



State of the City 2025



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MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Good morning and thank you for joining me for my first State of the City as the Mayor of Pueblo.

I'd like to welcome you all today to Memorial Hall. Each year the Mayor of the City is responsible for producing a report that details the state of the city, the progress toward previous goals and plans for the upcoming year. Today I'll be sharing with you our accomplishments and challenges in 2024 and what we are working toward in 2025.

Before I get much further into my presentation, I would like to say thank you to Tracy Bastian for her beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Let's give her a round of applause for her performance this morning. (PAUSE for applause).

Also thank you to our color guard which is comprised of both Police Department Corporal Pat Cancino and Officer Bryce Rue and Fire Department members Billy Karcher and Isaiah Chaparro.

As you can see, I am joined here on stage by the Department Directors of the City of Pueblo. I have asked them to join me on stage today because, while it is the mayor's task to present the State of the City, these are the hardworking individuals who help run our city each day and lead our departments to ensure the services and obligations to our citizens are carried out.

I'd like to recognize them individually—
Please stand when I call your name:



Deputy Mayor and Chief of Pueblo Police Department Chris Noeller

Chief of Pueblo Fire Department Barb Huber

City Attorney Carla Sikes

Chief of Staff Brian McCain

City Clerk Marisa Stoller

Aviation Director Greg Pedroza

Information Technology Director Lori Pinz

Public Works Director Andrew Hayes

Transit Director Ben Valdez

Wastewater Director Andra Ahrens

Purchasing Director Naomi Hedden

Human Resources Director Marisa Pacheco

Interim Director of Finance Danny Nunn

Director of Just Transitions Renee Martinez

Municipal Judge Nelson Dunford

Director of Planning and Community Development Scott Hobson

Fleet Superintendent Tom Cummings
Interim Civil Service Administrator Serena Knox
And Director of Parks and Recreation Steven Meier

Thank you to each one of these directors and to our incredible city employees who provide essential services and amenities in the City of Pueblo. If you are an employee of the City of Pueblo please stand!

Over the last year, I have had the privilege of working with the City Council, which represents the legislative branch of our government. The City Council passed 246 ordinances that allow us to provide services to the community and pursue capitol improvements. Over 2024, City Council had some accomplishments that I would like to share, Councilor Sarah Martinez worked to revitalize key areas of our city. This year, she had the privilege of working alongside local businesses along Union Avenue and Northern to host two successful community clean-ups. These efforts not only beautified these areas but also fostered a sense of pride and unity among residents and business owners alike. She advanced parental rights in local government, as the first pregnant person to serve on the city council. She recognized the need for a policy that protects the rights of new parents in elected office. She proudly created and passed a parental leave policy, ensuring that City Council members can take time to care for their families without fear of losing their positions.

City Council lobbied on several key issues, including crime bills, local government jobs, air quality mandates and home rule authority. In a continued effort to fight the rate increase against Black Hills, President Mark Aliff was the lead voice for the City to say "Enough" to the already high rates we pay to Black Hills. President Aliff also created a committee to revisit the aquatic center for the community and has been instrumental in helping my administration advocate for new tourism dollars like bringing in the proposed Da Vinci museum.

Work Session Chair Regina Maestri brought new accountability and transparency to the Council work sessions by asking key speakers to present on agenda items. New this year was the request for budget work sessions early in the budget process from departments to address the needs of each and to keep the council informed.

District 2 Councilor Joe Latino advocated for a works program facilitated through Catholic Charities to employ unhoused individuals in the community doing clean ups.

Councilor Roger Gomez has been working on the syringe access program and the discarding of needles in the community. He has worked with a stakeholder group to reduce the high numbers and we are happy to report through Access Point that they have seen an increased needle return rate of 31% from August to September, to 53.5% from October to December.

Council Dennis Flores was very proud to host another annual Economic forum that was well attended and very informative. He was also an advocate for the City's asset air strip for Sky Corral and making sure they have continued use of their airstrip.

Finally, Councilor Brett Boston was newly appointed through two rounds of appointments to the vacant At-Large seat. He has been working to support small businesses and he's been instrumental in the process to hold hotel licensees in the City of Pueblo more accountable when it comes to the health and safety of the community.

I want to briefly mention some of the important work that happens within our city that is not normally mentioned in our State of the City printed report. Many times, the internal workings of our city go unnoticed from our departments like Fleet, IT, HR, Law, Purchasing and Civil Service.

The Fleet Maintenance Department is an internal city department that is responsible for 956 city owned assets across 38 departments and divisions. In 2024, Fleet added 28 assets to the fleet across 10 departments. In addition to managing assets, Fleet is also in charge of disposing of vehicles and equipment no longer necessary or able to be of use to the City.

Fleet staffing includes one Fleet Superintendent, one Shop Supervisor, six mechanics, one admin assistant, one service writer and two parts technicians. These individuals are responsible for the 2,300 work orders that were completed last year. It is because of these individuals our plows, Police vehicles, mowers, Fire engines, trash trucks and more are all serviced and maintained across the City.

Fleet ordered and processed 300,000 gallons of fuel for City entities including Fleet main fuel site, Airport, Wastewater Treatment Plant, City Park, Mineral Palace Park, Elmwood Golf Course and Walking Stick Golf Course.

I am incredibly proud of the work our IT Department accomplished in 2024. The launch of our Real-Time Crime Center was a large-scale project including all the infrastructure, software implementation, testing and leg work the department did to make it successful. While I will go into more detail about the RTCC later, I want to recognize this would not have been possible without the coordination and work of our IT staff.

Additionally, IT was recognized with two major awards last year which included recognition for the Center for Digital Government, Digital Cities Survey award, where the City of Pueblo was recognized as a top 10 winner for our population size for modernizing IT infrastructure, digital equity programs and upgrading resident-facing services and prioritizing data security. Also, for the second consecutive year the IT Department was recognized for the CDG Government Experience Awards and placed fourth for government services to create a better engaged constituency and more responsive government.

Another vital role in our city is Civil Service. Last year, Civil Service processed over 3,000 job applications for those looking to work for the City of Pueblo. This was for a total of 126 job postings. The Civil Service Commission also held 18 meetings in 2024. We are continually looking for innovative and efficient ways to attract quality applicants to work with us at the City of Pueblo. In December of 2024, Civil Service implemented a new marketing tool with NEOGov called Attract to assist us with marketing and attracting new city employees for open job postings.

Our Law Department assisted Pueblo City Council in 2024 with a total of 246 ordinances which were passed. The Law Department provides legal advice and guidance to City Council, the Mayor, City boards and commissions, and city departments. It reviews, negotiates, and drafts all nature of contracts for the city, manages all litigation in which the City is a party, and prosecutes all cases docketed into Municipal Court. The Law Department employs seven full-time Assistant City Attorneys, a Legal Assistant, and Legal Support Assistant. The attorneys and staff are some of the most accomplished within their profession. It reviews, negotiates, and drafts all nature of contracts for the city, manages all litigation in which the City is a party, and prosecutes all cases docketed into Municipal Court.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

The Law Department employs seven full-time Assistant City Attorneys, a Legal Assistant, and Legal Support Assistant. The attorneys and staff are some of the most accomplished within their profession.

One attorney of the law department is the current President of the Pueblo County Bar Association and another attorney has been the Treasurer for the Pueblo County Bar Association for over ten years. The Department's Legal Assistant received the 2024 Pueblo County Bar Association's Legal Support Award. The Law Department was instrumental in preparing the ballot questions that resulted in amendment of the City Charter.

The Purchasing Department is a small, but mighty department that serves every single department within the city. Every project, bid, approval for award and contract for services is touched by the Purchasing Department and ensures for an equitable process. The Purchasing Department worked on 142 formal bids and RFPs throughout the year, an average of 12 major projects a month. Of the 122 contracts, we awarded them to just over 70 contractors and consultants. In 2024, Purchasing approved and converted 3,300 Purchase Orders in addition to at least half as many change orders to POs. 20 liens were put up for auction through our Public Surplus website.

In addition to the formal solicitations, Purchase Orders and lien auctions, Purchasing handles all non-standard agreements, approve all informal bids and sole source purchases for each department on a daily basis. They worked with 693 different vendors throughout the year.

Purchasing also manages the City's warehouse of items for use by the departments. They currently source, order and stock (at volume discounts) approximately 300 items which are used by the departments including office supplies, safety supplies, paper products, cleaning supplies, chemicals, tools, flags, batteries, etc.

In 2024, Purchasing processed 781 inventory orders at a total cost of \$123,000. Additionally, we had 90 public auctions for miscellaneous items no longer being used by departments and added \$15,000 to the General Fund rather than adding waste to the landfill or paying for recycling. This was all done by just seven employees.

While Human Resources is not responsible for the entire lifecycle of hiring, HR staff does handle the post-recruitment selection activities for both the City of Pueblo and Pueblo Transit for all full-time hires through conditional and formal offer. HR is often tapped to assist with job descriptions for temporary/seasonal positions and processes all new hire paperwork to get them into the HR and payroll system.

The HR team concluded a large compensation study project with an outside firm in 2024 as well.

Please join me in a round of applause for these hard-working City departments.

Now that I have shared with you some of the inside information of how the City of Pueblo functions, I'd like to share with you some of our accomplishments and challenges we faced in 2024.

As I have spoken about many times this year, the City of Pueblo is facing an \$8.6 million dollar shortfall for the fiscal year of 2025. The decline in City revenues and higher expenses require that the 2025 budget represent a more conservative and prudent approach to spending tax dollars. That's due largely in part to a decrease in revenue and sales tax collection. For Fiscal Year 2025, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$117 million dollars; a decrease of approximately 4.2% relative to Fiscal Year 2024 adopted budget.

The past several years, the sales tax projections used to create the City's budget have been inflated as proven by the actual revenue received. This was caused by the one-time federal stimulus funds that were made available to the City during and following the pandemic. The reality is those revenue sources were "one-time" in nature and are now ending.

Approximately 62% of the City's budget comes from Sales & Use Tax.

Eleven months of 2024, sales tax collections were up on paper 3.6% mostly due to unexpected one-time payments resulting in an additional \$4 million dollars. In actual reporting sales tax was down 7 out of 11 months resulting in a 1.2% decrease in sales tax year to date. The City's Lodging tax is also down 8.8% YTD.

Unfortunately, with the decline in revenues, I made the decision to cut back non departmental/nonprofit funding by 49%. This is not a reflection on the agencies themselves or their importance, but rather a reflection of the City's current financial position and for the administrations to come. As Mayor, I also took a look at the open funded positions we had and made the difficult decision to cut 18 positions in City staffing resulting in a half a million-dollar savings.

In November of 2024, the 2025 budget was submitted and approved by City Council. The prudent budget calls for expenditures of \$125.9 million; a 5.4% decrease in spending from the previous year. The City of Pueblo is committed to providing services to its citizens in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner.

Now we look at how we sourced revenue outside of Sales Tax and the success we experience in grant funding. The City of Pueblo submitted 92 grant applications in 2024. 44 requests were awarded for a total of \$28 million. This includes a grant for Benedict Park rehabilitation , Real Time Crime Center additions, HARP gap funding, and 13 million grant for the Union Ave Bridge demo and construction.

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 pursue 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.

Other accomplishments by the City of Pueblo included excellent growth and expansion of services from Pueblo Transit. The department accepted the grant award between the City of Pueblo and Colorado Association of Transit Agencies for \$62,213.39, ensuring kids ride free through October 2025 - continuing the program for a fifth straight year. This means students Kindergarten through 12th grade ride free of charge with Pueblo Transit.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

In coordination with Pueblo Area Council of Government, Pueblo Transit converted two underperforming trailer routes into two new transfer routes. These were the first additional new routes offered by Pueblo Transit since 1981. The North/South shopping routes have improved commute times to the city's most desired shopping and restaurant locations and offer the community an additional 13 transfer locations which makes the commute with Pueblo Transit more efficient for all.

A van pool pilot program has been funded with State Multi Modal Funds and is currently recruiting local companies to utilize the service which officially started in January 2025. Additionally, 70 bus stops will be outfitted with solar lighting through a grant funded throughout 2025. A Transit rider's app has also been funded and will commence in the Spring of 2026. As you may have heard, Pueblo Transit kicked off Veterans Ride Free starting January 2025. Veterans Ride Free will be a great initiative for the "Home of Heroes."

In 2024, the airport received over \$10 million dollars from the Federal Aviation Association, State and local funding to complete multiple projects, including rehabilitation of the primary runway, acquiring a new snowplow and a new forklift, pavement rehab of the east ramp and other airport projects to help enhance safety for airport users.

In late summer of 2025, the airport will be host to the Pueblo Wings of Pride Airshow featuring the U.S. Airforce Thunderbirds. This two-day event will be held Sept 27-28 and is anticipated to draw over 60,000 aviation enthusiasts to Pueblo. Additionally, in 2025 we will be looking to do a four million dollar renovation to the airport and welcome a new airline with a couple dozen new jobs.

The City Clerk's office held a successful 2024 Mayoral Runoff Election in January. Since this was the first stand-alone election the City has run in at least 20 years, the Clerk's office created and implemented protocols and procedures incorporating a modern mail ballot election. Election Judges hand-processed 25,000 ballots, and final unofficial results were tallied by 11 p.m. on Election Day.

The 2024 City election had four Charter Amendments suggested by City staff which City Council voted to place on the ballot.

They were 2A: Municipal Court Maximum Fines, which passed, 2B: Modernize Terms & Technology, which failed, 2C: Greater Election Coordination, which passed, and 2D: Municipal Election Provisions, which failed.

For the first time, campaign finance reports for the municipal elections were created and collected online and published publicly on the City's website, increasing transparency and accountability for monies used in election campaigning.

A City Council At-Large seat was filled twice this year by Council appointment. The City Clerk's office collected 59 resumes, coordinated 11 interviews, and swore in two new Councilors as part of this process.

The Wastewater Department has a long record of compliance and good relationships with the State and EPA. In 2024, the Wastewater Department won a Peak Performance Silver Award for 4 years of compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

The Collection crew responded to 151 emergency call outs in 2024 to check sanitary mains and clean them if blocked. Pueblo crews have a very aggressive requirement to clean all sanitary main lines at least once every two years to make sure we limit the number of issues for our citizens. Most North Range cities have a standard of only once every 3-5 years.

The number of charges filed in Municipal Court increased significantly in 2024, totaling 21,500 charges this year. The Court recognizes the efforts of local law enforcement agencies and expects this number to increase as the Police Department obtains full staffing for patrol officers.

The Court's community service team, is made up of Court staff and adult and juvenile defendants, continues fulfilling its primary function of citywide graffiti removal. The team also oversees the City's community garden, assists with community clean-up events, helps local nonprofit agencies, and participates in events such as the State Fair and holiday parades.

Now I'd like to highlight our departments that have primarily been able to assist and carry out on the campaign promises I made to you, the citizens of Pueblo. My priorities were addressing homelessness throughout the community, developing and beautifying our city and public safety.

Our Municipal Court department has been a large part of assisting the City since we took over ownership of the Pueblo Shelter, formerly known as the Pueblo Rescue Mission. The City of Pueblo acquired both properties: 710 W 4th Street and 728 W. 4th Street. The U-shaped building serves as the emergency shelter building and resource center with office space for nonprofits and community partners to provide wrap around services. The 728 W. 4th Street building is the City's only permanent homeless shelter and is currently being run by the shelter director Dave Tinnel and his staff. Our partner, Safeside Recovery, has taken over fiscal sponsorship and offers daytime programming for residents and outreach individuals. Since October, when the City took ownership and Safeside Recovery began working more intensely with residents, 10 individuals have been able to secure permanent housing and leave the shelter for their own places to call home.

I am incredibly proud of the work the City has done in a short amount of time to assist our unhoused neighbors and to restore trust and confidence in the shelter. To further support those in need, the City has allocated funding for pallet shelter communities equipped with restrooms and shower facilities.

These communities will serve as temporary housing solutions for individuals transitioning out of homelessness, providing them with the stability and support they need. The location for this site plan is to be located in between the Pueblo Mission and the emergency shelter on 4th Street which now provides extra, unused parking. This is a project we will complete in phases in the coming years. Our team has been running the emergency shelter with emergency declarations every night since October. With the latest cold snap we saw over the weekend the emergency shelter was housing upwards of 70 individuals a night, an all-time record for this shelter.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

With addressing homelessness also comes development in the community and creating more affordable housing options for existing residents and people looking to move to Pueblo. We are continuously looking for ways to collaborate and stimulate growth throughout the city. In January 2024, the City of Pueblo transferred two lots to the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA). PURA successfully constructed four housing units, consisting of two duplexes, on these lots. We will continue the work with Urban Renewal on these opportunities. On January 27th, City Council will consider another piece of land on the East side the City owns to be transferred to PURA in order to build more affordable housing.

Planning

In 2024, the Planning and Community Development Department was very busy and incredibly successful. This 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 1,286 in 2024.

Single-family and multi-family residential unit building permits increased from 173 in 2023 to 466 housing units in 2024, an increase of 249%. The significant increase is a result of the 351 new apartment and duplex units that received building permits in 2024. The number of single-family homes and manufactured homes receiving building permits in 2024 was 80 homes, compared to 157 homes in 2023. Land use applications for subdivisions, rezoning, annexations, street vacations, rearrangement of property boundaries and land use plans totaled 45 applications, an increase of 25% from 2023.

Some of the development you may have already begun to see includes South Pueblo Boulevard Commercial Developments. In 2024 construction started on several commercial businesses along the South Pueblo Blvd corridor. These new businesses include a Whataburger - fast food restaurant, Starbuck's Coffee, and a Circle K - fuel and convenience store. Maverik Travel Center at the intersection of I-25 & Pueblo Blvd opened in April 2024 and Murphy's USA fuel station opened in October 2024. The City continues to find new ways to work with CDOT to get the permits processed in a more timely matter for increased development.

Additional development includes Pinon Ridge Commercial Center Developments with three new businesses under construction in the Pinon Ridge Commercial Center located west of I-25 on the north side of Drew Dix Blvd including a TA Travel Center, Black Bear Diner, and LV Petroleum Truck Service Center.

Across town you will find North Pueblo Boulevard Apartment Housing Developments which is two new housing developments under construction east of Pueblo Blvd in the Park West area of the City. Pueblo Springs Apartments first phase will have 199 apartment units located south of 31st Street. The Cottages at Park West located south of Spaulding Avenue is constructing 186 housing units within 93 duplex buildings.

