mile stretch of the Arkansas River Trail from the Pueblo Reservoir to Runyon Lake.

This was the fifth annual conservation and stewardship event sponsored by the Colorado Lottery.

The Historic Pueblo Pioneer Cemetery Association continued to work closely with the Parks and Recreation Department to recruit volunteers to assist with several cemetery clean up projects. This annual clean up consists of weed removal, tree trimming, plot repairs, historic marker replacement, and gravestone resetting. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains this facility as a northside park site and relies on this non-profit organization for their expertise for maintaining the historic relevance of this respected park facility.



Markers with written histories have been placed near the graves of several individuals buried there are routinely replaced at the expense of the HPPCA due to vandalism. New members are needed to continue the preservation efforts of Pueblo’s oldest cemetery for future generations.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Community Development Department completes the review and approval of land use applications and zoning compliance reviews, designated historic building modifications, development submittals for new and expanded commercial and industrial locations, and conditional use permits for marijuana businesses. The submittals include Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals applications, in addition to the administrative review of zoning and compliance requests. The number of land use applications and certifications totaled 1,411 in 2023, compared to 1,880 in 2022. In 2023 single-family and multi-family residential building permits decreased from 262 to 132 permits, a decrease of 50% from 2022. The decrease is a direct effect of the increase in interest rates and the inflationary cost of building materials and labor costs. Land use applications for subdivisions, rezoning, annexations, street vacations, rearrangement of property boundaries and land use plans totaled 36 applications, a decrease of 40% from 2022, which also reflected the economic challenges that started in mid-2022.

Arkansas River Levee Project

The City of Pueblo partnered with the Pueblo Conservancy District to construct 2.3 miles of new trail on top of the newly created Arkansas River Levee platform. The project also includes two pedestrian suspension bridges located adjacent to the 4th Street and Main Street Bridges.



The pedestrian bridges provide pedestrian connections to the Levee Trail from the existing Arkansas River Trail and a loop trail from 4th Street to Main Street. The project also includes pedestrian connections from the Westside Neighborhood and Wildhorse Creek Trail, Blocks Neighborhood, the Grove Neighborhood, Runyon Field Sports Complex, and Runyon Lake. Eight decorative shade structures were constructed and multiple benches, trash cans, and bikes racks were placed adjacent to the new Levee Trail overlooking the Arkansas River. The Pueblo Conservancy District provided multiple interpretive signs describing the history of the Conservancy District and the Historic Pueblo Flood of 1921.



Gateway to the Southwest



The second Gateway Monument Structure of the Gateway to the Southwest project was completed in 2023. The sculptures are in roundabouts on the Dillon Drive bridge over Interstate 25.



The pair of Gateway Monumental Sculptures represent Pueblo as the gateway to our nation's Southwest landscape, heritage, and culture.

Approved Land Use Developments opened in 2023

Fuel & Iron - Holmes Hardware Building -The Fuel and Iron Food Hall on the historic Union Avenue opened in 2023 featuring five food vendors on the street level and 28 housing units on the upper two floors. The restoration of the Holmes Hardware Building received the History Colorado 2023 Stephen H. Hart award for an exemplary project preserving historic structures in Colorado.



Fuel and Iron received the Governor's Award and was the recipient of the 2024 Stephen H. Hart award. The award was presented in early December 2023.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

County Detention Facility

The property owned by Pueblo County for the future Pueblo County Detention Facility was annexed, Zoned & Subdivided by City Council in 2023. Construction is planned to commence in 2024.

Expansion of the Target Distribution Center Truck Terminal Facility

The property for the expansion of the truck terminal at the Target Distribution Center was rezoned by City Council and approved for development.

Barkman Library Expansion

Site and development plans were approved by the City Planning & Zoning Commission for the expansion to the Barkman Library within the Belmont neighborhood.

Avid Hotel - 855 Eagleridge Blvd

Land use approvals and a building permit were approved in 2023 and construction is underway for a new 67-room Avid Hotel located in the Eagleridge neighborhood.

Combining of Housing & Citizen Services within the Planning & Community Development Department

In December 2023, City Council approved the combining of the Housing and Citizen Services Department as a division of the Planning and Community Development Department. Citizens of the community will benefit from enhanced coordination in identifying potential infill multi-family residential development properties and determining the obstacles and costs of making these properties “housing development ready”. In many cases, potential housing sites require rezoning, subdivision, public infrastructure such as domestic water, wastewater, and stormwater improvements, along with roadway, sidewalk, ADA, and fire access improvements.

Unified Development Code

The Planning Department’s initiated work on the Unified Development Code at the end of 2023. The Unified Development Code will modernize the land use, zoning and subdivision codes are making the regulations more easily understood and implemented; and streamlining development while continuing to protect the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the City as enabled by the State of Colorado, §31-23-301, Colorado Revised Statutes. The City of Pueblo Title XVII, Zoning Code was adopted in 1968 and has been modified numerous times over the past 54 years. These selective modifications have resulted in conflicts, technical errors, and outdated regulatory tools within the code.

Unified Development Code (continued)

A new Unified Development Code will utilize best practices and new approaches specific that will address the following:

- Mixed use districts–incentivizing downtown mixed-use and fostering economic vitality;
- Affordable housing–encouraging new types of housing, exploring ways to expedite the planning and construction process;
- Commercial and industrial–incentives and development standards that provide aesthetic appeal while encouraging design flexibility; and
- Adaptive reuse and incentives for revitalizing older neighborhoods.

In June the Pueblo Area Council of Government (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) collaborated with City, County, Pueblo West, and the Pueblo Active Community Environments (PACE) to inform the public of current and future pedestrian and bicycle projects that will provide better access and connectivity to the broader network. On June 28, 2023, they successfully organized a bike-to-work day in celebration of Colorado’s Annual Bike-To-Work Day. There were 11 station locations where participants could take advantage of breakfast, business discounts, and Pueblo Chili!

PACOG/MPO is working on an initiative to implement a Complete Streets Policy for the City and County to make Pueblo’s transportation network safer, better connected and more accessible for all ages and abilities. They have conducted five complete street workshops with a diverse stakeholder group made up of City and County government employees, Federal Highway Administration Representatives, Colorado Department of Transportation representatives, and ADA Commission representatives. Two walk audits were conducted to better understand the opportunities that are available to make our community safe and accessible to all users and modes. This initiative will continue into 2024 with the goal of having a Complete Streets Policy by December 2024.

Exhibit A – Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews (2021 – 2023)

	2021	2022	2023
Planning & Zoning (recommendations)	52	56	36
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	7	4	5
Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	34	45	44
Historic Preservation Commission	16	21	10
Administrative Certifications	16	21	10
Administrative Approvals	91	85	76
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	478	506	313
Total	1610	1880	1411

Exhibit A - Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews (2021 - 2023)

Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Property Rezoning	21	22	12
Annexations	1	6	6
Subdivision	11	14	10
R-O-W Vacations	3	9	3
Street Name Changes	4	1	2
Urban Renewal Plan	0	2	2
Special District Service Plans	12	3	1
Total Applications	52	56	36

Planning & Zoning (Actions)	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Subdivision Special Area Plans	2	3	3
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	3	1	1
Development Plan Reviews	1	0	1
PUD Site Plan Reviews	1	0	1
Total Applications	7	4	5

Zoning Board of Appeals (Actions)	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Variances & Special Use Permits	34	45	44
Total Applications	34	45	44

Historic Preservation Commission	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Certificates of Appropriateness	12	11	7
Certified Local Gov't 106 Reviews	4	5	0
Historic Landmark Nominations	0	1	2
CLG & ADM DET	0	4	1
Total Applications	16	21	10

Administrative Certifications	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Business License Zoning Approval	545	695	655
Single-Family CO Inspections	132	165	113
Single Family Applications	187	227	116
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	60	76	43
Total Applications	924	1,163	927

Administrative Approvals	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	29	22	31
Cell Tower Permits	21	17	9
Conditional Use Permits-Marijuana	25	27	19
Subdivision- Lot Line Rearrangements	13	15	16
Extraterritorial Water	2	2	1
Interim Use Permits	1	2	0
Activities of State Interest (HB-1041)	0	0	0
Total Applications	91	85	76

Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	2021 Applications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications
Single Family	208	227	116
Single Family C.O.'s	132	165	113
Single Family Attached	1	6	2
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	8	0	0
Resident accessory structure	79	79	58
Resident additions	28	26	21
Demos			
Residential	9	3	2
Mobile Homes	13	0	1
Total Applications	478	506	313

PUBLIC WORKS

Mission Statement

The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide high quality, cost effective, and timely infrastructure services to the public and other City departments. The dedicated team of professionals will design, construct, operate, and maintain the public infrastructure resources that are entrusted to our care and provide valuable public services that better our City. We will enable quality of life enhancements and economic development for the entire Pueblo community by providing safe, compliant, and reliable public infrastructure solutions in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Department Organization and Functions

Engineering

- Performs all planning, design, and construction work for City facility and roadway projects.
- Provides facilities management and engineering expertise to support the continued operation and maintenance of City buildings and other infrastructure.
- Supports the procurement of all architecture, engineering, construction, and environmental services required by the City.
- Supports development efforts within the City by providing reviews for compliance with City and other applicable standards for subdivisions and individual properties.
- Coordinates construction planning efforts between City departments, utility providers, and other partners.
- Updates and adopts City standards and specifications to support the long-term operation and maintenance of City facilities and roadways.
- Provides construction management services for City facility and roadway projects.
- Prepares and updates the City's corporate map and maintain files and records for reference by property owners, engineers, and subdivision developers.
- Develops a recapitalization plan for the City's road network and develop a long-term asset management strategy for all roadway infrastructure.