The City Planning & Zoning Commission approved the development plans for the HARP Phase 4 Expansion and construction of the project started in June 2024.

This project was a result of finally bringing together multiple funding sources to get the fourth phase of development started, a project that has been in the works since 2016. In 2018, the citizens of Pueblo County voted for a list of community projects to be completed with allocated funds. Both the boathouse and channel extension were part of the project list. Pueblo County Government allocated \$9 million from Ballot Initiative 1A funding. Over the last six years we have been working to find gap funding to complete the project so we would not lose the allocated funds.

In the spring of 2024, the City of Pueblo received a \$1 million Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grant. The \$1 million grant required a match of \$1 million from the City of Pueblo. The City then moved forward with the project, after years of stalling. Funding was also secured from the PEDCO half cent sales tax fund and from PURA. A total of nearly \$16 million in funding was secured to finally complete the HARP Channel Extension and Boathouse Project six years later.

The City will be working on the two additional 1A projects that were allocated by the voters, the East Side Streetscape and the Union/ Main Street revitalization projects. Both projects since the long lapse in start date have become more costly and the City will continue to look for more gap funding to complete these two projects.

Now, I'd like to talk about beautifying Pueblo. There have been a variety of efforts to accomplish this through trash clean ups, capital improvement, and overall maintenance of our City assets.

One area in particular that was a priority for me on day one was to address the unlicensed hotels in our community, which happened first by addressing the issues at the formerly known Rodeway Inn. This place of business was shut down on my first day in office, something I had been working on since I was the president of City Council. This was a coordinated effort with our Sales Tax Department ultimately having the authority to revoke their business license because of noncompliance. We had support from Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, the Pueblo Fire Department, Parole, Pueblo Regional Building and Pueblo Police Department.

While many wanted to falsely narrate a story of displacing dozens of individuals, what we found was many of these individuals returned to their homes, left town or found another place to live. A majority of the individuals were responsible for the 1,600 calls for service, a death, drug distribution and prostitution. This was a nuisance to the community and a threat to the health and well-being of our citizens. Since then, I've created a group that meets regularly to address compliance issues like business license lapse, fire code violation, building inspection, health department inspections and more.

The City of Pueblo then again in April of 2024, went into the former Val-U-Stay where the living conditions were deplorable, we had high crime, extensive and intensive calls for service for our Police Department and another health and safety risk to the public. At this time, we called on many of our nonprofit partners to help ensure that individuals, pets and children were cared for when they were displaced. Again, without this intervention the City of Pueblo was at risk for a dangerous and unsightly business taking advantage of our citizens and creating more crime in the community.

Now to move on to more clean up in our community.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The “Team Up to Clean Up” Program, was established in 2023 to clean up trash and debris throughout the community in Qualified Census Tracts of the City. At the end of November 2024, the “Team Up to Clean Up” crew removed and disposed of approximately 170 tons of trash, over 1,500 tires, over 11,500 used hypodermic needles, and 1,500 shopping carts. The program continues to make a significant impact on the City having a cleaner and safer appearance.

Parks Maintenance and Horticulture teams continued the outstanding maintenance of over 613 irrigated park acres and more than 39 acres of streetscapes, medians, and highway right of way within the City. The team of dedicated staff continues to keep Pueblo’s 80 parks, trails, and streetscapes green, clean, and safe. Some of the notable projects completed in 2024 include:

- Installation of new all-inclusive playground at Laura’s Park, formerly known as Starlite Park with a ribbon cutting held during Memorial Day
- Replaced chain link fencing backstops at Stauter Field #1 & #2 and City Park Ball Field #3 and #4.

Parks and Recreation also completed large updates to lighting of facilities. Approximately 99% of City-owned softball fields, outdoor basketball courts, and tennis courts consist of extremely old lamps, which use large quantities of wattage to operate. These old lights generated exceptionally high utility expenses to operate annually. The project included replacement of the old lights with new LED lights and poles at City Park Ball Fields #3 and #4 and addition of new LED lights and poles to the Mineral Palace Park Pickleball Courts. Future light replacement projects include the 17-court City Park Tennis Complex, Joe Santos Field at Ray Aguilera Park, St. Anne’s Ball Field, and Stauter Field.

Additionally, we have more amenities to look forward to and utilize in our community. Water Works Park, a Board of Water Works funded project is nearing completion. The \$11,000,000 project began in 2022 to rehabilitate the Southside Diversion Dam located in the northern area of City Park on the Arkansas River. The project goal is to improve safety on the river by creating a passageway to allow users to ride the river unimpeded to Runyon Lake. The park is expected to be populated by river tubers, rafters, kayakers, paddleboarders, and surfers by next summer. The project also included two bridges, an “island” beach area, and passageways to allow fish to migrate and spawn in the area. The City is currently working on a Master Plan for the area, and in my 2025 budget I allocated \$500,000 to this project.

I believe this project will be a driver of tourism dollars in our community.

Another win for the community will be the new multi-use turf field that will be funded through the City, PURA and District 60 that will be located in the blighted parking lot by Central high school. This project was partly funded by the City at \$250,000 with ARPA funds.

Public Works has also been instrumental in the large item clean ups done twice a year and the two branch drop off locations for the microburst and second clean up the City provided to the community this past year. The Department helped collect and dispose of over 400 tons of trash from our community. That’s a lot of trash!

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Our Public Works Department continued capital improvement projects and maintenance across the city. In 2024, the Engineering Division oversaw dozens of capital improvement projects including design and construction of both vertical and horizontal construction, supporting roads, facilities, and projects with City departments including Parks and Recreation, Airport, Fire, Police, Municipal Court, and Planning and Community Development.

Some of the projects undertaken this year include following:

- Dillon Drive Resurfacing
- Northern Avenue Resurfacing
- Elizabeth Street (concrete improvements)
- Bonforte Avenue (concrete improvements)
- 29th Street (concrete improvements)
- Construct Adams & Jackson Roundabout
- Elmwood Golf Paths
- Elmwood Parking Lot Repairs
- Elizabeth Street Basketball Courts replacement (known as the SLAB)
- Northern Avenue Sewer Extension Design
- Multiple ADA Curb Ramp upgrade projects
- Asphalt Crack Sealing - various locations

We continued to pave roads throughout 2024 utilizing Tabor funds in previous years and budget allocation of nearly \$10 million each year for the last three years. Fees for the City's Street Repair Utility Enterprise were initially suspended in January of 2022 and will remain suspended through the end of 2025 unless additional action is taken by City Council. This fee was used to generate \$2.5 million dollars in road revenue for the City and is no longer on the books.

In 2024, approximately 14.4 lane miles of aging roadways across the City were resurfaced. Not only did we repair the pavement, but we also updates damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps. Some of the projects also included significant repair of existing underground utility infrastructure. Road repair projects completed in 2024 included the following:

- Dillon Drive (Eagleridge to Carruth)
- Northern Avenue (Prairie to Abriendo)
- Granada Boulevard (Prairie to Farabaugh)
- Cheyenne Avenue (W. 14th Street to W. 18th Street)
- D Street (Main Street to Mechanic Street)
- Mechanic Street (East B Street to East D Street)
- B Street (Mechanic to cul-de-sac)
- Amherst Avenue (from Prairie to Cambridge)

ADA curb ramps were also upgraded on Court Street, W. 29th Street, and Bonforte Avenue in preparation for pavement resurfacing that will take place when funding is made available.

This chart highlights the number of miles of City roads that were resurfaced or rebuilt between 2002 and 2024. 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.

A top priority of the City of Pueblo, and for me as the Mayor of this community, is public safety. I would first like to highlight the work of the Fire Department.

Pueblo Fire Department had more than 25,000 calls for service not including 859 Directing Others to Service or (DOTS) calls. This is an increase of about 4.36% over last year and is within a couple hundred calls of 2022.

Total Response times went down by 18 seconds (9:18), which is the best time since 2018 when the department switched to Priority Dispatch. The Fire Department averages 72 calls a day.

The Department also experienced growth this year with increased development of housing and planning for the future of Pueblo. Fire welcomed three Assistant Chiefs, six Lieutenants, put a second truck in service in late 2024, the new 125 ft. ladder truck also known as Truck 52 was put in service in November. We also broke ground on new fire stations: 6, 8 and 11 in May of 2024 and are looking forward to the completion of those this year.

In 2024, we also faced two major fires in our community with the Vision Hills and the EVRAZ fires. On April 5, 2024, the City experienced two separate but significant events. The first, a wildland fire on the north end of town (Vision Hills fire), which requested wildland mutual aid from the County and initiated a partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A short time later, a fire broke out at EVRAZ.

The fire size, smoke and potential chemical involvement upscaled the activation and requests from the city to a full EOC activation. Due to the high demand of local resources, both the City and County made emergency declarations.

I want to thank our Pueblo Fire Department for their tireless work to ensure our community was kept safe. In addition to their work, we owe our gratitude to over 40 community partners who co-responded to those fires and assisted our department to keep us all safe.

Now as I continue to talk about public safety, I'd like to shift our focus to the success of the Pueblo Police Department in 2024. Like many police departments across the nation, we are continually striving to be innovative in our recruiting and retention efforts. The department's recruitment team attend various events across the front range and in other states including military institutions. We saw a notable improvement in recruitment and retention in 2024. At the beginning of my term, I recognized the necessity for internal changes to improve our recruitment numbers. I facilitated changes to our civil service process, which have significantly impacted our outcomes.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Twenty officers left the department, a decrease from 40 in 2023. Our expanded recruitment efforts led to a remarkable 143% increase, resulting in 34 new hires. We have retained 30 of those hired in 2024, which is more than double the 14 hires in 2023. The hiring process for all positions, sworn and civilian, is ongoing throughout the year. Please apply today or let someone else you know who might be interested in working for us.

Additionally, this year the Pueblo Police Department continued use of CompStat, an intelligence and data driven approach to addressing crime, which has proven highly beneficial with data shared weekly throughout the department to watch commanders, sergeants, patrol officers, and investigators. Data collected by the department's Crime Analyst includes various crime statistics that show crime trends to inform daily decisions and allow for adjustments to the allocation of manpower and resources between calls for service. This approach gives officers the information they need to identify and proactively address specific areas of concern during their shifts.

I would like to highlight the work by the DICE team, The DICE Team was formed in 2022 to help combat lower-level crime such as shoplifting, loitering, trespassing, and to provide resources during outreach to the unhoused. DICE continued to have a dramatic impact on addressing quality of life crimes in 2024, issuing 3,800 citations and 159 PR bonds, making 118 warrant arrests, conducting 1,876 COP calls, recovering \$76,000 in stolen merchandise, and handling 4,200 calls for service. DICE also continued its commitment to outreach with the unhoused, building on their efforts from 2023. Throughout 2024, several cleanup efforts along Fountain Creek and I-25 occurred to address multiple public safety and health concerns. In conjunction with the DICE team Solutions Outreach Services (SOS) team responded to 657 calls for service, effectively reducing the need for police officer interventions.

In May we implemented a new unit called the "Impact Team" a Proactive Policing Unit - working to disrupt criminal activity within the community and assist in creating a better quality of life for the citizens of Pueblo. The Detectives work in a "two-man" capacity and utilize their observational skillsets as well as resources such as ShotSpotter and the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) to focus on gangs, guns, and drugs. The unit has performed over 800 traffic stops, written over 80 warrants with more than 100 warrant arrests, written or served more than two dozen search warrants, written more than 200 citations, recovered over 30 firearms and more than 20 motor vehicles, and seized several narcotics, including methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine.

Utilizing these tactics and expanded technology in the Real-Time Crime Center, launched in July 2024, Part 1 crime decreased an additional 7%, on top of the 13% decrease seen in 2023. There were dramatic reductions of 30% in auto theft and in 2024 we had 20 homicides compared to 27 in 2023. The reductions can be attributed to, in part, an ongoing focus on more proactive police work, targeted approaches to recovering vehicles in motor vehicle thefts and holding auto theft criminals accountable in accordance with revised legislation that returned auto thefts of any value to a felony-level offense.

By October last year, ShotSpotter recorded 1,000 alerts for the year, resulting in 279 case reports, 1,800 casings and 37 firearms recovered, 29 arrests/citations, and delivered aid in 14 incidents. Notably, the technology alerts us to shots fired even without citizen reports.

Of the over 1,000 alerts, less than 250 were reported, meaning 750 gunshots went unreported by our citizens. Unfortunately, increases in crime rates were seen in assaults- both aggravated and sexual as well as an increase in theft/larceny.

Unfortunately, over the last three years, we have seen a massive increase in crime in the City of Pueblo regardless of our advances in policing. While there are several causes to increases in crime, many of which we suffer from including manpower and legislation.... I believe another cause for this increase is a lack of accountability and consequences when the crimes we deal with at a municipal level are committed. Our officers write citation after citation for these offenses and these offenders ignore their court dates, continue their criminal behavior, and wreak havoc in our community. It is my strong belief that the ability to jail these offenders at the time of their criminal behavior will help us address the sense of lawlessness in our community and change or reduce these behaviors. It is no shock to anyone in our community that these criminals know they cannot be jailed and clearly, they do not care about the citations they receive. In 2025 we will be working with the Sheriff, or should I say begging the Sheriff, to accept offenders into the jail rather than releasing them after just five minutes of processing for an immediate consequence for breaking the law with municipal offences.

There will always be more work to be done, and the Pueblo Police Department is dedicated to finding additional ways to address these concerns and more by advocating for impactful changes at the legislative level, building upon these improvements, and partnering in new ways. I am proud of the ways we have been able to keep the Pueblo community safer in the last year and we will continue to look for more ways to do so as we proceed in 2025.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are looking at ways to strengthen our budget. I informed City Council of the \$8.6 million deficit the City would be facing for the 2025 Budget. A hiring freeze has been implemented for some positions that aren't mandatory at this time, about 18 positions were eliminated because they no longer fit into departmental needs. Only six new positions were approved for the 2025 Budget, to staff the three new fire stations.

Capital improvement project funding in previous years has been upwards of \$15-20 million per year, while this year only \$3 million was approved for capital improvement projects to assist with the budget constraints.

Across Colorado, 77% of communities have a higher sales tax rate than Pueblo. This includes special taxes that are allocated to pave roads, improve parks and recreation access, or other special interest projects for the city's budget. In the City of Pueblo, we have only approved the ½ cent sales tax to fund Pueblo Economic Development Corporation and the .02% tax for Public Safety Sales Tax to assist with Pueblo Police Department staffing and technology needs.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

I am looking at an opportunity to assist the budget shortfall for years to come, this deficit will remain, and possibly increase, if not addressed with ways to increase revenue. While the City of Pueblo experiences growth and development of new business and new housing projects, the impact will not be seen immediately, The Food tax of 3.5% looks to increase revenue immediately. The City of Pueblo has not raised taxes in over 50 years and currently operates on a 3% sales tax, meaning that for every dollar spent in the community only three pennies are collected to fund the General Fund.

A grocery bill of \$200 would generate roughly \$6 to the City of Pueblo's General Fund balance. While this initiative is up to the vote of the people and will appear on the ballot if approved by Pueblo City Council later this year, a trusted revenue source must be secured to address quality of life, essential services and a healthy, vibrant Pueblo to remain for generations.

Over the past 50 years, Pueblo has not kept up with the cost of doing business leading to the budgetary constraints we are facing today. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index, the dollar had an average inflation rate of 3.89% per year between 1972 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 655.04%. This is 6.5 times higher than prices we saw in 1972.

As a community we have an opportunity to take the financial first steps to improve Pueblo's opportunities and its future. Pueblo can have more and do more if we choose to invest in ourselves, and find new ways to generate revenue, which in turn only will improve and expand the essential city services that our citizens deserve to have in their community. Amenities, capital improvements, essential everyday services, public safety priority and providing the best quality service to our citizens is our goal in every task we do each day.

I would like to conclude my presentation today by acknowledging again the effort of our hardworking, dedicated city employees that have made my goals and vision for this community a reality. I would also like to thank my husband Danny for his support while I serve as your mayor.

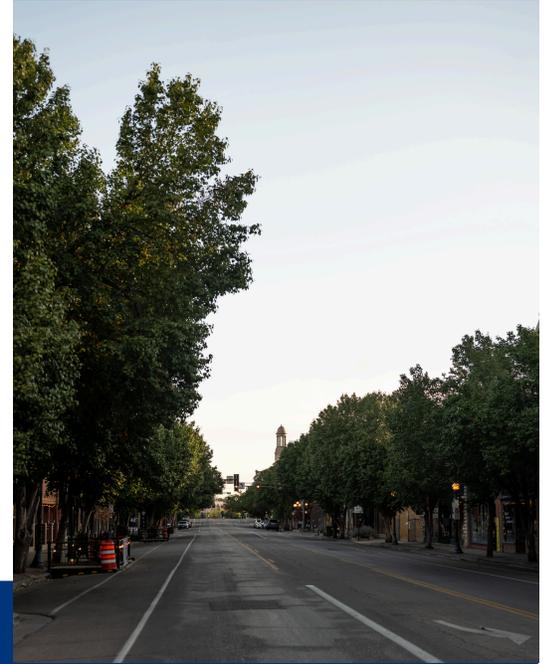
While we have already begun to accomplish many of the things I set out to do in my first term as mayor, including addressing homelessness, developing and beautifying our community and prioritizing public safety, I do know there is more work to be done. I look forward to more opportunities to continue to be transparent and tell of our challenges and successes ahead of us. I want our citizens to feel connected, respected and protected.

Thank you again for joining me today for the State of the City.

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 City of Pueblo employs 749 full-time and 206 temporary or seasonal City and Pueblo Transit employees who 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.



View of downtown Pueblo in the summer



Above: City of Pueblo float in 2024 Fiesta Day Parade



Right: Aerial view of Pueblo during Pueblo Chile Balloon Fest

The following departmental information is included in this report: City Council, Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Sales Tax, Finance, Pueblo Memorial Airport, Grant and Resource Development, Community Engagement, City Clerk, Municipal Court, Municipal Boards & Commissions, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Public Works and Wastewater. The City Departments work together for the benefit of all Puebloans 18 under the direction of the Mayor.

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.



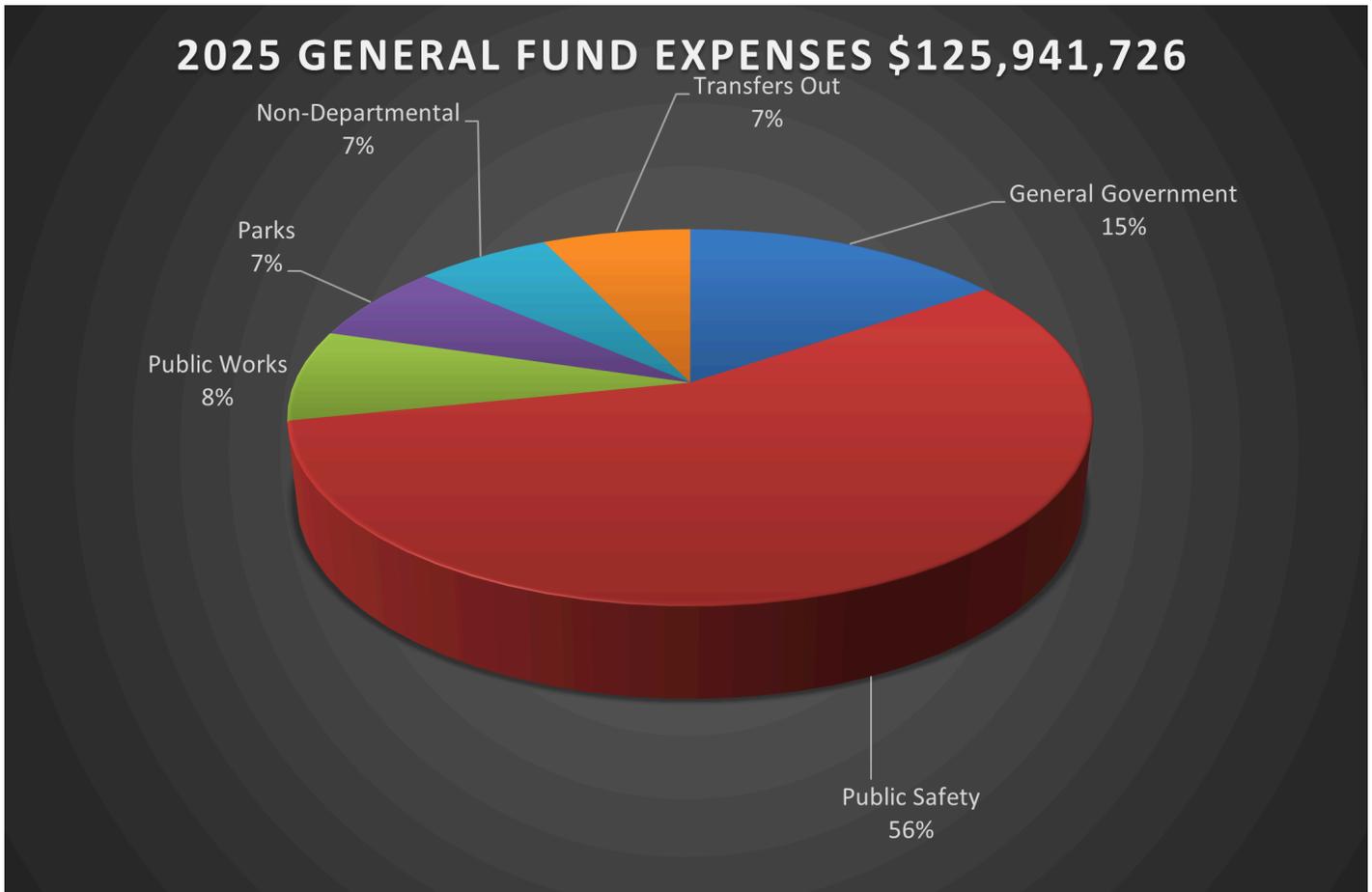
Font Left to Right: Work Session Chair and District 1 Councilor Regina Maestri, Council President and At-Large Representative Mark Aliff, Council Vice President and District 4 Councilor Roger Gomez. 19
Back Left to Right: District 3 Councilor Sarah Martinez, At-Large Councilor Dennis Flores, District 2 Councilor Joe Latino

FINANCE AND SALES TAX

For Fiscal Year (FY)2025, it is projected that the total revenue and other sources of funds is approximately \$117.2 million dollars; a decrease of approximately 4.2% relative to FY2024 adopted budget.

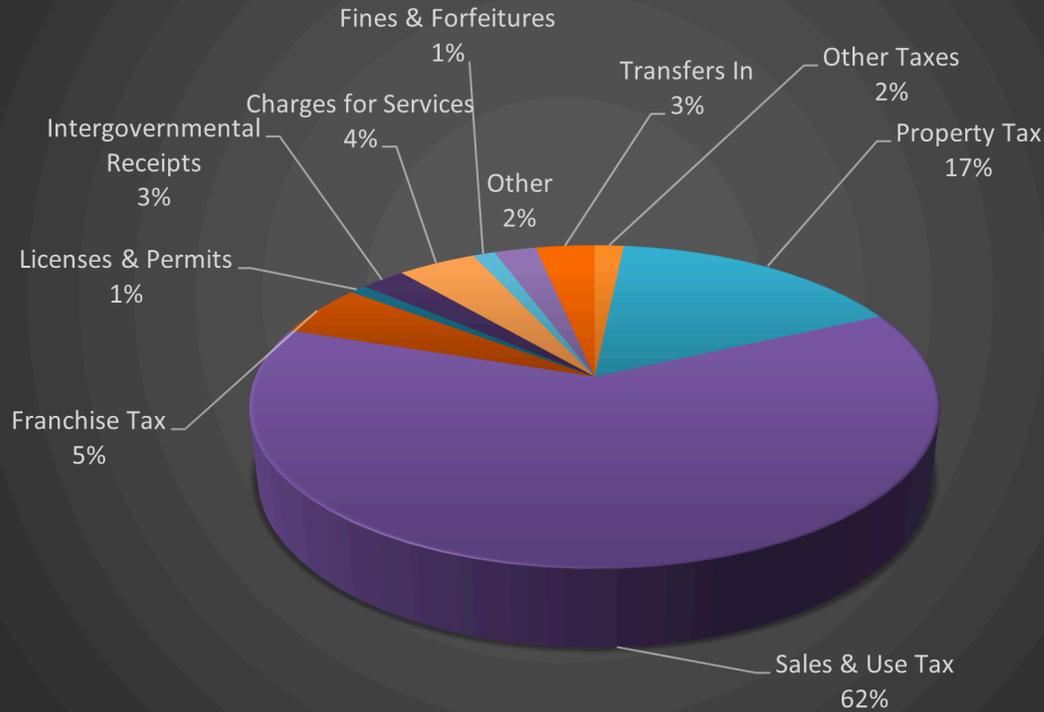
Approximately 62% of the City's budget comes from Sales & Use Tax. For the first 10 months of 2024, sales tax collections were up 4.2% mostly due to unexpected one-time payments. The City is not estimating an increase in revenue for sales and use tax in the last 2 months of 2024.

At the end of 2024, the 2025 budget was submitted and approved by City Council. The prudent budget calls for expenditures of \$125.9 million; a 5.4% decrease in spending from the previous year. The City of Pueblo is committed to providing services to its citizens in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner.



Public Safety is a core service provided by city government, and accounts for 56% of the city budget.

2025 GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$117,191,755



Gross Sales & Use Tax Receipts General Fund	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Unaudited
January	\$3,899,609	\$4,644,553	\$6,130,037	\$6,354,907	\$5,791,559
February	\$3,867,356	\$4,703,075	\$6,066,684	\$6,250,032	\$6,743,807
March	\$4,152,725	\$6,554,999	\$7,377,972	\$7,716,126	\$7,342,652
April	\$3,796,533	\$6,181,903	\$6,854,714	\$7,059,458	\$7,484,216
May	\$4,592,783	\$5,613,571	\$7,018,878	\$6,745,120	\$6,781,994
June	\$5,144,153	\$6,274,574	\$7,921,788	\$7,357,053	\$7,249,719
July	\$4,736,521	\$5,658,482	\$7,081,470	\$6,899,981	\$6,686,718
August	\$4,801,070	\$5,813,580	\$7,636,966	\$7,193,543	\$8,303,300
September	\$4,972,940	\$5,936,694	\$7,366,849	\$7,420,059	\$8,273,583
October	\$4,527,389	\$5,753,943	\$6,868,700	\$6,497,673	\$7,778,226
November	\$4,540,092	\$5,656,403	\$6,514,251	\$6,448,306	\$6,448,306**
December	\$5,794,007	\$7,196,966	\$8,123,704	\$8,037,584	\$8,037,584**
Total	\$54,825,178	\$69,988,742	\$84,962,012	\$83,979,843	\$86,921,664

**November and December 2024 receipts estimated.

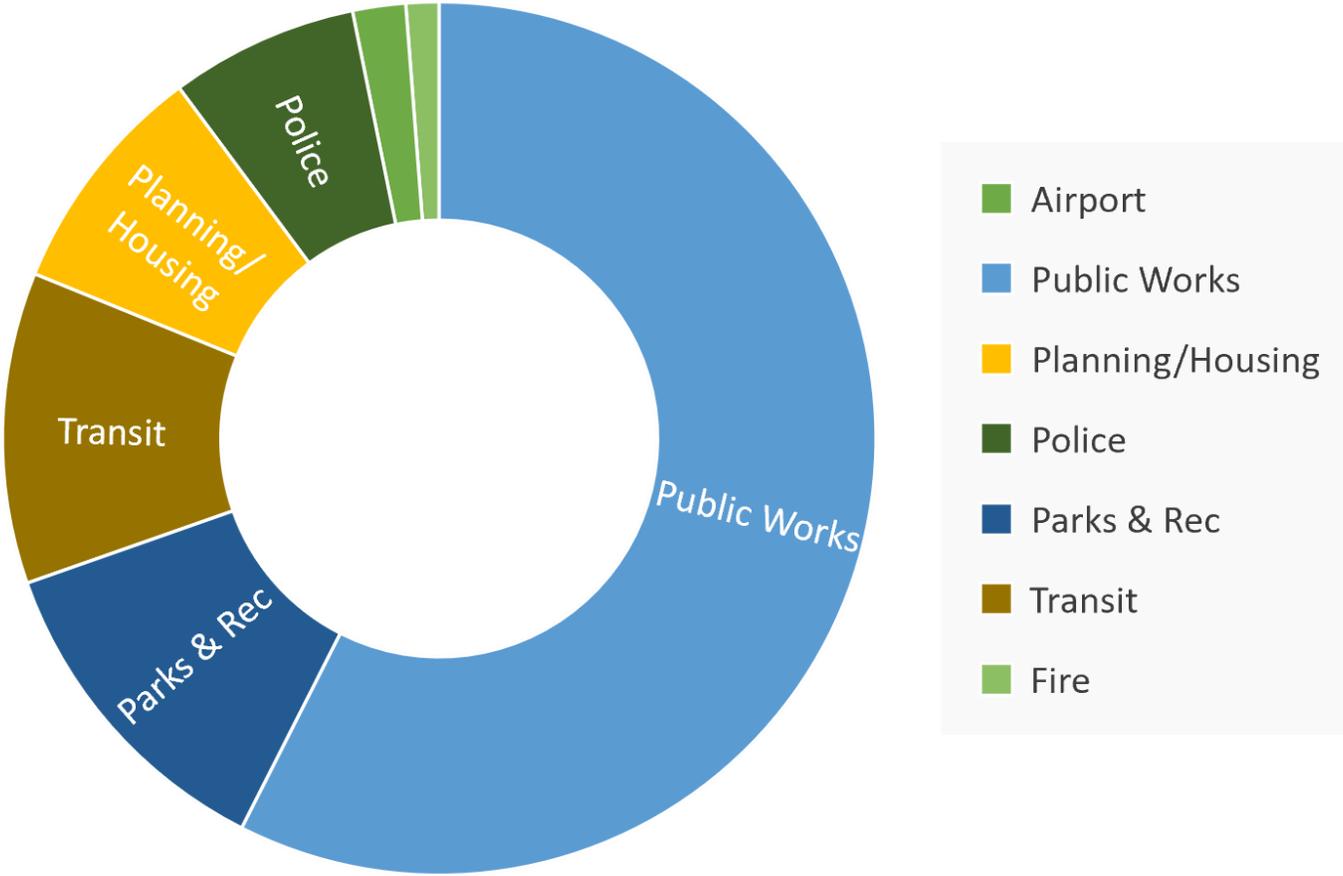
GRANT AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

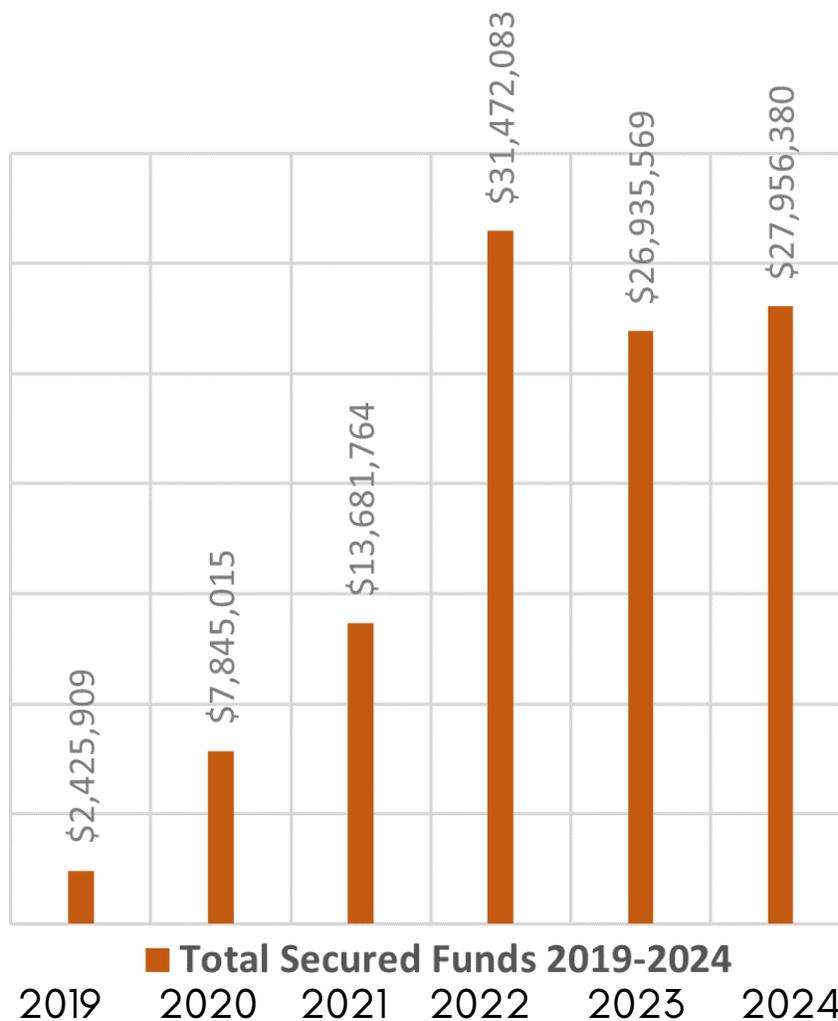
Grant funds received by the City of Pueblo support important programs and services that the City provides to the community. These funds allow the City to extend existing services, introduce new initiatives, and gain technological advances. Grant funds are dispersed throughout the City and impact a variety of efforts including security, economic development, public safety, transportation, recreation, infrastructure improvement and maintenance, among others. This report does not include American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The City of Pueblo submitted 92 grant applications in 2024.

Secured Funding

44 requests were awarded for a total of \$27,956,380: \$27,821,128 in cash and an additional \$135,200 in in-kind donations in the form of learning cohort participation and DOC work crew labor was accepted. Matching, non-federal dollars totaling \$4,065,318 are statutorily required.





Pre-award activities were centralized to the mayor’s office in 2021 to coordinate common needs among departments, plan for submission of proposals, and be pre-positioned to submit proposals when opportunities arise. Processing all grant applications through the mayor’s office ensures that each grant application is aligned with an established City of Pueblo priority, meets the City’s expectations of document quality, has matching funds available if required by the grantor, and that the means for continuation of the project or program after the grant period ends has been given realistic consideration.

77.61% of all secured funds in 2024 are from Federal government sources; 17.76% are from State government sources; and 2.54% is from private funders/foundations. Of all Federal sources, 49.93% is from programs included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Pending Funding

As of 31 December, 16 grant applications are still pending for 2024, totaling \$17,424,999. Pending request include Congressionally Directed Spending for rehabilitation of Lime Road, law enforcement mental health support, Mel Harmon Bridge improvements, development of Eagleridge Park, and a feasibility study to dredge Lake Minnequa. The statutorily required match for 100% of this funding would be \$81,818.

Declined Funding

As of 31 December, 15 grant applications submitted in 2024 were declined, totaling \$63,711,247. Almost one half of declined funding is attributable to requests for abatement of derelict properties and correction of groundwater flooding in the Bessemer neighborhood.