Transportations/Traffic Maintenance

- Provides transportation engineering services to support the safe and efficient operation of the City's road network for all users.
- Analyzes traffic operations and develops projects for roadway improvements and upgrades.
- Reviews applications for construction and development within the City for compliance with established construction standards.
- Reviews temporary traffic control plans for projects that conduct work in the right-of-way to ensure efficient traffic operations and the safety of drivers, construction crews, and the general public within the work zone.
- Reviews applications for revocable permits for use of the public right-of-way.
- Reviews applications for oversize/overweight vehicle permits.
- Inspects, maintains, and repairs traffic signals and roadway markings.

Transportations/Traffic Maintenance (continued)

- Fabricates and installs all roadway signage.
- Coordinates with the Colorado Department of Transportation for issues involving the state highway network.
- Issues permits for use of City-owned parking facilities.
- In coordination with the Police Department, provides parking enforcement services.

Streets Maintenance and Street Sweeping

- Builds in-house capacity to perform required roadway maintenance activities including pothole repair and patching, crack sealing, mowing operations, snow and ice plowing and treatment, tree trimming, and other activities required to maintain a safe and reliable road network.
- Improves the pedestrian and bicycle transportation system to support a continuous, safe, and desirable walking and biking environment.
- Identifies and implements projects to improve accessibility to City infrastructure located in the public right-of-way.
- Develops service level standards for operation and maintenance activities within City roadways.
- Where required, facilitates upgrades for roads, sidewalks, and associated infrastructure that do not currently meet City standards.

Facilities Maintenance

- Develop a long-term asset management strategy for City facilities and real property.
- Build a facility preventive maintenance program that optimizes the life cycle costs for City facilities and supports the long-term facility asset management plan.
- Identify opportunities to achieve operational cost savings where appropriate through cost-effective energy-saving projects and selecting projects based on the long-term cost of ownership.
- Improve accessibility to City facilities to maximize public access to City services.
- Manage facility use agreements between the City and other stakeholders.

Solid Waste

- Support the continued operation of Pueblo RecycleWorks and identify opportunities to broaden participation and program effectiveness through collaboration with outside stakeholders.

Stormwater

- Install, operate, and maintain the City's stormwater and drainage infrastructure
- Administer floodplain regulations within the City and coordinate with state and federal agencies for floodplain-related development
- Review development and land use applications for compliance with stormwater regulations and construction standards
- Enforce the provisions of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

In addition to the specific functions above, the Public Works Department (in cooperation with other City Departments) also supports efforts to eliminate blight from economically depressed areas within the City through the vacant property registration program and, where necessary and appropriate, demolishing and abating dangerous properties located within the City. Public Works also provides coordination, labor, and equipment support to City-wide clean up efforts to combat illegal dumping sites.

PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering

The Engineering Division has 22 staff positions supporting a variety of projects across the City. One of their primary functions is leading the City's construction management program which includes planning, design, and construction execution for City projects that maintain, repair, upgrade, and/or construct public infrastructure. In 2023, the Engineering Division oversaw more than 100 capital improvements projects including design and construction of both vertical and horizontal construction, supporting Public Works road and facility projects as well as projects for other City departments such as Parks and Recreation, Airport, Fire, Police, Municipal Court, and Housing and Citizen Services. A small selection of the projects performed this year are highlighted below:

- Construct Arkansas River Trail Access
- Design Fire Stations 6, 8, and 11
- ADA Curb Ramp Improvements - various locations
- Elmwood Golf Course Cart Path Phase IV Construction
- Prairie to Lake Minnequa Trail Construction
- City Park Pool Parking Lot Repaving
- Design for Mineral Palace Park Greenhouses
- Fountain Creek Trail Repair
- Fire Station 5 Truck Bay Repairs
- Whitlock Treatment Plant Outfall and Trail Repair
- Chiller Repairs at Pueblo Municipal Justice Center
- Various Road Repairs and Maintenance (see below for additional detail)

Another key support function performed by the Engineering Division is the review of applications for new land development. These include applications for annexations, subdivisions, special area plans, vacation plats, rearrangement of property boundaries and commercial construction site plan reviews which facilitate ongoing economic development within our community and ensure that quality infrastructure is provided for public use and enjoyment.

Road Repairs and Maintenance

The Public Works Department currently maintains approximately 1,300 lane miles (approximately 500 roadway centerline miles) in the City of Pueblo. Work on the City's roads completed in 2023 was funded primarily from two sources:

- Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF)/Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) Funds (State of Colorado)
- General Fund (City)

Fees for the City's Street Repair Utility Enterprise were initially suspended in January of 2022 and, unless changed by action of City Council, will remain suspended through the end of 2024.

In 2023, \$10M was budgeted to repair City roadway infrastructure. This amount is consistent with the City's investment in road repair and maintenance made in 2021 and 2022, but is a significant increase over previous years. The funds budgeted to this effort in 2023 allowed for the resurfacing of over 48 lane miles of aging roadways across the City. Not only were deteriorated pavements repaired, but damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps were also upgraded. A selection of the road repair projects completed in 2023 included the following:

- Prairie Avenue (from Northern Avenue to Pueblo Boulevard)
- Prairie Avenue (from Farabaugh Lane to Prairie Hawk Lane)
- Ridge Drive (from US Highway 50 to Eagleridge Boulevard)
- Abriendo Avenue (from Cleveland Street to Washington Street)
- W. 11th Street (from Pueblo Boulevard to Adee Avenue)
- Cheyenne Avenue (from W. 11th Street to W. 14th Street)
- Starlight Road (from Bridle Trail to the City limit)
- Cleveland Street (from Abriendo Avenue to Goodnight Avebye)
- Goodnight Avenue (from Cleveland Street to City Park)
- Troy Avenue (from US Highway 50 Bypass to Rawlings Avenue)
- Rawlings Avenue (from Troy Avenue to the Colorado State University Pueblo campus)
- Baltimore Avenue (from US Highway 50 to W. 29th Street)
- St. Clair Avenue (from Princeton to Temple)
- W. 18th Street (two blocks constructed from Perry Avenue to Sun Mountain Boulevard)
- W. 32nd Street/Morris Avenue (sidewalk/curb and gutter repairs only)

ADA curb ramps were also upgraded on Court Street and Northern Avenue in preparation for road resurfacing work that will take place on those streets in 2024. In addition, Public Works has completed the design work for the resurfacing of Lime Road required to bid out the work in early 2024.

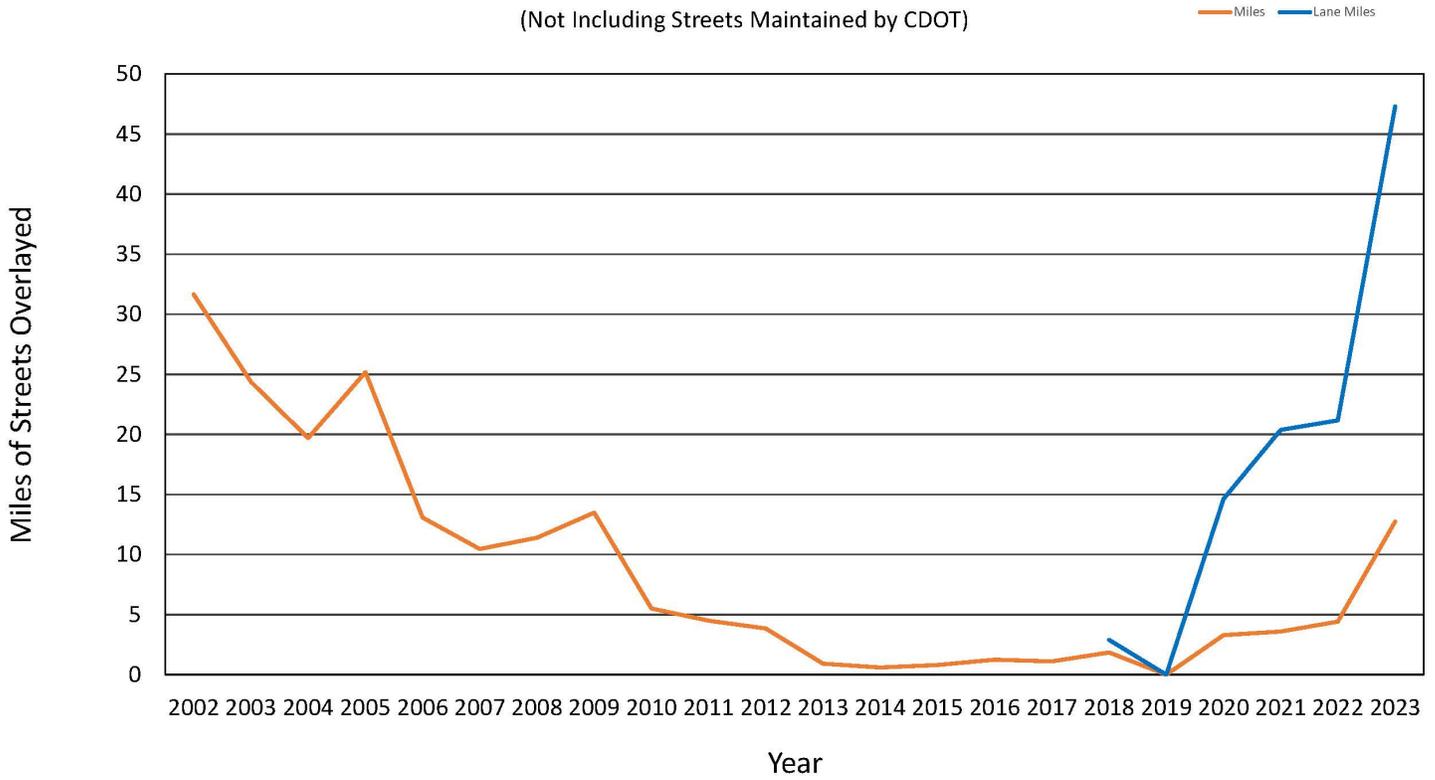
Abriendo Avenue was one of the first roads resurfaced during the 2023 paving season.



The chart on the follow page highlights the number of miles of City roads that were resurfaced or rebuilt between 2002 and 2023. The orange line shows the number of centerline miles repaired while the blue line shows the number of lane miles of road repaired in each year. The distinction between centerline miles and lane miles is important because the City has been working on several arterial and collector roadways which are generally have more travel lanes, parking lanes, and other features such as dedicated bicycle lanes. Significantly more asphalt is required for these roads when compared to most residential streets. The number of lane miles repaired has been tracked since the Street Repair Utility Enterprise was established in 2018.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets Repaired from 2002 - 2023
(Not Including Streets Maintained by CDOT)



Year	Miles of Paved Roadway	Miles of Roadways Resurfaced or Rebuilt	Percentage of Paved Roadways Repaired
2017	498.42	1.11	0.22%
2018	498.34	1.85	0.37%
2019	500.22	0	0%
2020	502.07	3.29	0.66%
2021	506.48	3.59	0.71%
2022	507*	4.41	0.87%
2023	507*	12.74	2.51%

* The length of new roads added to the City's inventory in 2022 is still being finalized. Final acceptance of these roads is pending at this time.

The Engineering Division completed a City-wide pavement condition assessment in June of 2022 which included every City street. The assessment provides a snapshot of the current condition of every street to assist in prioritizing maintenance projects and development of a long-range maintenance plan. Using modeling software, City engineers can predict the future condition of pavements and prioritize different types of maintenance activities which will maximize the service life of our roads and minimize overall lifecycle cost. The public can view the results of the survey and see the impacts made through the City's investment in roadway infrastructure using an online interactive map, which is available on the City's website at <https://www.pueblo.us/2895/Road-Condition-Assessment-Summary>.

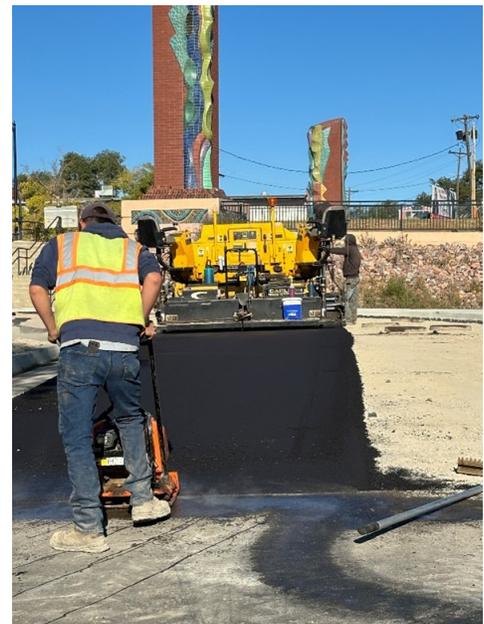
In the City's 2024 annual budget, the City has maintained a \$10M investment toward road improvements. In addition to Prairie, Ridge, and Abriendo, there are a number of road repair projects tentatively being planned for design and construction in 2023-2024:

- Northern Avenue (Prairie Avenue to I-25)
- Dillon Drive (Eagleridge Drive to Carruth Lane)
- Dillon Drive (Elizabeth Street to City Limit)
- Court Street (City Center to W. 24th Street)
- Cheyenne Avenue (W. 19th Street to W. 27th Street)
- Lime Road (I-25 to City Limit)
- Alan Hamel Drive (Santa Fe Avenue to Main Street)
- B Street (Mechanic Street to cul-de-sac)
- D Street (Main Street to Oneida Street)

2. Street Maintenance

The Street Maintenance Division is responsible for ensuring that Pueblo's streets and alleys are safe, clean, and available for the use of our residents, businesses, and visitors at all times.

Pueblo's Street Maintenance Division is staffed by 32 full-time, dedicated employees providing a variety of street maintenance, utility coordination, and cleanup services City-wide. Our primary focus is to ensure that pavement surfaces are maintained adequately by providing timely repairs and crack sealing in addition to other surface treatments.



Public Works Streets Maintenance crews at work repairing City roadways

2. Street Maintenance (continued)

Street Maintenance is tasked with roadway vegetation management during the spring and summer seasons as well as plowing and sanding services on major city streets throughout our community during the winter months. The Streets Maintenance Division is also responsible for the removal of unsightly illegal dumping from City roadways and assists with occasional mowing of unimproved city properties, as resources permit.

Additionally, the division provides street sweeping services in City roadways. The street sweeping program improves water quality, air quality, road maintenance, aesthetics, and, most importantly, enhances public safety. The street sweeping fleet consists of four street sweepers and four street sweeper operators along with two dump trucks and two truck drivers that accompany the sweepers. These trucks aid in the efficiency of our sweeping program as the sweepers do not have to drive to the collection area to dump.

3. Transportation and Traffic Management

The mission of the Transportation Division is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on the City's public roadways. This Division engineers and maintains all traffic control devices within the Pueblo City limits. In addition, the Transportation Division reviews all commercial site plans, subdivisions, and other related planning reviews and activities.



This year the Division reviewed numerous new commercial construction site plans, conditional use permits, marijuana license renewal applications, subdivisions, rearrangement of property boundaries, and performed other inspections and reviews. The Division also collects traffic data for planning activities.

The Traffic Maintenance Branch maintained a total of 163 signalized intersections through 2023. This number includes 106 traffic signals owned by the City of Pueblo. Also, through intergovernmental agreements, the City maintained 41 intersections that belong to the Colorado Department of Transportation and six signalized intersections that are located in and owned by Pueblo County. Both of these external maintenance agreements ended in 2023, so the City's Traffic Maintenance crews will only be maintaining City-owned signals going into 2024.

Other traffic control devices that maintained include twelve flashing school speed limit signs, as well as one radar speed limit sign on Constitution Avenue. There are also ten intersections with flashing red lights above stop signs that are maintained by the Traffic Maintenance Branch.

In addition to the traffic signal maintenance work, Traffic Signal Technicians also perform underground utility location services for all traffic control devices within the City. All applications for work within the right-of-way are reviewed for potential conflicts and utilities are marked to minimize the risk of damage to City infrastructure during construction activities. A portion of the locates performed protect the City's fiber-optic cable network that belongs to the IT Department. The Traffic Maintenance Branch occasionally assists with repair to damaged fiber optic cables, as well as other various maintenance on the fiber network

In addition to maintaining the City's traffic signals, the Traffic Maintenance Branch is also responsible for the installation and maintenance of all of the City's roadway signs, striping and markings. The sign shop produced numerous signs to replace those that were faded, peeling, or damaged, and for installation on newly-constructed roads.



Public Works replaced the traffic signal at Union Ave. and the RiverWalk.

4. Facilities Maintenance Division

The mission of the Facilities Maintenance Division is to provide safe, healthy, and comfortable facilities for City employees and the public, and to protect the City's capital investment in those buildings and equipment. The current personnel responsible for the maintenance of the City's buildings include one working supervisor and nine highly-trained service technicians and craftsmen who perform a variety of skilled trade work.

The Facilities Maintenance Division is responsible for 130 buildings with an average age of 42 years. The insured value on said buildings is over \$140,000,000 and includes over 1.5 million square feet of building space.



This year, the Facilities Maintenance Division completed numerous renovations of administrative and office spaces, repaired water and sewer service lines to City facilities, and provided hours of support to various City departments with specialized work on their facilities and equipment.