Secured Funding by Source	Awarded	Project
BJA Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance	\$79,006	evidence lockers, download software, new hardware
CDOT Division of Aeronautics	\$6,250	east apron rehab planning
CDOT Division of Aeronautics	\$6,546	hangar rehab planning
CDOT Division of Aeronautics	\$12,796	east apron design phase
CDOT Multimodal Transportation Option Fund	\$128,000	trail signs
CDOT Multimodal Transportation Option Fund	\$90,000	<u>MyRide™ with TripSpark</u>
CDOT Multimodal Transportation Option Fund	\$130,399	solar pedestrian lights at high crime bus stops
CDOT Off System Bridge Program	\$448,000	18th St bridge rehab
CDOT Revitalizing Main Streets	\$248,300	Bessemer gateway/art and City Center art/lights
CDPHE CO Resource for Emergency and Trauma Ed	\$22,500	EMT training
CDPHE Supplemental Environmental Projects	\$378,880	household hazardous waste program
CDPS Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program	\$301,648	behavioral health deflection (CIT) 3 clinicians 1 year
CEO Single Structure Geothermal Energy	\$90,000	zero-emission, geothermal energy for Station 6
CEO Single Structure Geothermal Energy	\$90,000	zero-emission, geothermal energy for Station 8
CEO Single Structure Geothermal Energy	\$90,000	zero-emission, geothermal energy for Station 11
CO Assoc of State Transit Agencies	\$62,213	farebox reimbursement for youth ridership
CO Auto Theft Prevention Authority BATTLE	\$130,000	equipment and staffing to prevent auto theft
CO Health Foundation Designed Outdoor Spaces	\$545,457	Benedict Park rehabilitation
CO Lottery Funding the Fun	\$500,000	slabs: lights, resurfacing, murals
CO POST Public Safety Leadership Development	\$5,600	tuition, two officers, all inclusive
CO POST Public Safety Leadership Development	\$5,600	tuition, two (additional) officers, all inclusive
CO POST Region (Central Training) Grant Program	\$151,718	training, equipment, scholarships, grant mgt., prog. delivery
COSPD High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas	\$24,000	vehicle leases used w/ DEA SO CO Drug Task Force
COSWAP State Wildland Inmate Fire Teams	\$50,000	DOC work crew wildfire mitigation
DCJ Assistance in Recruiting and Retention	\$200,000	childcare subsidy for PPD
DOE Energy Efficiency CBG Formula Voucher	\$161,870	voucher to purchase BEAM portable, solar EV chargers
DOE Energy Efficiency CBG Staff Capacity	\$120,000	renewable energy manager ft position
DOLA EIAF Public Safety	\$1,000,000	RTCC software, training, cameras, <u>shotspotters</u>
DOLA Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance	\$1,000,000	HARP Boathouse
DOLA Local Planning Capacity	\$96,000	four procedure updates for Prop 123
DOT Bridge Investment Program	\$13,713,060	Union Ave bridge demo and construction
DOT Safe Streets for All	\$995,559	multiple planning and demonstration projects
FAA Airport Improvement Program	\$31,059	Amendment to FY23 AIP, for design
FAA Airport Improvement Program	\$239,529	AP1804 - South T-Hangar #1 rehab planning
FAA Airport Improvement Program	\$253,073	AP2401 - East Apron (N) <u>Taxilane</u> rehab planning
FTA 5307 Operations	\$4,633	vehicle PM
FTA 5307 Operations	\$2,857,457	fixed route, paratransit PM, security, and misc. projects
GOCO Generation Wild Communities	\$190,532	outdoor opportunities with NWDC, Zoo, BGCPC
HUD CDBG allocation	\$1,453,412	production or preservation of affordable housing
HUD HOME allocation	\$880,344	production or preservation of affordable housing
OAJA Crime Prevention through Safer Streets	\$853,413	lighting on trails and parks
PACOG Consolidated Planning Grants	\$77,526	detailed cost estimates for new transit admin
Public Safety Partnership	\$50,000	no-cost customized site-specific training and TA
Robert H Rawlings Foundation	\$182,000	bathrooms at tennis courts (<i>funds returned</i>)

PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Pueblo Police Department is comprised of highly professional and dedicated men and women committed to upholding the values of Service, Integrity, Character and Excellence. These individuals are responsible for the preservation of public peace, prevention of crime, apprehension of criminals, protection of the rights of persons and property, and the enforcement of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the City of Pueblo. While 2024 saw continued recruitment challenges

similar to those experienced by law enforcement agencies across the country, the department also recorded a seven percent overall decrease in Part 1 crime with internal changes and policy implementations, have gone a long way to help with retention and expedited hiring processes. While there is still significant work to be done, the Pueblo Police Department, its officers, and civilians are making an impact in the Pueblo community and will continue to find additional innovative ways to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Pueblo and working in partnership across the community to improve and maintain public safety.

Continued use of CompStat, an intelligence and data driven approach to addressing crime, has proven highly beneficial with data shared weekly throughout the department to watch commanders, sergeants, patrol officers, and investigators. Data collected by the department's Crime Analyst includes various crime statistics that show crime trends that impact daily decisions and allow for adjustments to the allocation of manpower and resources between calls for service. This approach gives officers the information they need to identify and proactively address specific areas of concern during their shifts.

Utilizing these tactics and expanded technology in the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC), launched in July 2024, Part 1 crime decreased an additional 7%, on top of the 13% decrease seen in 2023. There were dramatic reductions of 30% in auto theft and 26% in homicide. The reductions can be attributed to, in part, an ongoing focus on more proactive police work, targeted approaches to recovering vehicles in motor vehicle thefts and holding auto thieves accountable in accordance with revised legislation that returned auto thefts of any value to a felony-level offense. Increases in crime rates were seen in assaults- aggravated and sexual as well as theft/larceny. There will always be more work to be done, and the Pueblo Police Department is dedicated to finding additional ways to address these concerns and more by advocating for impactful changes at the legislative level, building upon these improvements, and partnering in new ways.

Nature	Jan. 1-Dec. 31,2023	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024	% Change '23-24
Aggravated Assault	794	827	4%
Arson	66	54	-18%
Auto Theft	1,933	1,357	-30%
Burglary	972	925	-5%
Homicide	27	20	-26%
Robbery	270	238	-12%
Sexual Assault	225	249	11%
Theft/Larceny	3,455	3,508	2%

Grand Total	7,742	7,178	-7%
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This data set includes completed, attempted, and unfounded incidents. All files utilized in the creation of this report are dynamic. Dynamic files allow additions, deletions, and/or modification at any time, resulting in more complete and accurate records in the databases. Due to continuous data entry after reports are filed and compiled, numbers may vary in previous or subsequent reports.

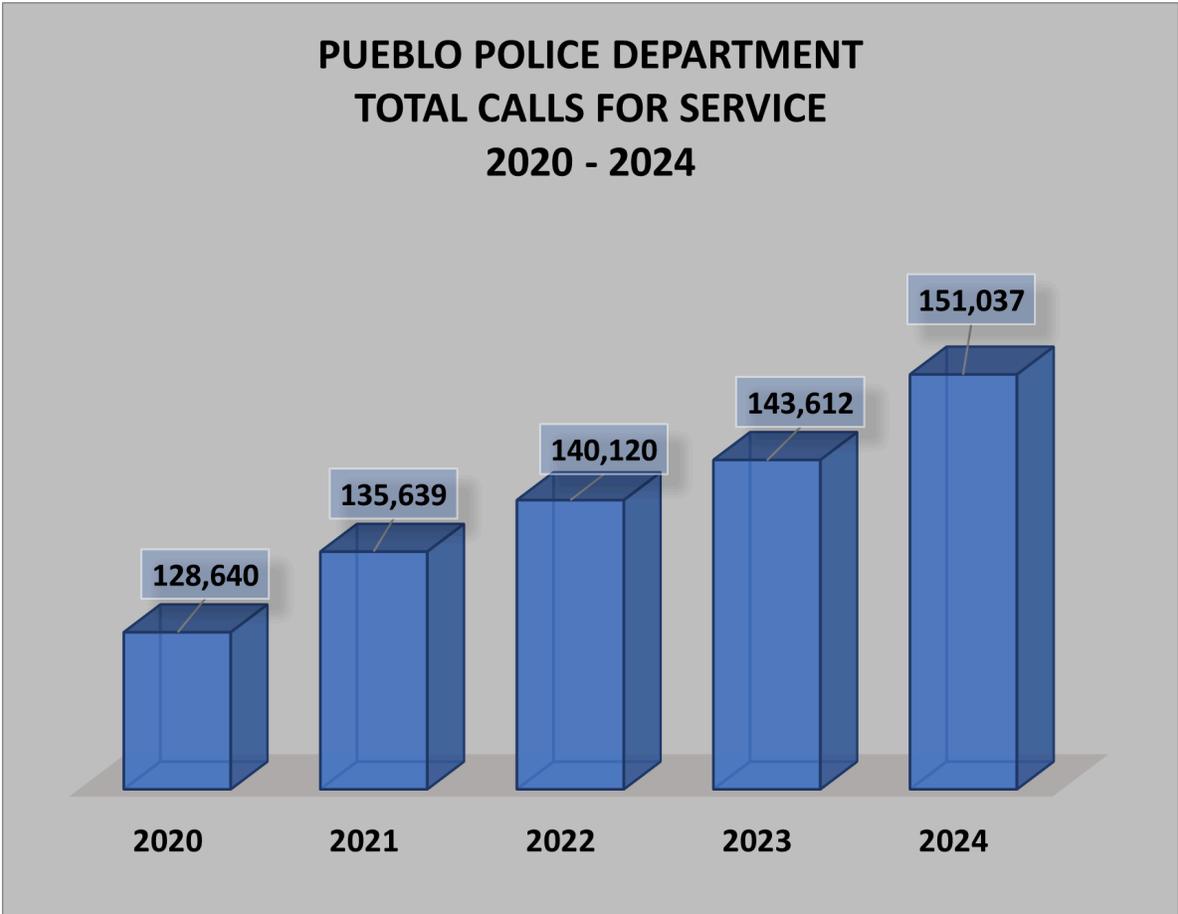
Structure of the Pueblo Police Department

In 2024, the Pueblo Police Department was restructured into three distinct bureaus with Deputy Chiefs dedicated to leading each section- Investigations, Operations, and Support Services.

Support Services: Communications Center, Records, Property & Evidence, Real-Time Crime Center, and Special Services

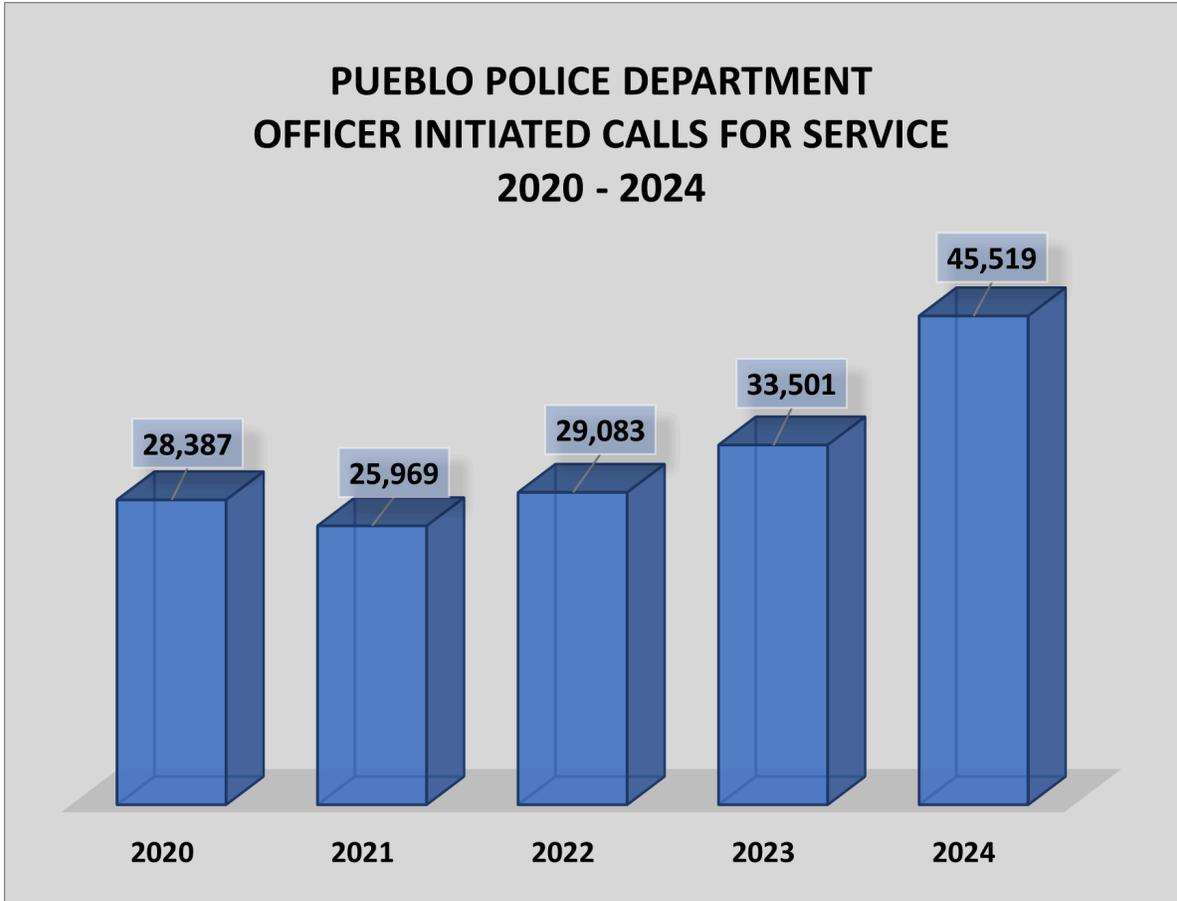
Communications Center

The Communications Center plays a critical role in the Pueblo Police Department. This team is often the first point of contact for citizens that call for help. They efficiently handle incoming 9-1-1 and administrative phone calls into the department, triage and direct those calls accordingly, and dispatch appropriate units to respond for both the Pueblo Police Department and the Pueblo Fire Department. The center fielded another record-breaking year of calls for service with a 4.92% increase over 2023 for a total of 151,037 calls for police alone (more than 17 calls per hour).

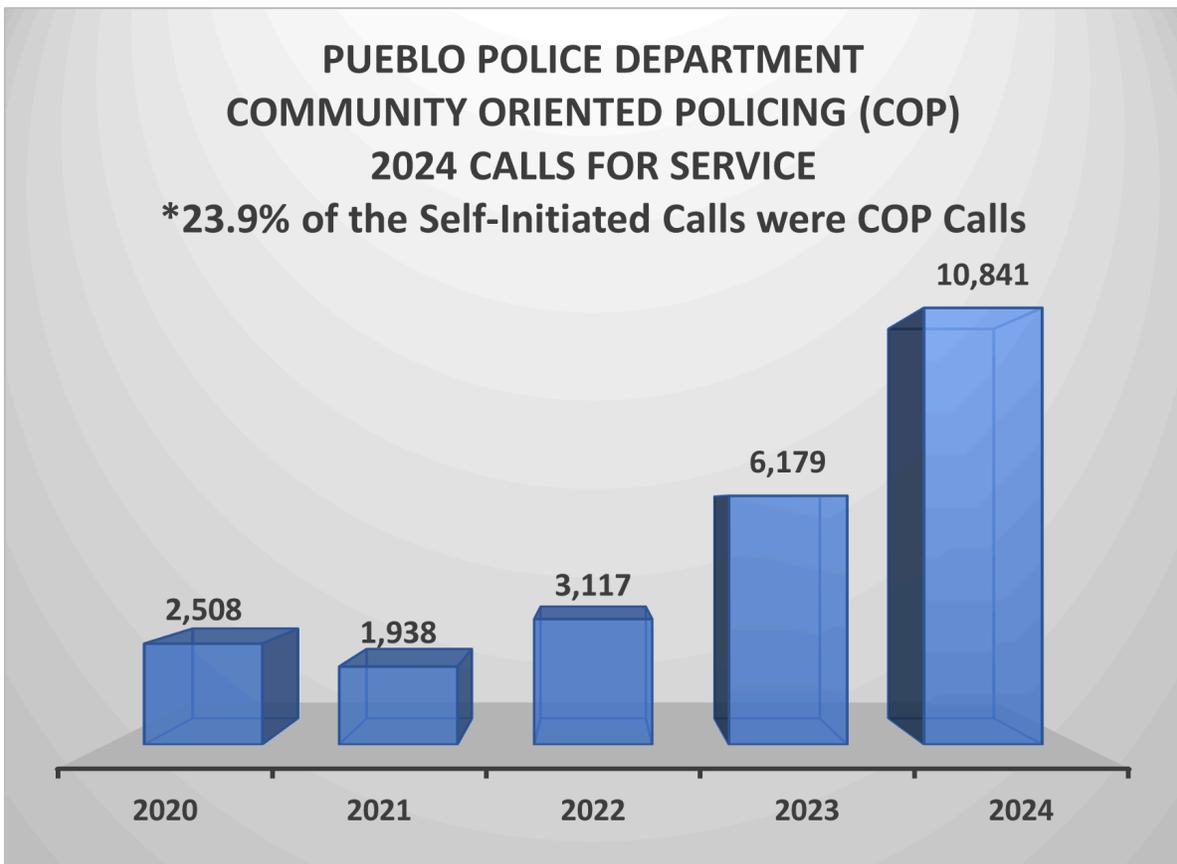


In addition to responding to calls for service, the Pueblo Police Department maintained a focus on proactive policing to address crime before it occurs.

Pueblo Police Department saw a 34.87% increase from 2023 to 2024 for Officer initiated calls.



Community-oriented policing (COP) calls increased by 75.45% from 2023 to 2024.

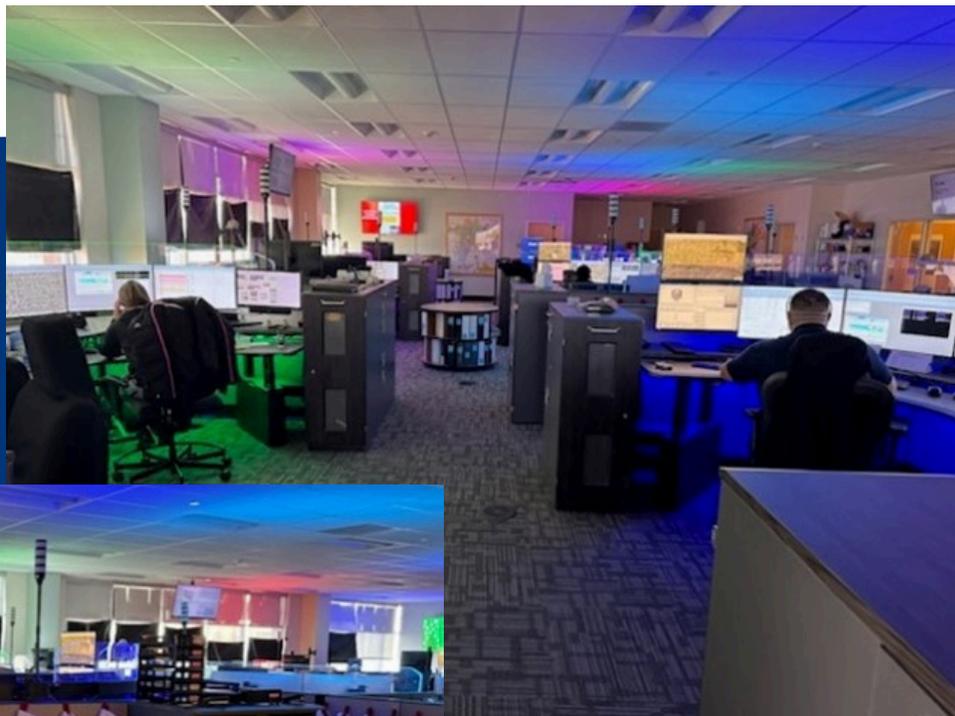


PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Staffing shortages and retention issues have historically affected communication centers nationwide, and ours is no exception. The Communications Center operated at approximately 60% staffing throughout the year. Four (4) hiring cycles for dispatch occurred in 2024, gaining 11 new dispatchers, while overall, 12 left the Comm Center for various reasons. Partnering with Civil Service in innovative recruiting efforts will continue for both dispatch and patrol.