Public Works Facilities Maintenance crews maintaining City facilities

PUBLIC WORKS

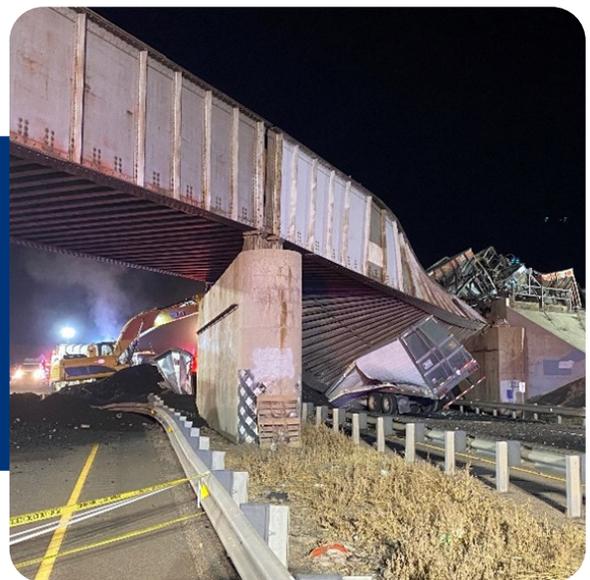
5. Other Public Works Support to the Pueblo Community

On October 15, 2023, the Public Works Department was called to respond to a train derailment and collapsed bridge crossing over I-25 just north of the City. Streets and Stormwater crews deployed to the accident scene to provide heavy equipment support until the railroad and other state and federal agencies were able to respond with additional resources.



The accident resulted in one fatality with numerous rail cars derailed and spilling coal across both lanes of the interstate and the collapse of the bridge structure over the northbound lanes of the interstate. The interstate remained closed for several days following the incident while the accident investigation and cleanup took place.

Public Works with both internal partners such as Pueblo Fire Department and Pueblo Police Department along with external partners, BNSF Railway and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) during clean up.



PUBLIC WORKS

During 2023, the Public Works Department and community partners including the Colorado State Fair, Colorado State University Pueblo, Black Hills, and others, hosted two community-wide “Team Up to Clean Up” events. The events were open to all City residents who were able to bring large items, limbs and branches, tires, and other household waste items to centralized drop-off locations for disposal free of charge. The fall event in October was held at two sites - the State Fairgrounds and at the CSU Pueblo campus. In May, the drop-off location was at the State Fairgrounds. Over 2,000 households took advantage of the opportunities to clean up, filling nearly 150 roll-off dumpsters.



The City of Pueblo offers two City-wide clean ups each year at no-cost to Pueblo residents.

The Public Works Department, working with other City departments and the Colorado Department of Transportation, also worked to combat illegal dumping in City right-of-way and public property through direct cleanups. In November, Public Works crews removed over 13 roll-off dumpsters of trash and debris near Eagleridge and Dillon and hauled more than 10 additional truckloads of waste to the landfill.



Stormwater and Streets Maintenance crews, along with the Fire Department, assisted the Police Department with the removal of two vehicles from Fountain Creek in December. One of the vehicles had been stolen and the driver attempted to elude Police by driving into Fountain Creek.

PUBLIC WORKS

Working with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) and other community partners and local artists, provided support to facilitate the establishment of the Pueblo Art Walk project which opened this year. The project includes three marked and signed pathways varying between one and three miles in length through the City's Grove, Bojon Town, and Bessemer neighborhoods. Persons walking along the pathways can access an online app to receive a curated guide to key sites along the route, historical landmarks, and information about various artwork displays that have been installed along the route.



The Art Walk's grand opening ceremony was held on April 28, 2023, including a ribbon cutting and guided tours.

The Public Works Department also hosted a "Pop Up Clean Up" event on July 14, 2023 in the Bessemer community near Mesa Avenue and Elm Street. In just a few hours, neighborhood volunteers and City crews removed over six tons of trash and debris from the area, filling more than two roll-off dumpsters. Public Works also delivered several dump trucks full of waste to the landfill. Community members were excited to directly take part in cleaning up their neighborhood.

City staff appreciated the opportunity to interact closely with the citizens they serve.



PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT

Pueblo Food Project (PFP) is a City/County initiative that uses the community's voice to create food systems change. The goal of the Pueblo Food Project is to create a more vibrant, nutritious, and equitable food system for every eater in Pueblo County. PFP welcomes every Puebloan to join. Pueblo Food Project began in Spring 2019 after a visit from Senator Michael Bennet and Walter Robb, former CEO of Whole Foods. Since then PFP has been awarded several competitive grants to support our mission. PFP grants focus on a few key areas, healthy food access, food systems education, and local food economy.



In Spring/Summer 2023 PFP launched their fourth season of the edible landscapes project. The four locations include Central Plaza, Mineral Palace Park, Sunset Park and JJ Raigoza Park. These gardens were supported by the CSU Extension Master Gardeners Program and the PFP Community Garden Sustainability Program. The Community Garden Sustainability Program supported 5 community gardens in the community getting drip irrigation systems, high quality soil, and new raised beds, to aid in the longevity of the garden programs. At the end of the growing season we estimate over 800lbs of produce was provided to the community from the various edibles landscapes and community gardens.

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The PFP community pantry was funded in 2023 for \$200,000 from various grants. These grants allowed PFP to fill the pantry for the majority of the year. The pantry is stocked with local foods such as: Milberger's Green Chile, Rusler Pinto beans, Gagliano's sausage and much more. The pantry is hosted on The Latino Chamber's Supporting Pueblo website; hunger relief organizations are able to make a 'free' order and fill their pantries with local food. PFP has now spent close to \$1,000,000.00 on local food for the use of the Pueblo Food Project Community Pantry. The Community Pantry provides access to free food to more than 15 community agencies that provide food to the most in need.

PUEBLO FOOD PROJECT

The PFP Youth Council “The Fooducates” had a fantastic year. In February they prepared 500 fruit baskets for their Fruits of Love Project. The group consists of over 15 high school aged students from all over Pueblo County. This year the Fooducates were excited about cooking and farming. The group held a ‘Film with the Fooducates’ event where kiddos of all ages were able to join to watch the movie Ratatouille and make Ratatouille together. Pueblo Food Project also visited a local farm called Nola Naturals where we harvested garlic and were introduced to the farm animals. The Fooducate’s Intern, Geonna King was on the planning committee for the Youth Track at the Colorado Food Summit where 50 kids from around the state participated.



Pueblo Food Project offers various cooking classes for students, families and community members to learn more about healthy eating and the food system within Pueblo.

Pueblo Food Project held the 3rd Annual Sun Soil Water Summit in March of 2023, earning participation from over 200 community members. Serving locally sourced meals for dinner and lunch, this event was an absolute success. Community members join to learn about agriculture, the local food system, gardening, foraging, and so much more! This next Sun Soil Water Summit will be held February 23rd and 24th of 2024.

PFP held their second Entrepreneur Development Program from February - May of 2023. 10 of 12 students graduated from the program! After a very successful pilot year the second year was an absolute homerun! Students received many incentives and even participated in a pitch competition, winning our top two entrepreneurs \$1,000.00 and \$500.00!



Finally, Pueblo Food Project had a banner year for funding, receiving over \$500,000 of grant money for the next several years of programming.

PUEBLO TRANSIT

The department participation in the State SB 22-280 funded "Zero Fare for Better Air." Pueblo Transit's participation was a huge success in the program's second year. Ridership was increased by 30% in June, 35% in July and 15% in the month of August putting Transit ahead of Pre-Pandemic numbers for the year.

This added to an already successful recovery year with steady growth in ridership averaging 3% for the other nine months of the year.

Zero Fare For Better Air

Ride Pueblo Transit & Citi-Lift FREE All Summer Long in June, July & August!

Special Pueblo Transit summer shuttles:
Care & Share: June 28, July 26, August 23
Pueblo Pride: August 20
Colorado State Fair: August 25-31

Find out more information at www.pueblo.us or call 719-553-2725

Pueblo Transit had two personnel graduate from the Human Resources Leadership Academy increasing front line supervisors knowledge and filling their work toolboxes.

Two new hybrid buses were purchased with 2019 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds and placed in service.



PUEBLO TRANSIT

Pueblo Transit also received the E Transition Planning Grant to prepare the map for transitioning to an electric Transit fleet.



Yanera McCulley-Sedillo, vice president of the Central High School Alumni Foundation and Mike Sexton, president of the Centennial High School Alumni Foundation helped announce the reveal of the two new hybrid buses purchased for Pueblo Transit.



Pueblo Transit Board received official notice from the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) for the award of the Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Option Fund (MMOF) grant in the amount of \$65,000 to provide free transit service for youth. Youth include kindergarten to grade 12 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Year End Goals

Pueblo Transit is planning the re-purposing of two trailer routes to better utilized areas that fit the city's changing needs. These two trailer routes will start running in the second quarter of 2024.

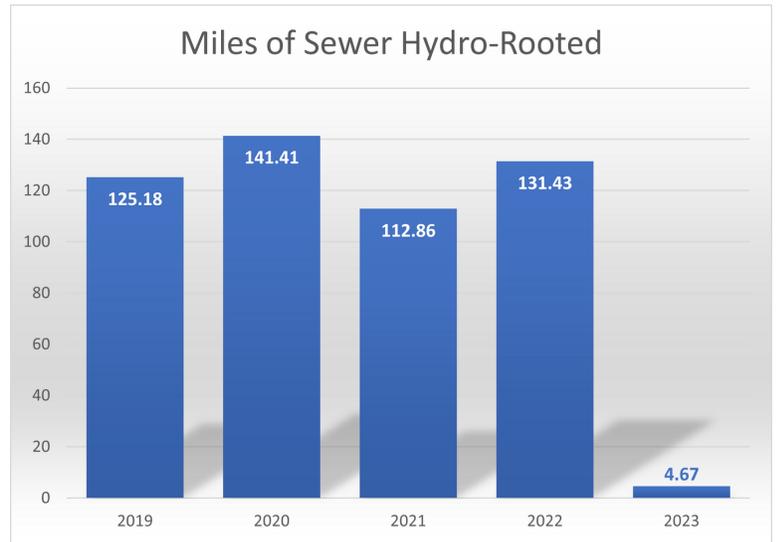
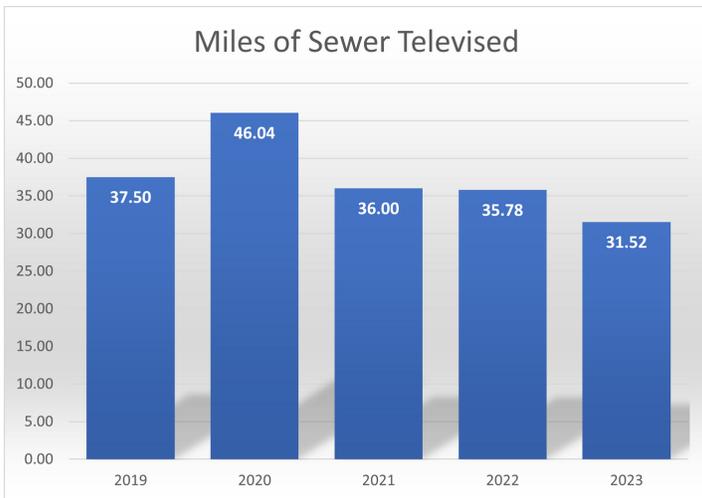
A total system study is on the horizon in conjunction with PACOG for 2024. Lastly, a van pool pilot program has been funded with State Multi Modal Funds and will be put into service by early 2024.

WASTEWATER

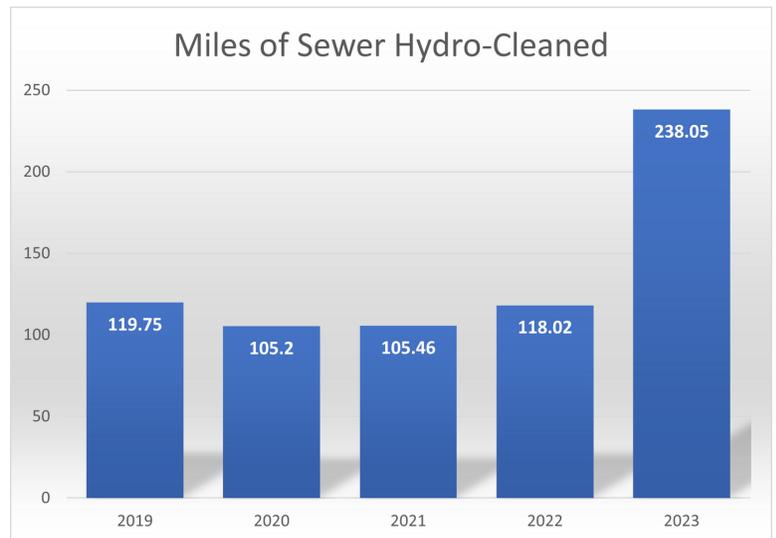
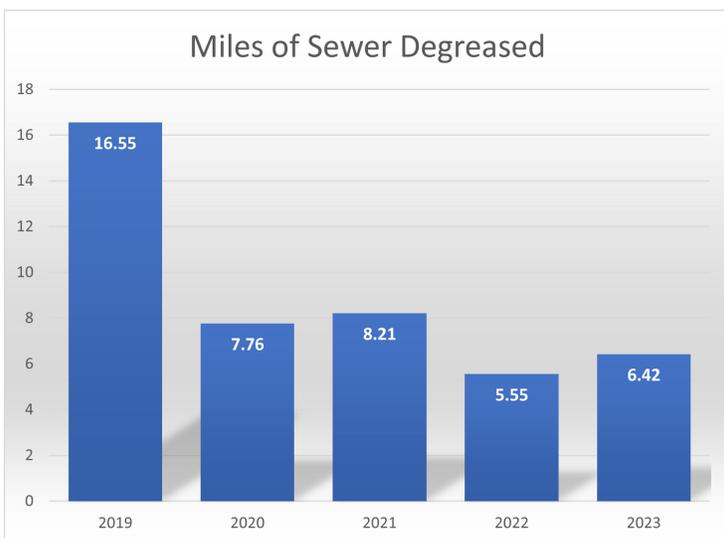
The Wastewater Department is an enterprise with the mission of collecting and reclaiming wastewater in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. This mission is done by collecting sanitary sewage from residences, businesses, and industries; conveying sewage to the wastewater treatment facility safely and efficiently; treating sewage to levels specified by federal and state law; and disposing of residual materials in compliance with legal requirements.

The Wastewater Reclamation Facility has the capacity to treat 19 million gallons per day (MGD) of municipal wastewater. The Pretreatment staff inspect and monitor industries to protect the Wastewater Reclamation Facility and the collection system from harmful discharges.

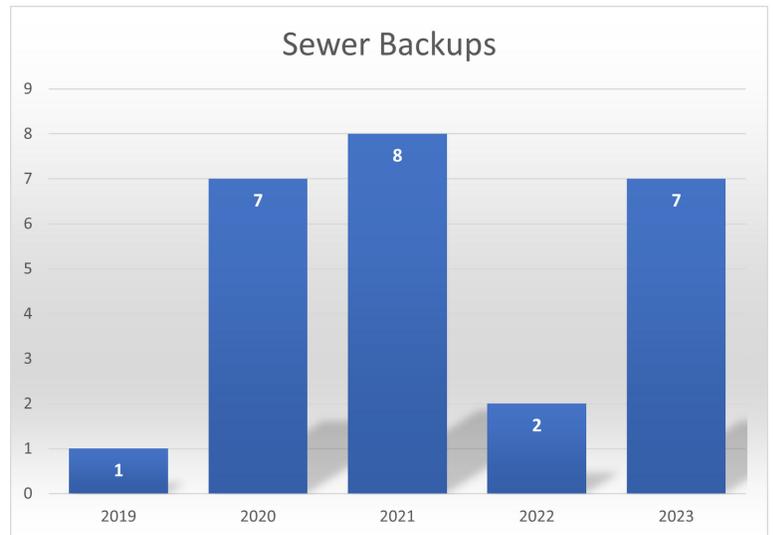
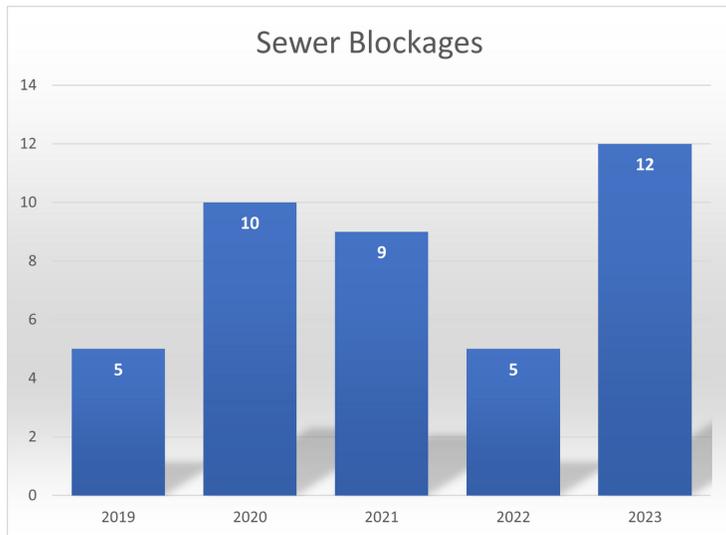
The Wastewater Collection Division maintains the sanitary sewer collection mains, including cleaning, rooting, televising, sealing, and repairing sewer mains.



In addition, the Wastewater Department has standby crews on call 24 hours a day to respond to plant emergencies or sanitary main blockages.