In 2024, the Communications Center received 216,508 incoming phone calls, with 87,060 of those as 9-1-1 calls, and 1,087 incoming text messages. Handling emergent calls and radio traffic remains the priority for dispatchers, so in June, a phone tree was added to the non-emergency dispatch line to efficiently route callers with routine questions or concerns to the appropriate division. While timely directing the caller, this also alleviated the need for a dispatcher to handle a percentage of administrative calls.

The original console furniture was almost 14 years old, so a replacement and upgrade of the console furniture and carpet was planned for 2024. This included a slight remodel of the floor plan, which allowed us to add two (2) additional positions for call-takers while, with support from the City's IT professionals, this remodel and installation did not disrupt any services, as dispatchers continued to conduct business as usual while the remodel occurred around them. This purchase of approximately \$370,000 was budgeted and paid from E911 funds.



Remodeled Communications Center



Records

The Pueblo Police Department Records Section is responsible for the storage, release, and management of local police criminal justice records. They are honored to support the department in helping to keep the local database efficient and filled with the most up-to-date information – as well as other agencies and the public by releasing information, as appropriate, when requested. Each request is carefully considered, adhering to the laws of the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act (“CCJRA”) and weighing the interests of confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure on a case-by-case basis.

Beyond processing records requests, the Records section also administers sex offender registration; authoring certain natures of police reports, including cold traffic accidents; fingerprinting; security guard/merchant patrol and hack licensing; and reception/general assistance, among other duties.

2024 Records Highlights

- Fully transitioned to an online request platform. This offers a convenient way for citizens to request, pay for, and receive records electronically. There are a variety of internal tools & reports available to help Records monitor productivity and trends.
- All full-time staff attended specialized training on the Colorado Open Records Act (“CORA”) and CCJRA.
- Two (2) full-time staff members promoted from Office Assistant to Records Technician.
- Received special recognition by City Council with the proclamation of Law Enforcement Records Personnel week (Nov. 4-8, 2024).

Property and Evidence

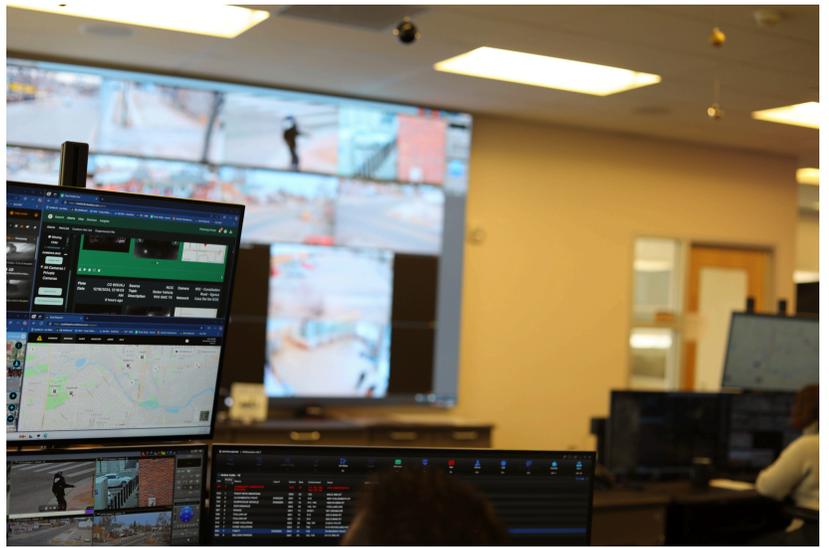
In 2024, our Property & Evidence Unit was fully staffed for the first half of the year. The Unit has four full-time and four part-time evidence clerks positions available, but only three full-time and 3 part-time positions currently filled. Despite this, the Unit continued to climb out of the deluge of property and evidence that has plagued it with regards to the annual influx of property and evidence.

Annually, the Unit had consistently taken in more items that it has been able to purge. Property and Evidence’s yearly addition of new evidence translated into the stressing of available storage capacity within its two warehouses. In 2023 and now 2024, the Unit reversed the trend and both years resulted in the overall reduction of items stored. Prior years’ annual purges averaged 11,000-12,000 items. 2024 will top 20,000 items for second consecutive year. 2023’s purge differential of -3,397 items will be exceeded by 2024’s purge in excess of 6,000 items removed from our inventory. Those numbers included over 2,500 Narcotics and Firearms being destroyed. The filling of vacant positions and training of new personnel should continue the upward trend into 2025.



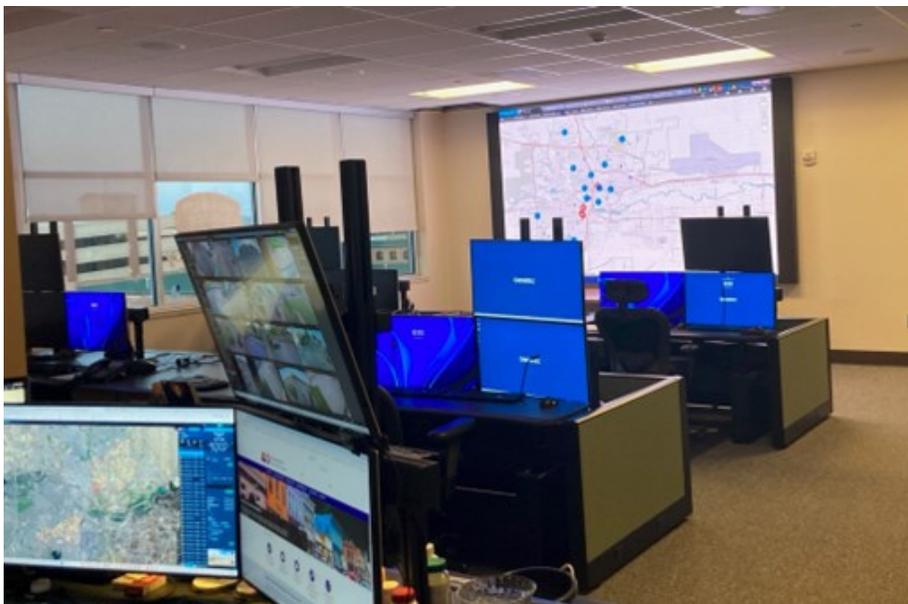
Real-Time Crime Center

Launched in July 2024, the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) amplifies the work of officers on the ground by providing additional information to aid in improving response times, locating suspects, and persons in need of emergency assistance. The center includes technology like ShotSpotter, officer-worn body footage, drone footage when deployed by the Pueblo Police Department (PPD), camera footage, license plate readers, and more. Through a network of cameras located in strategic areas throughout the City of Pueblo, the



technology allows non-sworn personnel to assist police officers in real-time while on calls. Thirty-eight Cloudrunner license plate readers (LPRs) were installed around the city. Two trailer cameras were deployed to several locations around the city. Several additional cameras were added or updated.

The department broke 1,000 ShotSpotter alerts in October (1,081 as of end of December with 4,194 shots reported). Out of those there have been 279 CRs pulled, 1,748 casing recovered, 37 firearms recovered, 29 arrests/citations and rendered aid in 14 incidents. One of the most obvious benefits of this technology is being alerted to shots fired even when no citizens call to report them. Out of over 1,000 alerts, citizens called in on less than 250 of them. This is 750 gunshots that would have otherwise not been reported to police, in just a three-square mile area (City covers 55.38 square miles).



The Real Time Crime Center is located in Dispatch inside of the Pueblo Police Department at the Pueblo Municipal Justice Center

Operations Bureau: Patrol, Traffic, Internal Affairs, School Resource Officers, Community Service Officers, Parking Enforcement, Code Enforcement, Training, and Recruiting

Patrol

The Pueblo Police department is constantly re-evaluating how to reallocate resources. In 2024 several changes occurred, we went from four watches to three watches. Watch III was eliminated and Watch II hours were altered by two hours changed to 1400hrs-0000hrs. This change allowed some personnel to be moved to other areas, including the new Impact Team, and several vacancies in special units were filled.

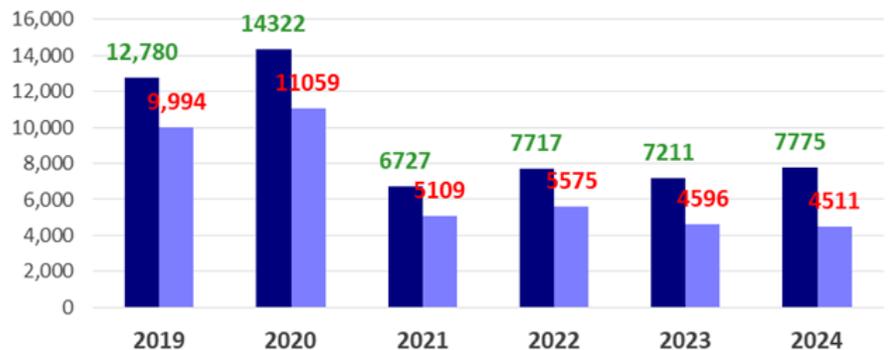
Year End Response Time (Call Received to 1st Arrive)				
	2022 (Year End)	2023 (Year End)	2024 (Year End)	Difference (Year End)
Priority	2022	2023	2024	Response Time Change
1	000:12:17	000:13:03	000:13:45	+ 42 seconds
2	1000:20:32	000:22:17	000:24:06	+ 1 min 49 sec
3	000:38:22	000:46:14	000:50:38	+4 min 24 sec
4	001:00:13	001:09:17	001:14:01	+4 min 47 sec
5	001:01:24	001:07:10	001:10:11	+3 min 1 sec
6	000:59:23	001:16:32	001:33:08	+16 min 36 sec

Traffic

Traffic Division is made up of police officers/detectives who enforce traffic laws and investigate traffic accidents. One of the most common forms of traffic policing in the modern day is vehicular enforcement. This is conducted by officers using vehicles or motorcycles. Vehicular enforcement usually consists of the enforcement of speed limits, registration and licensing, driving under the influence, and other vehicle-related laws and crimes. Traffic enforcement is also conducted using traffic enforcement cameras. These camera feeds are monitored for visible incidents such red light infractions. The Traffic Division also provided planning and safety measures for several community events, Bell Game, Canon Game, six parades, and one bicycle race.

Traffic enforcement has long been a concern in our city. As the chart below indicates, proactive enforcement continued to fall throughout the last three years.

Pueblo Police Department Citations 2019-2024 Comparison

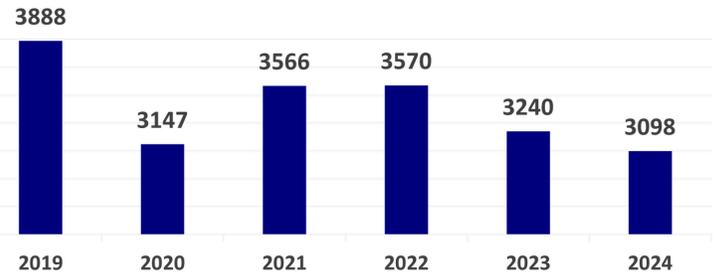


Traffic (continued)

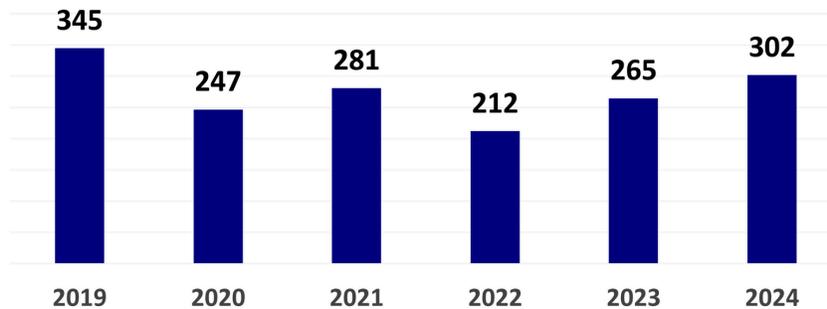
Traffic Division personnel have been reduced to 1 sergeant and 5 officers for enforcement and higher priority calls for service assist patrol officers. The Traffic Division has one officer who is actively working to enforce DUI/DUID laws within the City of Pueblo. In October of 2023 the city authorized a civilian position to be hired to manage abandoned vehicles, that position was left vacant due to an unfortunate incident. The traffic sergeant hopes to fill this position in February of 2025, until then, a Traffic Officer is filling in.

Traffic accidents fell by 4.4% to 3,098 while Driving Under Intoxication increased by 14%.

Traffic Accidents 2019-2024 Comparison



Driving Under Intoxication (DUI) 2019-2024 Comparison



Since April 2023, the Traffic Division was deputized by Sheriff Lucero which enabled joint enforcement within all of Pueblo County. A cooperative effort to combat aggressive driving in Pueblo County moved around the county and city, with each agency selecting areas of need.

There have been 18 fatal crashes in 2024, claiming 22 people. This is a significant decrease from 2023, as noted in the chart below. Of the 18 fatal crashes, four involved pedestrians, three cases involved the arrest of the suspect, four are for speed, and 2 are still active with 1 having little information.

Directed Investigations and Community Engagement

The DICE Team was formed in 2022 to help combat lower-level crime such as shoplifting, loitering, trespass, and to provide resources during outreach to the unhoused. The Team includes a sergeant and four officers who work together to conduct proactive policing in the areas that statistically show a higher volume of the lower level-crime. DICE works closely with retail stores and other businesses to prevent thefts and increase safety for shoppers. DICE has assisted other units within the department like code enforcement with cleanups and outside agencies to combat crime. DICE continued to have a dramatic impact on addressing quality of life crimes in 2024 issuing 3,774 citations and 159 PR bonds, making 118 warrant arrests, conducting 1,876 COP calls, recovering \$75,949 in stolen merchandise, and handling 4,273 calls for service.

DICE also continued its commitment to outreach with the unhoused, building on their efforts from 2023. Throughout 2024, several cleanup efforts along the Fountain Creek and I-25 occurred to address multiple public safety and health concerns. These endeavors underlined the dedication and collaborative work between stakeholders and the Pueblo Police Department. As we move forward into 2025, DICE continues to have a positive impact on our community.



DICE Unit assisted with the Fountain Creek clean up

Solutions Outreach Services (SOS)

Solutions Outreach Services (SOS) is a program developed by Health Solutions in September 2023 and implemented in partnership with the Pueblo Police Department. The SOS team is comprised of three Health Solutions employees who will be responding to calls that do not require an officer's response. SOS team members have a van that the three of them will be responding in, equipped with radios and laptops. SOS should be dispatched to calls that do not require an officer's response, such as Citizen Assist, Indecent Exposure, Intoxicated Party, Suicidal Party (unarmed), Unwanted Party, and Welfare Checks. The Pueblo Police Department has assigned a sergeant as a SOS liaison. The sergeant attends the monthly meetings which are held at the station. During these meetings, the SOS team can discuss any successes, questions, and/or concerns about frequent callers, call trends, and address any changes in how SOS services are utilized. Since the creation of the program, it has continued to grow and expand, taking on training rolls, establishing policies, and working in-depth with the department. In 2024 the SOS Team handled 620 calls for service.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a program developed by Health Solutions. The CIT provides police officers new strategies and tools for identifying and de-escalating crisis calls involving these individuals. CIT Clinicians accompany officers on all calls in the community, triage, and provide crisis intervention, assess needs and provide resources, and link with treatment. Clinicians handle and resolve calls by phone when deemed that the officer's presence is most likely not necessary.

The mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, developmentally disabled, suicidal, and persons who otherwise suffer from any form of mental disability can pose a significant challenge to police officers. The use of CIT during crisis situations has decreased arrest and injury rates for people in crisis, enhanced the public involvement in law enforcement efforts, increases officer and citizen safety. Some of CIT goals are to provide alternatives to unnecessary legal system involvement, incarceration, and/or hospitalizations, reduce officer involvement with chronic calls for service, minimize responses to aggression, and improve relationships and communication between community, law enforcement, and mental health services.

Community Service Officer (CSO) Program

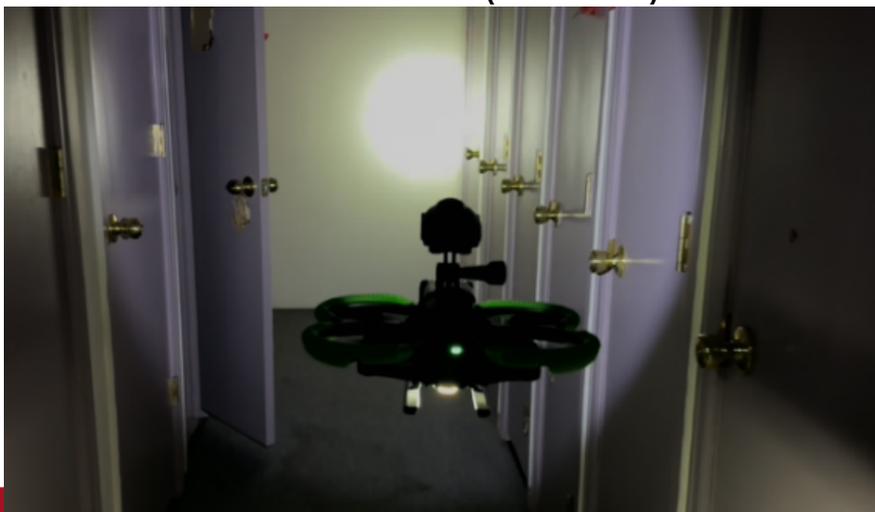
The civilian Community Service Officer 6-person unit has proven to be an asset to both the community and the officers of the Pueblo Police Department. These dedicated officers handle a wide range of incidents where suspects are no longer on the scene. Their responsibilities include managing cases such as burglaries, motor vehicle theft reports, recovered motor vehicle thefts (unoccupied), criminal mischief, frauds, forgeries, missing person, runaways, found property, traffic hazards, and conducting follow-ups on various cases. As CSOs handle these calls for service, patrol officers can respond to other higher priority calls for service and be more proactive. In 2024, CSOs handled 7,354 calls for service and produced over 1,526 reports.