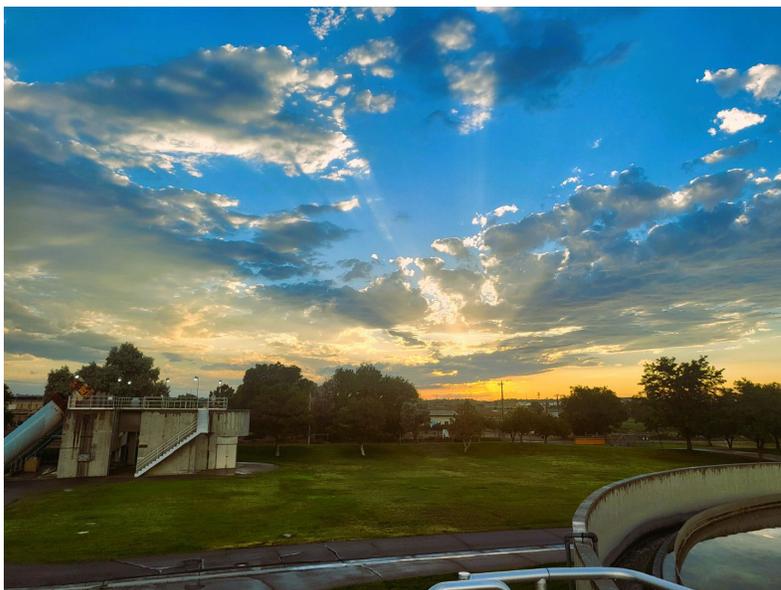


WASTEWATER



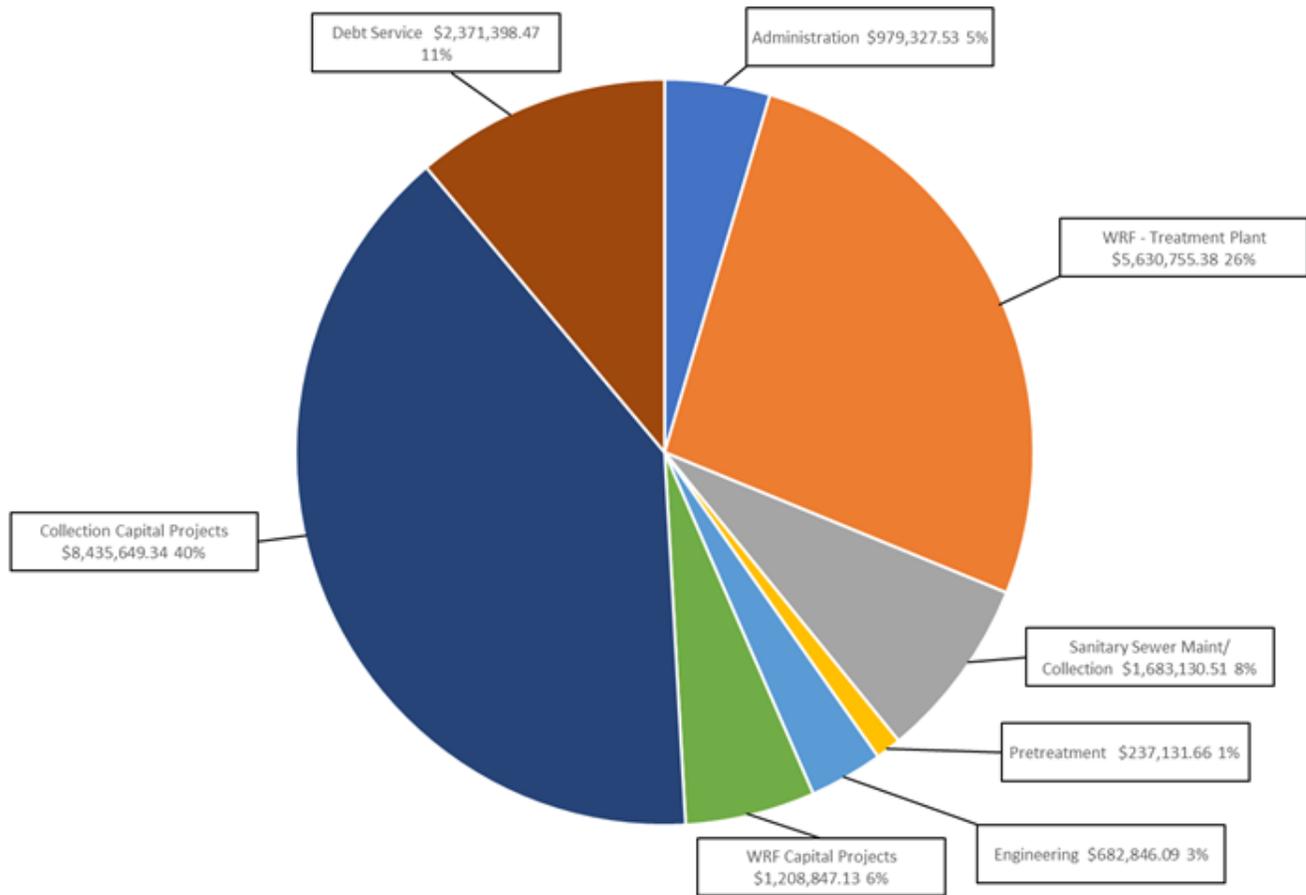
Engineering Division reviews subdivision plans, evaluates, and prioritizes sewer system rehabilitation, maintains computerized records, designs engineering plans for construction, and inspects all new and rehabilitated sanitary sewer mains for proper installation.

The Wastewater Administration is responsible for administrative duties, budget management and maintaining compliance with Federal, State and local regulatory requirements.



The Wastewater Department has a long record of compliance and good relationships with the State and EPA. Recently the Wastewater Department won a Peak Performance Platinum Award for 9 years full compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

2023 Wastewater Expenses & Encumbrances by Division



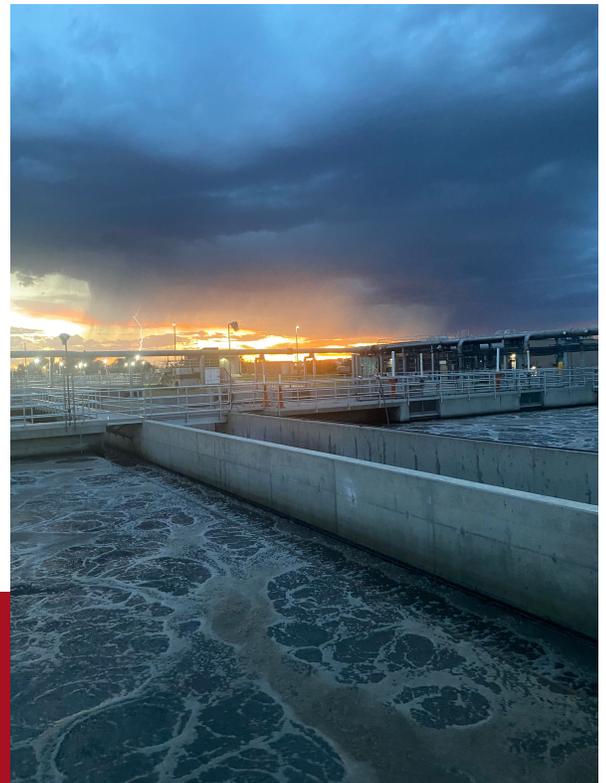
2023 Infrastructure Projects

Collection Projects	Cost	2023
Large Main Lining	\$300,027.40	This money was used to design the lining of 60 inch piipe that brings wastewater into the water reclamation facility.
Small Main Remove and Replace	\$3,509,365	Pipe and manholes are removed and replaced in a main less than 24 inches.
Annual Manhole Rehabilitation	\$493,574	Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Emergency Projects	\$602,679	Emergency repairs to fix sanitary mains that have failed or have a blockage.

Water Reclamation Infrastructure	Cost	2023
Phase 4 Electrical Rehabilitation Design 2020-2021	\$1,405,324	Completed design plans started the end of 2020 for project to replace Headworks and Primary Clarifier Area Control Panels and Motor Control Centers. The design has been completed and the project will be bid on next year.

In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2023, additional highlights include:

- Annual reports continue to be submitted to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission for the Discharger Specific Variance (DSV) for selenium and sulfate. The DSV was reviewed in October 2023 and the City of Pueblo was thanked for the work that has been completed to control the infiltration of selenium and sulfate into the sanitary sewer system. The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission voted to continue with the DSV conditions that were approved in 2018 without any changes.
- All sanitary sewer mains are prioritized per the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) that was established by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO). Repair and maintenance of the Collection system is addressing the mains with the highest priority annually.
- Maintained a schedule of cleaning sanitary sewer mains at least once every two years to minimize backups and overflows
- The Collection crew continued working toward televising 100% of all city sewer mains.
- Three million in ARPA funds have been awarded to extend the city sewer mains to the north near Wildhorse Creek to allow development in areas that were inhibited by lack of City infrastructure. The design of this project is almost completed and will go out to bid in early 2024. The \$6.8 million project is expected to be done in 2024.



A photo taken at the James R. Dilorio Water Reclamation Facility in July 2023

- Two million ARPA funds were awarded to upsize pipe on the west side of the city to accommodate flows from housing development and the county jail. This project is in the design phase.
- Two million in ARPA funds were awarded to extend the sanitary sewer line in Northern to facilitate development in the area. This project is in the design phase.

WASTEWATER

Goals in 2024

- Meet all Colorado Discharge Permit requirements.
- Improve the reliability of the aging water reclamation facility by completing the Phase 4 Electrical Upgrades and the upgrades to the SCADA system at the water reclamation facility.
- Selenium Discharger Specific Variance will provide some regulatory relief or selenium and sulfate removal requirement. The variance allows 10 years to complete \$10 million of infrastructure improvements to reduce infiltration of ground water high in selenium and sulfate and to test pilot treatments that may be necessary to install if groundwater infiltration can't be reduced enough to meet stream standards. The stream standards have been met for selenium in dry weather for about two years, but wet weather increases groundwater infiltration causing increased levels of selenium and sulfate.
- Work with the Water Quality Control Division stakeholder process to ensure Pueblo's views are communicated to the Division on regulatory changes to limit unnecessary impacts and provide hearing comments on regulatory and policy updates.
- Continue to analyze samples in the Wastewater laboratory to provide data to monitor each process in the Water Reclamation Facility, sample manholes in the collection system, verify compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit, analyze samples from potential sources of pollutants, samples from Fountain Creek and Arkansas River, and for special studies.

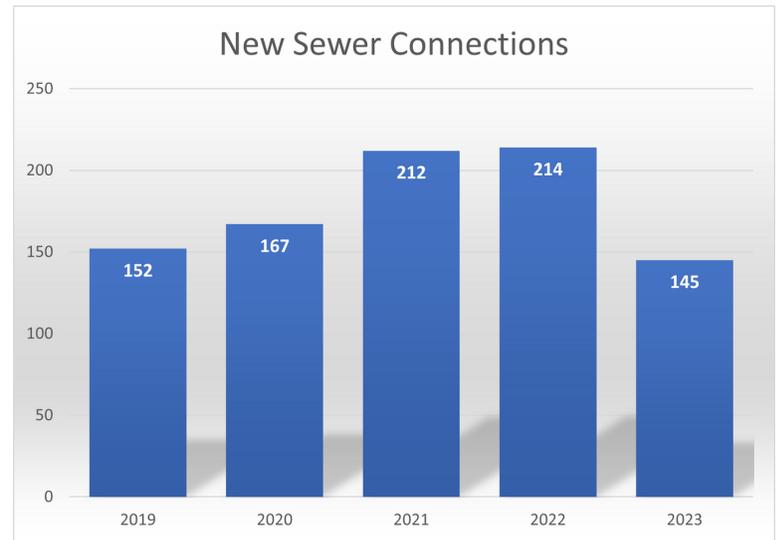
Challenges

- The groundwater picks up selenium and sulfate as it flows through the natural Pierre Shale layers that underlies the City of Pueblo. Infiltration of this groundwater into the sanitary sewer system causes high concentrations of selenium and sulfate that must be removed by the Water Reclamation Facility to meet stream standards. The City does not own the private service lines, but they can be a major source if the homeowners do not maintain them. Also, sump pumps that are illegally connected to the sanitary system can increase the selenium and sulfate concentrations. Extremely expensive treatment of the wastewater will be required if elimination of groundwater infiltration is not effective.
- The Wastewater Department continues to work on energy efficiency and upgrading the infrastructure. Cost of repairs/replacement makes it difficult to catch up with the needs.
 - The Water Reclamation Facility is over 30 years old; equipment and infrastructure are needing repairs and upgrades. Some equipment is to the point that parts and service are not supported. The processes that have been required to meet regulatory changes have been upgraded but the rest of the facility is aging rapidly.
 - The sanitary sewer system is very old. 17.6 % of the sanitary mains are over 100 years old and 47.5% are 51-99 years old. Only 34.9% are under 50 years old.

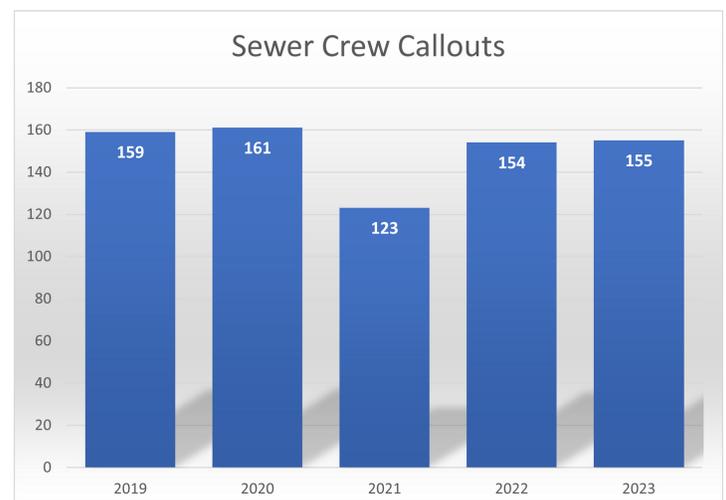


Challenges (continued)

- Significantly lower nutrients standards will be finalized by the Water Quality Control Commission in 2027 and will require an estimated \$20 million addition to the Water Reclamation Facility to reach the next level of required treatment.



- PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) have been determined to be a pollutant of concern by the Water Quality Control Commission. Monitoring will be required to identify sources and requirements are expected in our next discharge permit. It is unknown at this time if treatment will be required.
- The improper disposal of wipes and other consumer products cause extensive problems for wastewater utilities. Wipes are not engineered to quickly break down or dissolve when flushed down the toilet. They can adhere to other improperly flushed products such as fats, oils and grease or tree roots forming major blockages that can result in sewer overflows and environmental harm. Wipes also clog home plumbing and may damage wastewater treatment equipment, such as pumps. Many wipes are also made from plastics that can release particles into the environment and harm aquatic ecosystems. Improper labeling on disposal wipes products can result in substantial costs to wastewater utilities and the ratepayers they serve.
- The Collection crew responded to 155 emergency call outs in 2023 to check sanitary mains and clean them if blocked to assist the citizens. If the main is not blocked the affected homeowner is notified that there is an issue in their service line. This saves the homeowner from calling a plumber until it is verified that the issue is not in the city system. In addition, our crews have a very aggressive requirement to clean all lines at least once every two years to make sure we limit the number of issues. Most of the North Range cities have a standard of once every 3-5 years.
- The Water Reclamation Facility will begin to evaluate ways to reduce the environmental impact of treatment by energy reduction and resource recovery through hydropower, biogas production, solar, nutrient recovery, and chemical reduction to determine the most cost-effective improvements that can be made.
- Significant turnover in staff is anticipated within the next five years due to the age of the work force. Training new staff and incorporating new leaders into the organizational structure will present staffing challenges.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Many proclamations and recognitions are presented at Pueblo City Council meetings throughout the year to recognize the efforts, awards and accomplishments of residents in Pueblo. Additionally this is an opportunity to sometimes invite the public to join in on an effort like Creek Week with the Watershed District, which is held each fall to help clean up Fountain Creek.



A joint City-County Proclamation was given for Gateway to the Southwest on December 15. Artist of the Gateway to the Southwest sculptures featured on the I-25 and Dillon Dr. overpass Ken Williams, former City Councilor Steve Nawrocki, Councilor Vicente Martinez Ortega, project manager Bill Zwick.

Recognition of the Pueblo East High School Wrestling team who won the Class 4A State Wrestling Championship on February 18.



2023 Colorado State Fair “Mountains of Fun”

Councilors Graham, Flores and Martinez in attendance at the annual Legislative BBO hosted by the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.



Pueblo City Council members Heather Graham, Vicente Martinez-Ortega (and dog Chico) and Sarah Martinez rode on the City of Pueblo float for the State Fair Parade and Fiesta Day Parade. The float was decorated by general service employees, volunteers, mid-management and interns. The City of Pueblo’s float won Judge’s Choice in the Fiesta Day Parade.

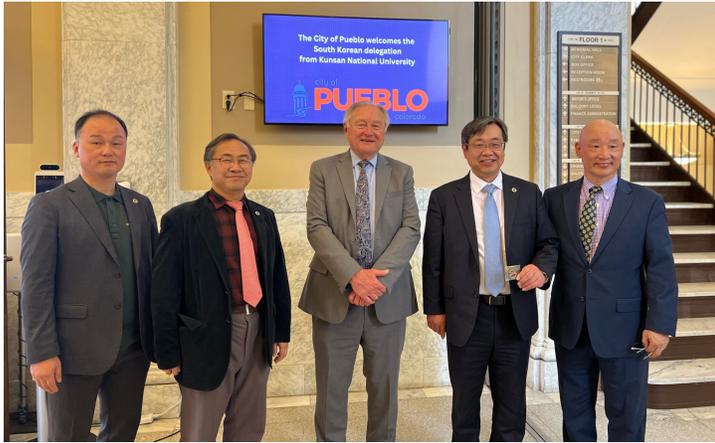


Right : Mayor Gradisar is featured at the Colorado State Fair “Mayor’s Day” event with Colorado State Fair Commissioners.