Furthering their impact, in 2025 CSOs will begin their certification for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The CSOs will use a multidisciplinary approach that uses the built and natural environments to reduce crime and fear of crime. With this certification, CSOs will be able to focus on the physical design of a neighborhood, such as lighting, fencing, and plantings, to identify and reduce potential crime areas. CSOs will then be able to give sound advice to our victims and those citizens who choose to be proactive on improving their environment.

CSO assisting Pueblo Police
Officers with traffic control



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV Unit)



The UAV Unit has proven to be a force multiplier for the department as it provides the ability to search vast areas in a fraction of the time with far less manpower than using conventional search methods. The UAVs have also been an invaluable tool for officer safety. In dangerous environments, UAVs have been able to clear unknown areas for officers to enter and provide live intelligence when the suspect is presented.

UAV training

The UAV Unit is currently comprised of one sergeant and five officers who are FAA 107 Certified Pilots. The unit often works to assist other City of Pueblo departments as well as other area law enforcement agencies.

In 2024 the UAV has 765 Flights, 148 hours of Flight Time, and 156 Calls for Service. Calls for service included: crime scene documentation, vehicle accidents, search for missing persons, overwatch for officer safety, Fountain River documentation, large wildfire assists with Pueblo Fire and other mutual aid agencies, and training and collaboration with the Pueblo Police Department SWAT and Bomb Teams. The UAVs unit will continue to grow as it is used for crime scene documentation, area searches, tactical operations, and the overall service to the community. In 2025 this technology will be expanded to include drones as first responders (DFR) capabilities.



Pueblo Police Department UAV unit assisted Pueblo Fire Department with wildland fire drone footage to identify hotspots.

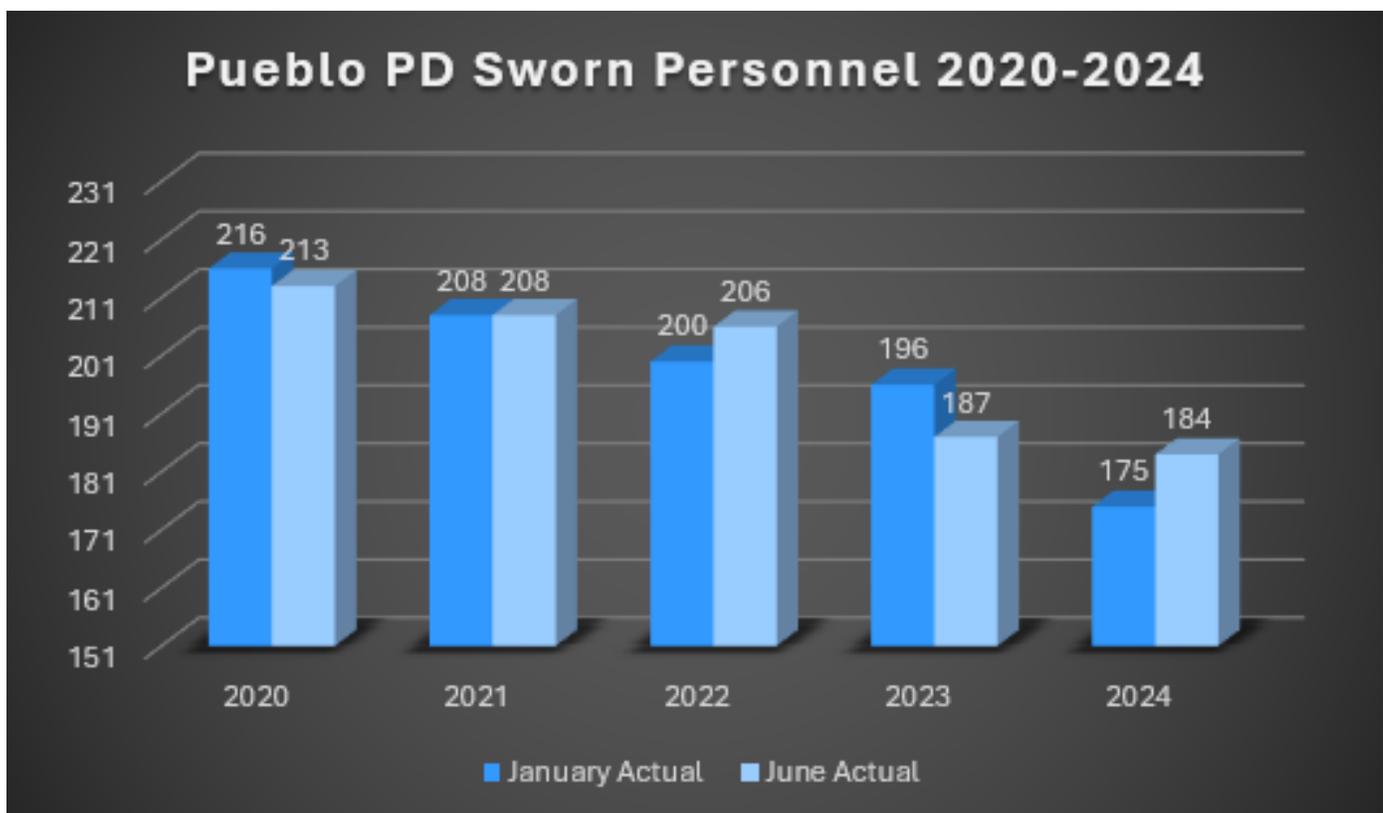
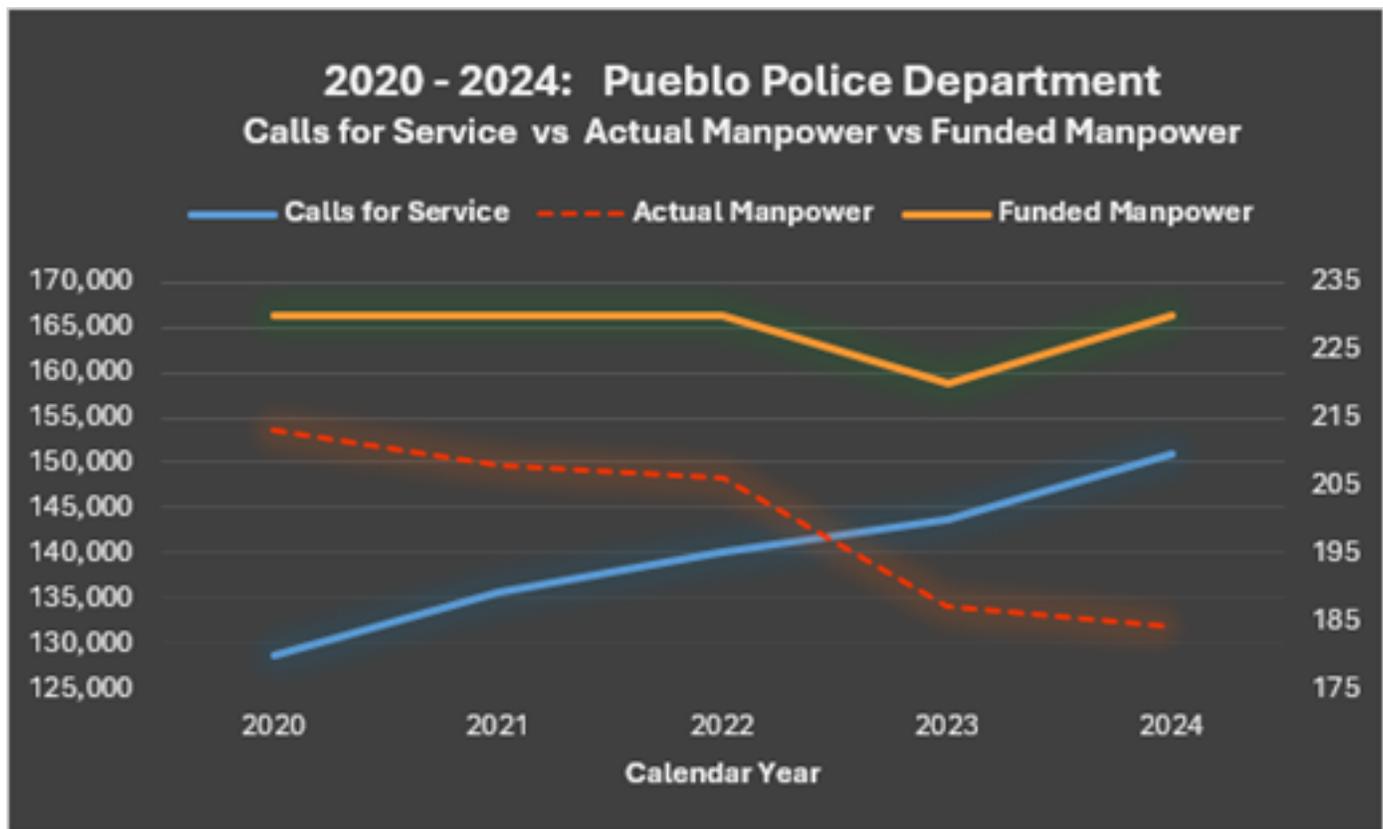
Recruiting and Training

The Training Unit provides in-service training to sworn staff ensuring that required training mandated by Colorado Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) are completed as well as advanced training. The unit does an incredible job training future officers and working with the Human Resources Department and Civil Service to streamline the hiring process. In 2024, the unit oversaw or coordinated over 36,000 hours of training.

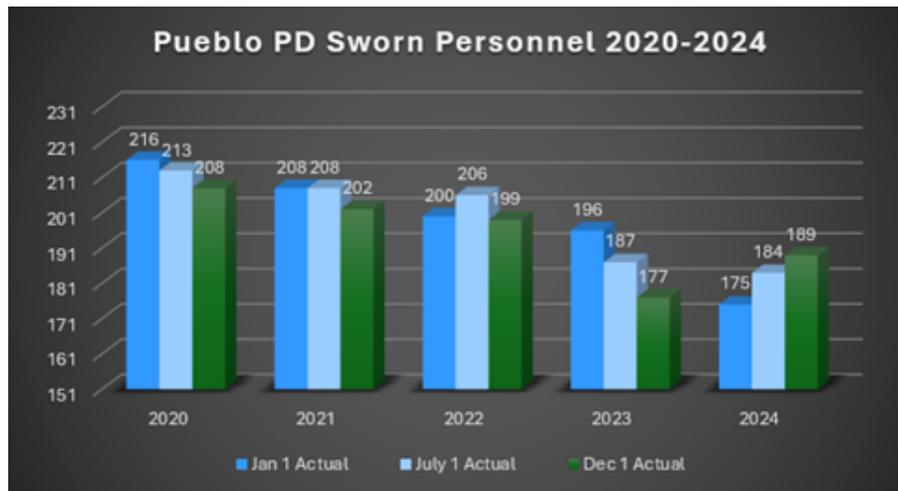
Like many police departments across the nation, Pueblo Police Department is continually striving to be innovative in our recruiting and retention efforts. The department's recruiter and recruitment team attend various events across the front range and in other states including at several military institutions. At the beginning of her term, Mayor Heather Graham recognized the necessity for change to improve recruitment numbers. She facilitated changes to our civil service process, which have significantly impacted our outcomes. In addition, a partnership with Pueblo Community College has enabled increased the number of new hire academies to four or five each year.

The Department saw a notable improvement in recruitment and retention in 2024. Twenty officers left the department, a decrease from 40 in 2023. Among those who left, three retired, 12 resigned (including one from the academy and one in lieu of discipline), and five separated from employment for various reasons.

Recruiting and Training (continued)



Pueblo Police Department recruitment efforts led to a remarkable 143% increase, resulting in 34 new hires. Out of those, four were separated from employment and one resigned within the year, giving us a net gain of thirty hires, which is more than double the 14 hires in 2023. The hiring process for all positions, sworn and civilian, is ongoing throughout the year.



School Resource Officers

Pueblo Police Department School Resource Officers (SRO) are specifically trained, carefully selected, and properly equipped group of officers who are valuable resources to the school and the staff members at each of the schools they serve. The Officers are expected to foster a positive relationship with the students and develop strategies to resolve problems that affect our youth with the goal of protecting all children. An SRO can be asked to be a Public Safety Educator in the classroom, an informal counselor with the students, and law enforcement officer helping keep the school safe all in one day.

The SRO unit serves 29 schools in the City of Pueblo in partnership with Pueblo District 60. The unit is comprised of one sergeant and ten officers. There is one SRO with each of the four High Schools in the city of Pueblo and one SRO with each of the 6 middles schools. The SROs share duties inside the elementary schools with one or more of the elementary schools assigned to each SRO. The SRO on any given day will handle calls for service generated inside of their school or one of their elementary schools. They are trained to respond to active shooters inside the schools and maintain those skills throughout the year. The average day for the SRO will consist of reports of child abuse, fights or assaults, property damage, and welfare checks for the students. They are also routinely available to speak openly with the students and foster those community relationships. An SRO is expected to maintain the safety of some selected after school events such as prom, homecoming, and seasonal dances. The SRO unit provides game time security to the two biggest high school games in the city of Pueblo, the Cannon game and Bell game. Four of the current SROs are trained in the discipline of active shooter response and have helped schools outside of District 60 develop plans for safety and action in their schools.

The SRO Unit also serves the community and school district through the Pueblo Police Explorers program. In the Explorers youth between the ages of 13 - 20 years of age can participate. The students meet once a month with officers of the SRO unit and are given selected classes and activities that an actual police recruit may experience here in the Pueblo Police Department. The students who participate must demonstrate solid citizenship, a grade point average of 2.0 and have a clean driving history. The students in the explorer's program will help with community events and displays when needed. Currently, the Pueblo Police Explorers have 25 active members from all over the city of Pueblo.

PUEBLO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigations Bureau: Tactical Services Group consisting of the Crisis Negotiation Team (C.N.T.), Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T.), Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad (P.M.B.S.), Special Investigations Division (S.I.D.), and the Criminal Investigations Division (C.I.D.)

The Tactical Services Group (T.S.G.)

The Tactical Services Group was established to provide specialized support in handling critical field operations where intense negotiations and/or special tactical deployment methods beyond the capacity of field officers are necessary. The mission of the Tactical Services Group is to save lives by attempting to reduce the risk of injury and loss of life to hostages, innocent citizens, law enforcement officers, and suspects.

The Tactical Services Group (T.S.G.)

The Crisis Negotiation Team (C.N.T.) is a specialized unit of officers trained to use verbal communication to de-escalate situations involving hostages, barricaded suspects, or individuals with suicidal tendencies. Their goal is to achieve peaceful resolutions to conflicts that may pose harm to those involved or others. The team often responds alongside S.W.A.T. during operations and may initiate communication with suspects beforehand. When on patrol, C.N.T. members can also apply their skills to de-escalate situations and potentially prevent the need for a full Tactical Support Group (T.S.G.) response.

Both the S.W.A.T. team and the Crisis Negotiation Team (C.N.T.) are collateral duty assignments, with members drawn from various departmental divisions. They work together as a cohesive unit during crises. As of November 2024, the Tactical Services Group completed 34 missions.

Special Weapons and Tactics Team (S.W.A.T.)

The S.W.A.T. team is a specialized unit of officers trained to handle hazardous and complex incidents that exceed the capabilities of regular first responders. These incidents include hostage situations, barricaded suspects, high-risk warrants, active shooter events, and terrorist acts.

The S.W.A.T. team has 20 members, including one captain and one sergeant. The selection process involves an evaluation of work history, performance, and recommendations, followed by physical fitness tests, firearms assessments, oral boards, and team evaluations.

S.W.A.T. (continued)

Members must pass physical fitness tests biannually and maintain firearms proficiency. Training follows national standards from the National Tactical Officers Association (N.T.O.A.) including a 40-hour basic S.W.A.T. course as a prerequisite for all members, monthly training of 16 to 20 hours for critical skills, specialty assignments of an additional 8 to 10 hours per month, and annual in-service training of 40 hours for the entire team.

In the Spring of 2024, the S.W.A.T. Team taught a 40-hour basic S.W.A.T. School at the Pueblo Police Department, instructing several surrounding agencies. Representatives from the S.W.A.T. team presented the Response to an Active Killer and walked through numerous buildings and businesses to offer Active Shooter / Active Killer responses.

Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad (P.M.B.S.)

The Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad is a multi-agency team, the Pueblo Police Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, serving southern Colorado. In the past year, they responded to around 20 calls of suspicious packages and pyrotechnics in Trinidad, Alamosa, Walsenburg, Fremont, and Pueblo County.

The team also conducted safety sweeps at major events such as the Colorado State University Pueblo graduation, football games, the General elections, and the Court House Lighting Ceremony.

The squad participated in community events like the A.M.R. Safety Jam, The PLACE block parties, and the Pueblo Riverwalk Fright Night, providing opportunities for residents to engage and learn about their role in public safety.

All team members participated in a day-long training session for the Pueblo Police Department S.W.A.T. Team on boobytraps. This is an important topic not only for the S.W.A.T. Team, but also members of the Metro Bomb Squad to keep current as new technologies emerge around the county and the world. The Metro Bomb Squad provides training through the Pueblo



PMBS training

Police Department Law Enforcement Academy to new officers to familiarize them with how to identify possible explosive devices, the dangers of handling explosives, and what to do in a situation where a device is located with the goal of keeping officers and the community safe. The Pueblo Metro Bomb Squad continues to stay current with trends through training, both locally and from our Federal partners at the F.B.I. and A.T.F.

Special Investigations Division (S.I.D.)

The Special Investigations Division consists of the Gang Unit, A.T.F. and D.E.A. task force officers, Narcotics/Vice Unit, Impact Unit, and K-9 Unit.