Each year the Mayor’s Office hosts Mayor’s Day at the Colorado State Fair and invites the highest elected official from municipalities across the state. This may include mayors, city council members, city managers and others. In 2023, over 30 mayors and their families attended the event held in the Colorado Building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The City of Pueblo welcomed a South Korean delegation during a recent visit to Pueblo in conjunction with the CS Wind America groundbreaking for expansion in April 2023. Members included individuals from Kunsan University.



The City of Pueblo and Gunsan City of the Republic of South Korea signed a letter of intent to establish a friendly relationship on Tuesday, Dec. 5. During a Zoom meeting Mayor of Pueblo Nick Gradisar and Mayor of Gunsan City Im June Kang signed the letter of intent alongside members of Pueblo's Sister City Commission and a delegation from South Korea.

Chief of Staff Laura Solona and members of the Sister Cities Commission Frank Ortega, Donielle Kitzman, Mayor Nick Gradisar, and additional members of the Sister Cities Commission Dan Centa, Mike Salardino and Ray Erjavec all attended the signing ceremony.



Visit to Chihuahua, Mexico



Mayor Nick Gradisar, Councilor Larry Atencio, members of the Pueblo Sister Cities Commission, Mayor of Chihuahua Marco Antonio Bonilla Mendoza and other city officials of Chihuahua, Mexico re-signed the sister city agreement between Pueblo and Chihuahua. Chihuahua and Pueblo have been sister cities for 33 years.

The trip was also intended to share information about industry, economic development and more related to assisting one another.



During the visit members of the Pueblo Police Department, Councilor Larry Atencio and Mayor Gradisar were able to visit the Real Time Crime Center with the Chihuahua Police Department.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On October 24, the City of Pueblo in partnership with the national Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund) announced the grand opening of City of Pueblo's Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), offering professional, one-on-one financial counseling and coaching as a free public service to local residents. The grand opening took place at the Department of Human Services with Pueblo County Government and other co-location partners with United Way of Pueblo County. Pueblo FEC co-locations include the Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo, Mariposa Center for Safety, Posada, Pueblo Community Health Center, Pueblo County Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Pueblo Workforce Center.



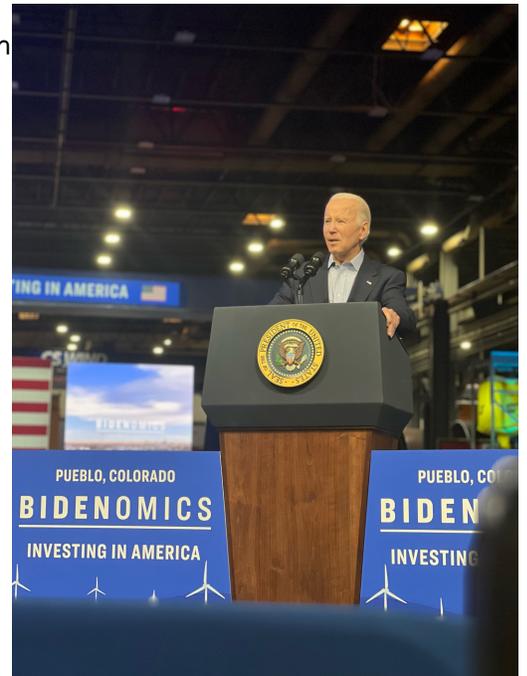
The City of Pueblo and The Pueblo Rescue Mission celebrated the ribbon cutting of the newly purchased and opened location at 710 W. 4th St. on Nov. 27.

Grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Charles W. Lee pedestrian bridge completed in September of 2023.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City of Pueblo welcomed President of the United States Joe Biden on Air Force One via the Pueblo Memorial Airport on November 29. Mayor of Pueblo Nick Gradisar greeted President Biden and accompanied him in the motorcade for the scheduled visit to local wind tower manufacturing plant, CS Wind America.



President Biden visited Pueblo as part of a nationwide tour to promote the Inflation Reduction Act, expanding renewable energy tax credits. The theme of Biden's "Investing in America" tour has included the boost to the economy which CS Wind can confidently point to with the creation of the 850 new jobs anticipated and continued success at the Pueblo factory.



The CS Wind America groundbreaking in April 4 marks the expansion of the company which manufactures towers for large-scale wind turbines supporting companies like Vestas Wind Systems, GE, Siemens Gamesa and Nordex. More than 850 jobs will be created with the three-phase expansion upon completion in 2028. Currently CS Wind manufactures 2,500 sections of wind tower per year, this expansion will allow for the production of up to 10,000 sections to be distributed across North America.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



NeighborWorks Southern Colorado broke ground in May on a new development to address the housing need in Pueblo. More than 600 affordable housing units will be available on Pueblo's west side when the Pikes Peak Park development is finished.

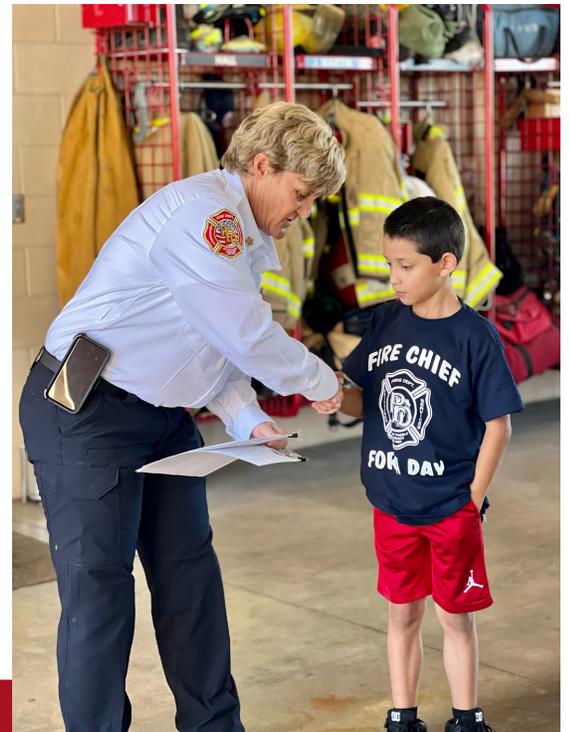
U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper joined local leaders and representatives from the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, CSU Pueblo, and NeighborWorks Southern Colorado to announce continued collaboration and \$20 million in federal investments for broadband expansion and new transportation infrastructure in Pueblo.



Via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet secured \$16.8 million in Department of Transportation (DOT) RAISE grants to improve transportation mobility between Pueblo's west side and the City of Pueblo. CSU Pueblo also was awarded a \$2.98 million National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant to expand broadband connectivity in the community. Within Congress' annual spending bills, Hickenlooper fought for funding for Neighborworks, which invested \$330,000 in a new affordable housing project for the area.



The City of Pueblo Fire Department was one of three area fire departments to participate in the annual "Chief for a Day" contest with Pueblo School District 60 and Pueblo County School District 70 third grade students. The opportunity took place at Fire Station 4 of City of Pueblo Fire Department.



In October, third grade students from across Pueblo School District 60 and Pueblo County School District 70 were invited to write an essay explaining how they would spend a day in the life of a Fire Chief. The City of Pueblo Fire Department, Pueblo West Metro Fire Department and Pueblo Rural Fire District all participated in the area wide competition.

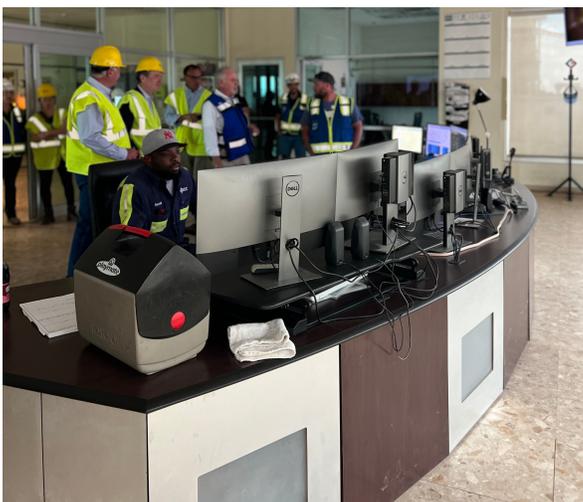
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Pueblo Police Department hosted U.S. Senator Michael Bennet for a FARO Focus Laser Scanner demonstration. Senators John Hickenlooper and Michael Bennet assisted with congressionally directed spending for the purchase of the equipment to assist the Pueblo Police Department operations. The cutting-edge technology assist with investigations which saves time and increases attention to detail.



In addition to Senator Bennet's visit with Pueblo Police Department he and Mayor Gradisar took a tour of CS Wind and GCC, the cement manufacturer. This was part of a tour recognizing the great manufacturing work done in Pueblo.





city of

PUEBLO

colorado