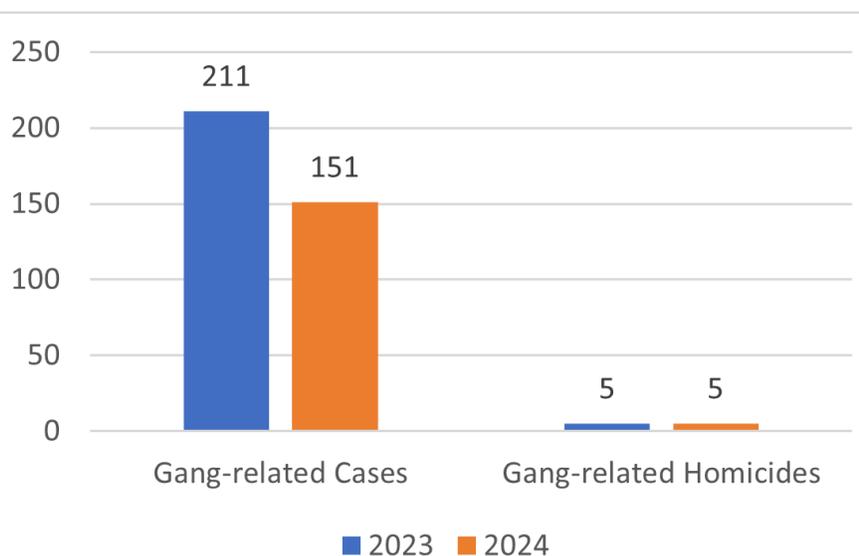
Gang Unit:

The Gang Unit's mission is to disrupt gang criminal activity with an intelligence and investigative approach to enforcement, targeting the most violent, repeat offenders with a high degree of success. All unit detectives are currently assigned to federal task forces: the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Southern Colorado Violent Crimes Safe Streets Task Force and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Gun Task Force.



The Gang Unit detectives gather criminal information and disseminate it throughout the department and law enforcement communities as necessary. The Gang Unit is also tasked with documenting and vetting gang membership and intelligence. Monthly intelligence meetings with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have been extremely beneficial in identifying criminal trends, parolee intelligence, and identification of known criminals.

Throughout 2024 the Gang unit aided numerous federal, state, and county agencies on major investigations requiring specialized assistance, high-tech surveillance/monitoring activities, and intelligence support. They provided logistical, technical, and manpower support to the Narcotics Section in major drug investigations and the Criminal Investigation Division in the investigation of other major crimes. There are currently 17 active federal prosecutions based on this unit's investigations.



Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Southern Colorado Violent Crimes Safe Streets Task Force

The Pueblo Police Department serves as part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Southern Colorado Violent Crimes Safe Streets Task Force consisting of federal, state, and local law enforcement to identify, apprehend, and prosecute violent criminals located within our communities.

In 2024, the Task Force effectively updated gang members and gang associates into the Criminal Justice System databases, federally indicted 19 individuals, obtained 8 Federal convictions (most are awaiting sentencing), assisted Patrol and Investigation Divisions with numerous criminal investigations, conducted proactive street enforcement to suppress street gang activity, presented numerous community presentations, and instructed the PPD police academy on street gangs and firearms related investigations.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Gun Task Force

Detectives assigned to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Gun Task Force work with Special Agents enforcing state and federal firearm laws. The Task Force Officers (TFO's) work to remove illegal firearms and combat violent crime in Pueblo and Southern Colorado.

The Gun Task Force continues working closely with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC). This involves the collection and lab analysis of shell casings found in the City and County of Pueblo. The casings are then sent to CBI for further analysis, and the results assist in the arrest and prosecution of gun crimes in Southern Colorado. This unit test-fired more than 750 firearms and submitted approximately 4,750 shell casings for entry into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBINS) system. Detectives managed nine federal cases in 2024.

Narcotics Unit

The Narcotics Unit consists of one sergeant and five detectives—two focused on city enforcement and three serving as Task Force Agents with the D.E.A. Southern Colorado Drug Task Force. This division targets narcotic and vice-related crimes to improve the quality of life in Pueblo, aggressively pursuing those supplying and distributing illicit drugs in the community.

Throughout the year, the unit assisted internal departments and numerous external agencies with intelligence information and surveillance. The unit also conducted narcotic awareness presentations to various organizations throughout the city. Additionally, 597 drug cases were submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for testing, many with multiple pieces of evidence per submission.

Narcotics Unit (continued):

The unit conducted several high-profile narcotics cases throughout the year, resulting in the seizure of 24.21 pounds of fentanyl (up from 6.6lbs in 2023), .24 pounds of heroin (down from 1lb in 2023), 1.93 pounds of cocaine (down from 5 kilograms in 2023), and 3.02 pounds of methamphetamine (down from 30.4lbs in 2023).

Drug Enforcement Administration Southern Colorado Drug Task Force

Pueblo Police Detectives who are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) Southern Colorado Drug Task Force work with D.E.A. Special Agents enforcing drug laws. In 2024, the Task Force Detectives disrupted and/or dismantled numerous drug trafficking organizations in Southern Colorado and beyond. One of these investigations netted approximately 12,000 fentanyl pills, 30 pounds of methamphetamine, a kilogram of cocaine, one .45 caliber handgun, and \$5,000 all of which were seized in Pueblo or seized before it was supposed to be brought to Pueblo. Total seizures resulted in 116 pounds of fentanyl (up from 82lbs in 2023), 31 pounds of heroin (up from 7lbs in 2023), 45 pounds of cocaine (up from 13 kilograms), 116 pounds of methamphetamine, other narcotics, the seizure of \$105,755 in assets, and the arrest of 57 individuals.

Impact Unit:

This newly implemented unit is a Proactive Policing Unit - working to disrupt criminal activity within the community and assist in creating a better quality of life for the citizens of Pueblo. The Detectives work in a "two-man" capacity and utilize their observational skillsets as well as resources such as ShotSpotter and the Real-Time Crime Center (R.T.C.C.) to focus on gangs, guns, and drugs. The unit works in conjunction with fellow S.I.D. Detectives from information sharing to assisting in the Gang and Narcotic Units bolstering manpower numbers and creating larger investigations as well as assisting Patrol when incidents such as shootings, drive-by shootings, stabbings, and robberies occur.

Since the unit's inception in May of 2024, they have responded to 1,491 calls for service (1,271 being self-initiated). The unit has had over 800 traffic stops, written over 80 warrants with more than 100 warrant arrests, written or served more than two dozen search warrants, written more than 200 citations, recovered over 30 firearms and more than 20 motor vehicles, and seized several narcotics, including methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine.

V.I.C.E. – Tobacco, Liquor, Prostitution, Gambling

The V.I.C.E. Section is responsible for investigating violations related to tobacco, liquor, illegal gambling, and prostitution. To adapt to the evolving trends in the supply and distribution of these activities, various investigative techniques are employed. Recently, detectives have successfully shut down several illegal gambling establishments. They executed five search warrants at local businesses, seizing approximately \$20,000 and 62 gambling machines. Additionally, during this operation, 11 individuals were cited under new city ordinance laws.

K9 Koa

K-9 Koa was trained to detect the odor of narcotics, specifically cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, L.S.D., and M.D.M.A. Koa has been deployed 25 times this year which have led to the execution of several search warrants.

Criminal Investigations Division (C.I.D.): Crimes Against Property Unit, Special Victims Unit, and Crime Scene Investigations

Crimes Against Persons Unit

The Crimes Against Persons Unit investigates crimes against adults, including murders, assaults, robberies, and missing persons cases. It consists of one sergeant, seven detectives (two of whom handle high-tech crime), and two civilian clerks.

The unit has investigated 88 major cases in 2024, including 17 homicides, with 10 cases forwarded to the District Attorney's office for prosecution. Additionally, the unit executed 149 search warrants on residences, vehicles, phones, and social media accounts.

One detective oversees the Crimestoppers Program for Southern Colorado, reviewing tips for follow-up. In 2024, the program received 1,388 tips for crimes in the area.

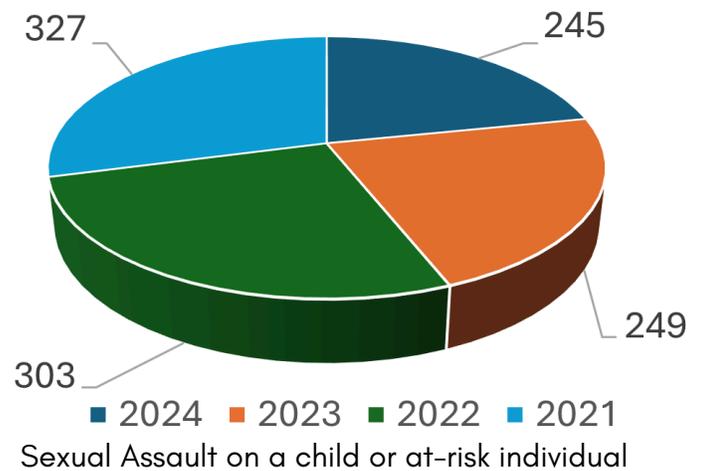
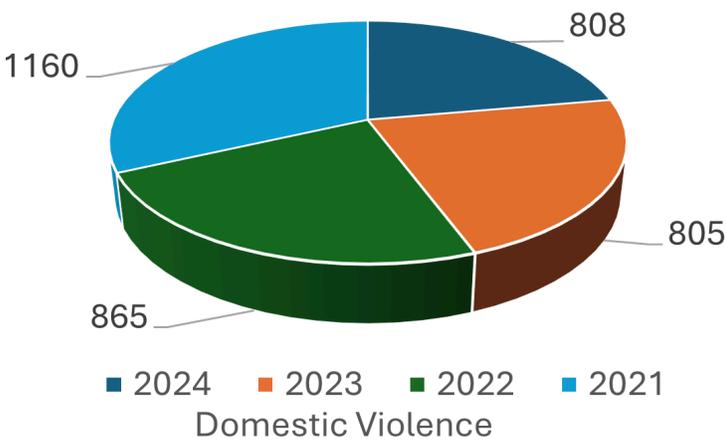
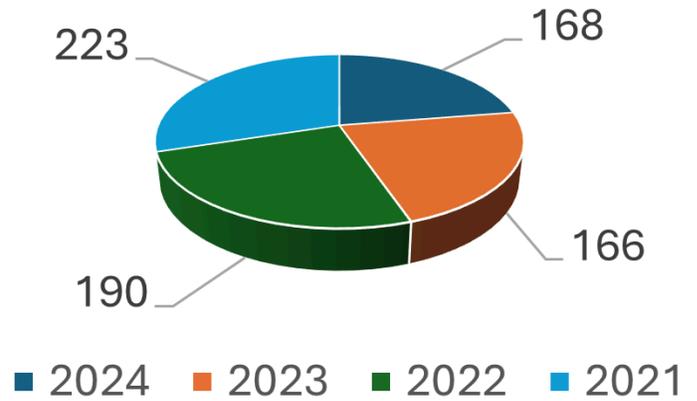
Crimes Against Property Unit

Despite operating with four detectives, down from six since 2021, the unit has effectively tackled auto thefts in collaboration with the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA), achieving a 30% reduction in cases (576 fewer thefts in 2023). Throughout 2024, detectives conducted targeted operations for 47 of the 52 weeks, logging 50 hours per week. These efforts led to the recovery of 167 stolen vehicles valued at over \$1.6 million and resulted in 135 arrests, with 93 of those having outstanding warrants. Additionally, 68 individuals faced new charges, including motor vehicle theft, while 16 guns and illegal narcotics were also recovered. Property Detectives also investigated high-profile embezzlement and theft cases involving the Pueblo Rescue Mission and the Pueblo Fire Department Union.

Special Victims Unit (SVU)

Staffing shortages persisted department-wide, but an internship was introduced for patrol officers to assist SVU in clearing cases over a six week time period. Last year, 2,436 cases were routed through the Special Victims Unit, including 1,387 special victim reports, 1,203 domestic violence reports, and 207 Restraining Order Violations. Special Victims overcame challenges, investigating approximately 120 cases by detectives and 32 by non-assigned personnel. They also aided other units with policing, executed warrants for illegal gambling, and held a Missing Persons Open House with the CBI. SVU detectives reported a troubling rise in child exposure to drugs like fentanyl, with at least two fatalities.

Child Abuse 2021-2024



Crime Scene Investigations Unit

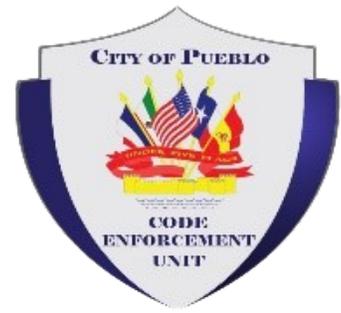
The Crime Scene Investigations (C.S.I.) Unit documents major crime scenes and processes evidence for investigations. In 2024, staffing was at two-thirds, with four of six detective positions filled and one sergeant. Two part-time office assistants handle dash camera evidence requests.

C.S.I. managed several major cases, including high-profile murders, assisted with illegal gaming search warrants, and addressed severe health/fire code violations at two local hotels. They also provided support for serious traffic accidents, assaults, and suspicious deaths.

C.S.I. members often teach and mentor in law enforcement academies and welcome mentees and ride-along applicants interested in learning about crime scene investigations.

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. Code Enforcement does what it can to improve the quality of life for the residents of Pueblo through enforcement of municipal codes relating to litter, weeds, minimum standards of habitability through the International Property Maintenance Code, zoning codes, and more.

The demand for services is changing and expectations are increasing too. Code Enforcement staff continually adapt to best meet the evolving needs of the community. With new staffing levels, the Code Enforcement Unit looks forward to meeting 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 (not pictured): Jeremiah Shields, Perry Archuleta, George Ross, Steven Lempka, Jade Clark, Jodipaul Kohler

In 2024, Code Enforcement handled 11,991 complaints, abated 672 properties, up from 487 in 2023, as well as cleaned up illegal dump sites, homeless camps, and other areas. In total, 639.48 tons of debris were removed and taken to the landfill and 1,739 tires disposed. These efforts resulted in a total of \$286,359.31 owed to the City for work done to cleanup properties.

Due to the large number of private properties that were storing junked vehicles, Code Enforcement was able to start removing inoperable vehicles from private properties according to 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. In addition, if on blocks, they can be very dangerous to children and others. Partnering with the Pueblo Police Department's Parking Enforcement, Community Service Officers (CSOs), and Patrol, 96 junked or inoperable vehicles were removed from private properties. Vehicle removal along with abatement is a lengthy legal process that must be followed.

2024 brought increased staffing with a total of nine Code Enforcement Officers, a Unit high. The number of abatement staff also increased this year. There are now eight part-time abatement crew members and an additional two full-time members. This is something Code Enforcement has strived toward for several years. Having two full-time crew members will undoubtedly help in the coming year. Those staff members came onboard in late 2024 and, in the process, have helped get some of the Unit's dated equipment running again and completed much needed maintenance on other pieces of equipment. With the increased staffing levels, the Unit has been able to handle more cases which has resulted in more abatements and the streamlining of processes. As the case load continues to increase, the team continues to try and meet the demand.



Above left photo before abatement on October 10, 2024 right photo after abatement of the same property.

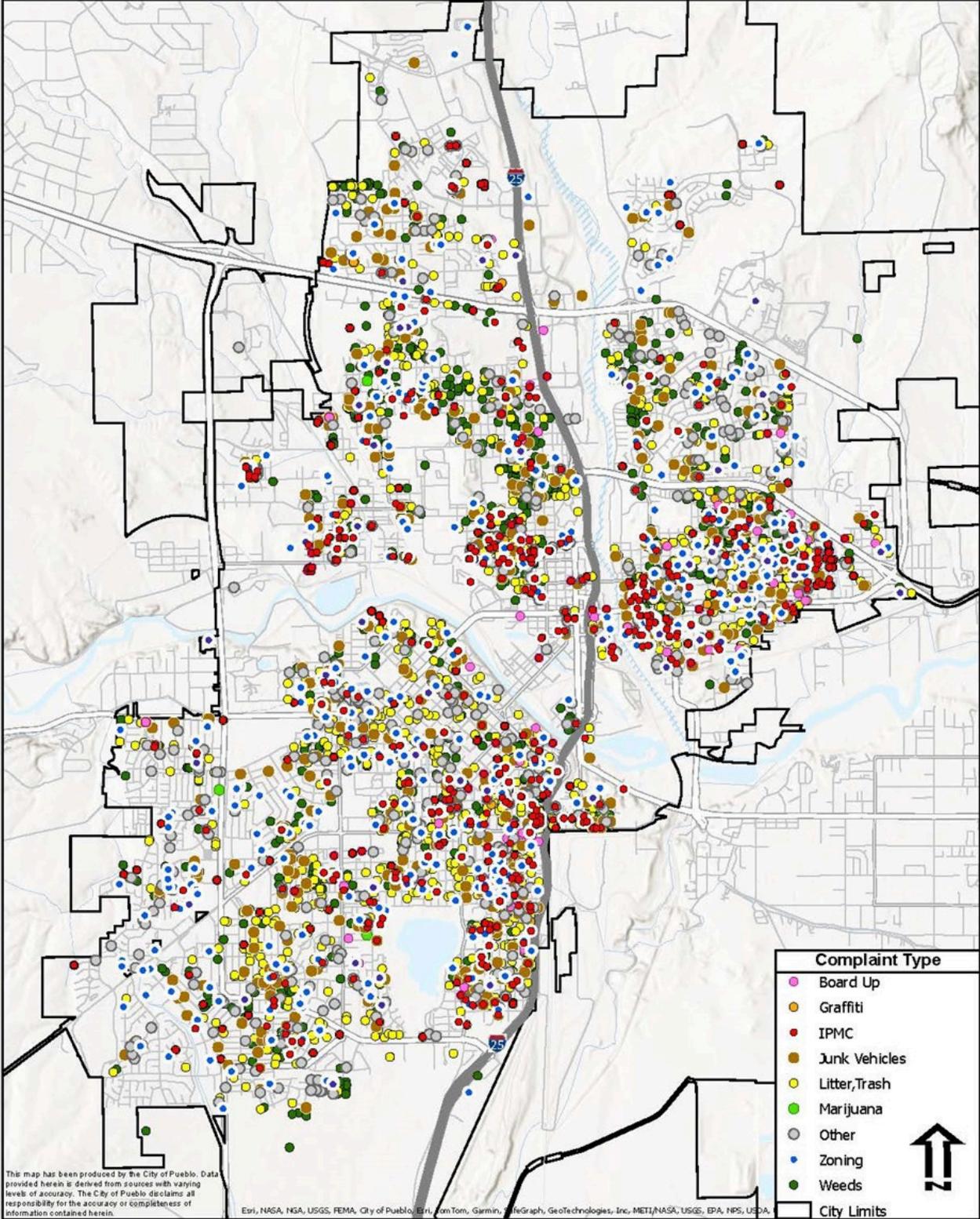


Above left photo before abatement on October 16, 2024, right photo after abatement of the same property.

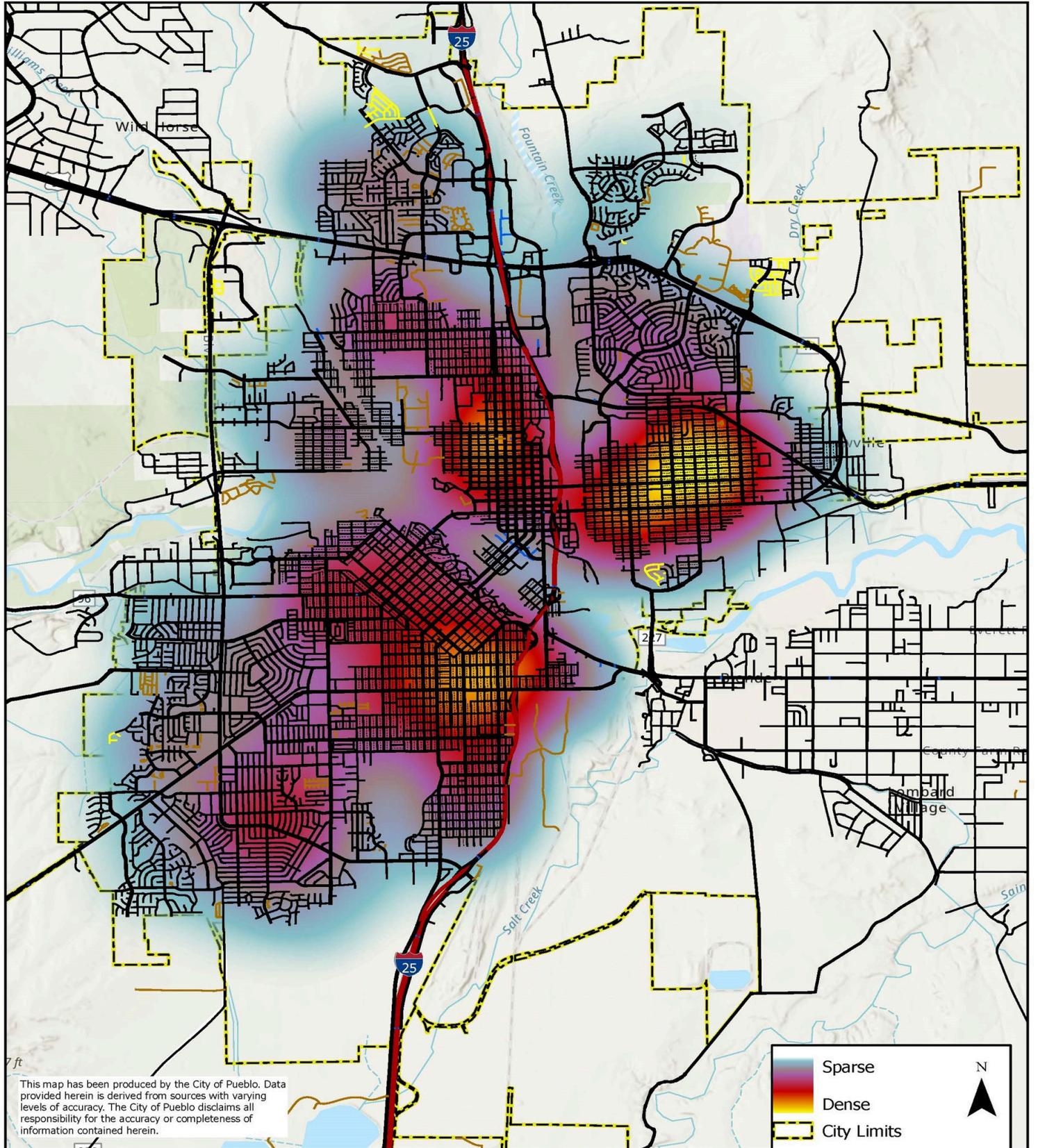
CODE ENFORCEMENT

A Division of Pueblo Police Department

2024 Code Enforcement - Complaint Map By Type



2024 Code Enforcement - Total Complaints Heat Map

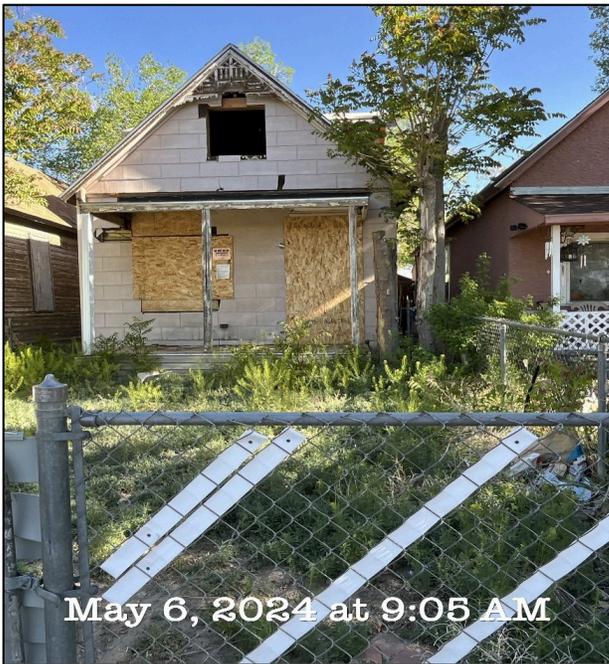


Esri, NASA, NOAA, USGS, FEMA, City of Pueblo, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, Geotooltechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS

Vacant Property Registration

The vacant property registry is in full swing. At the end of November 2024, the City has placed \$175,000 in liens on private properties that failed to register. Managing this registry is labor intensive as the list is ever changing- some properties become occupied while new ones vacate. At the end of each year, reminder letters are sent to owners of vacant properties and at the end of January, notices of violation are sent to those who did not register. If they fail to register after the notice of violation, a lien is placed on the property.

Positive results are already being seen from this program. 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 didn't want to sell their properties, are now aware of the requirement to take care of them and pay the fees. For those that remain 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 \$91,000 in vacant property registration fees.



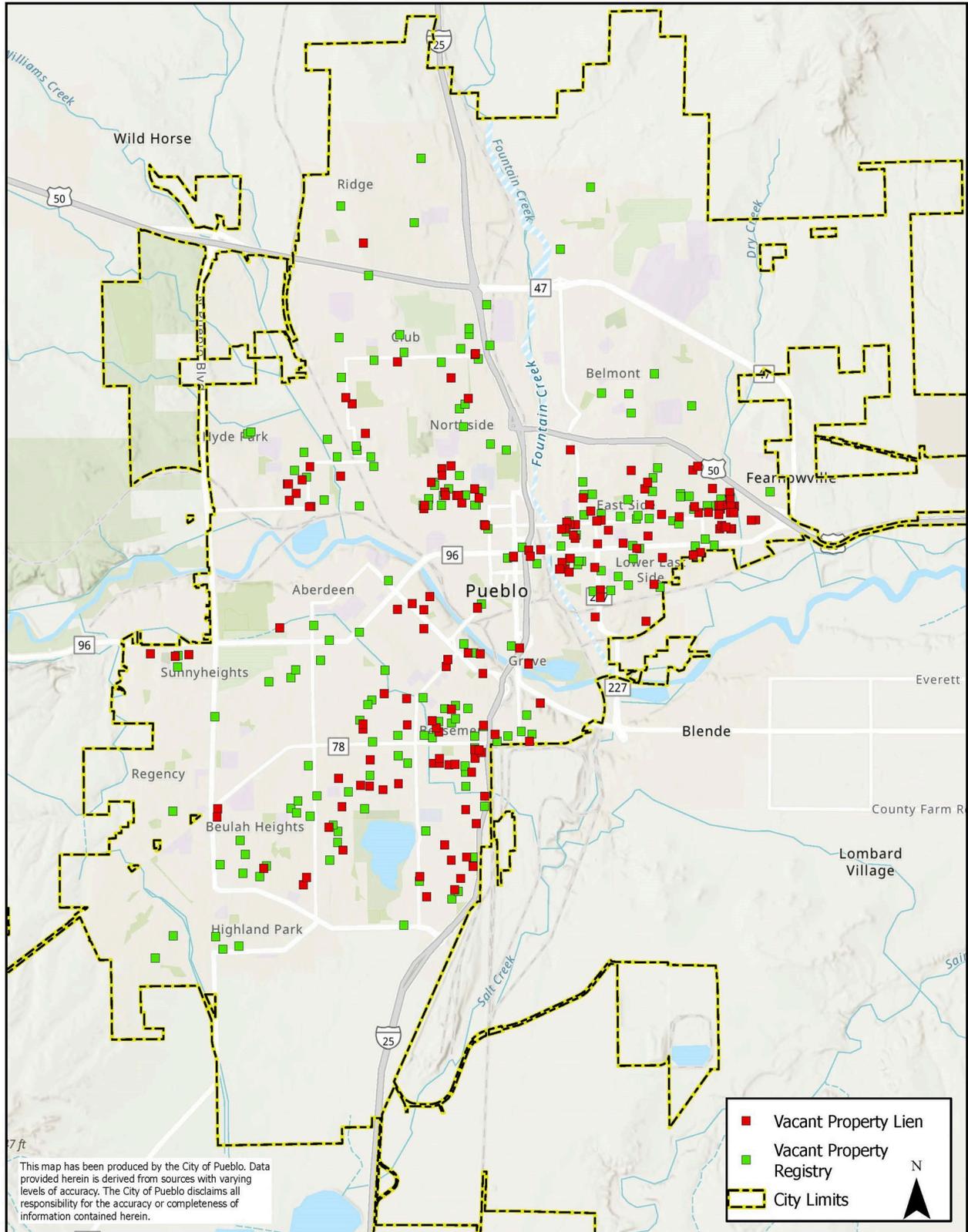
Below, one property at 701 Beulah has been vacant in the Bruner Park neighborhood since the 1970's. The lien was sold at auction, the buyer foreclosed, and has taken over the property and renovated it. It looks better now than it ever and was sold as of 11/11/2024.



CODE ENFORCEMENT

A Division of Pueblo Police Department

2024 Code Enforcement - Vacant Property Registry



This map has been produced by the City of Pueblo. Data provided herein is derived from sources with varying levels of accuracy. The City of Pueblo disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of information contained herein.

Esri, NASA, NOAA, USGS, FEMA, City of Pueblo, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SateGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METRANSA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USGS, USFWS

PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT



Pueblo Fire Department remained busy and committed to the Pueblo community in 2024. While there were many challenges, the department accomplished many things and laid groundwork for continued safety into the future.

Accomplishments

New positions:

- Three Assistant Chiefs
- Six Lieutenants
- Second truck in service
- Truck academy and Lieutenant practical exams
- 32's new vehicle
- 33's ready in December
- Smeal 125' ladder truck arrived October and put in service in November
- Nine new vehicles over last few years ; two trucks (one estimated Sept 2025), 33, 32, 41 (estimated Sep 2025), prevention, safety, and a F550 rescue vehicle (estimated 2025)
- Broke ground on 11's, 6's and 8's new fire stations

Chief Barb Huber and Mayor Heather Graham at the groundbreaking ceremony of Station No. 11 on the west side of Pueblo.



PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Recognitions and Promotions

- Justin Porter; Pueblo Fire's Firefighter of the Year 2024
- Mike Smith; Chief Commendation 2024
- Assistant Chiefs: Grant Grinstead and Ryan Moran
- Captain promotions: 2023-2024 John Gacnik, Matt Cornella, Nate Schwalm, Dan Jones and Cody Guasta
- Emergency Medical Officer promotions: 2023-2024: Matt Johnson, Andre Bustamante, Marshall Stevens and Weston Cruz
- Engineer Promotions 2024: Luke Perse



Above left, badges pinned from the Chief's commendation ceremony. Above right, Pueblo Fire Honor Guard. Below, Chief of Staff Brian McCain, Fire Chief Barb Huber, Mike Smith received Chief Commendation 2024.



PUEBLO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service

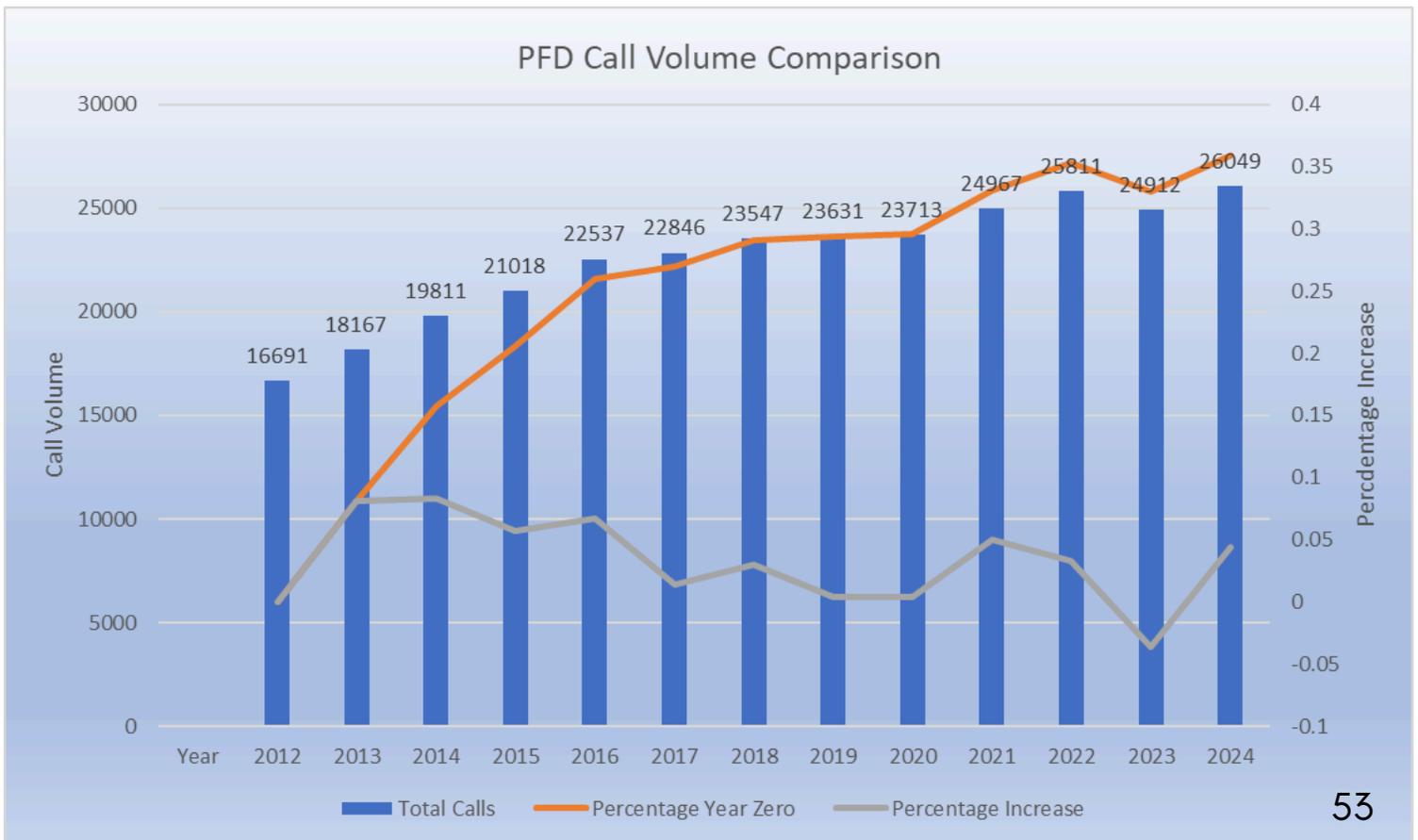
Pueblo Fire Department had more than 24,697 calls for service not including 859 DOTS calls, which projects at the same rate to an estimate of 26,049 calls for service for 2024. This is an increase of about 4.36% over last year and is within a couple hundred calls of 2022.

90th Percentiles:

- Dispatch went up by 4 seconds since last year to 2:18
- Turnout Times went down by 6 seconds (2:14) which is down 4.29%
- Travel Times went down by 11 seconds (6:06) which is down 2.92%

Total Response times went down by 18 seconds (9:18), best since 2018 which was when the department switched to Priority Dispatch, down 3.12%.

- Average 72 calls a day
- DOTS over 800 calls for service.
 - calls: 2,144 (Dec 3), projected 2353 total
- Average times: Turnout Times went down by six seconds (2:14)
- Total response time: went down by 18 seconds (9:18)



Directing Others to Service (DOTS)

Directing Others to Services (DOTS) is a team of key Pueblo Fire Department personnel who work directly within our community to reduce the overuse and misuse of the 911 system. To accomplish this, the DOTS team actively promotes interagency partnerships to form a coalition with shared vision and integrated resources. Together with DOTS, the coalition then identifies emergency system super-users or misusers, who are eligible on a voluntary basis to become DOTS' clients. DOTS team members then assist clients in obtaining the right care, at the right place, and at the right time.

In 2024 the DOTS team completed 72 overdose intervention calls and responded to over 850 calls 2024.



The DOTS team, Kelly, Curren and Heather received recognition by Servicios de la Raza for their "Community Spirit Award." Pictured in yellow shirts are the Servicios de la Raza team with Kelly Firestone holding the award next to Heather Halverson and Chief Barb Huber.



Each year the Pueblo Fire Department partners with the American Red Cross to participate in the Sound the Alarm volunteer day, replacing batteries and installing smoke detectors in homes across the city.

Vision Hills and EVRAZ Fires

On April 5 2024, the City experienced two separate but significant events. The first, a wildland fire on the north end of town (Vision Hills fire), which requested wildland mutual aid from the County and initiated a partial activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). A short time later, a fire broke out at EVRAZ. The fire size, smoke and potential chemical involvement upscaled the activation and requests from the city to a full EOC activation. Due to the high demand of local resources, both the city and county made emergency declarations.



The Vision Hills started late morning on the north end of town along the river bottom. A request for mutual aid was made quickly and responses were immediate. As fire growth increased, so too, did divisions and assignments. As the day progressed, the wind continued and a second large incident developed south of town, the resources, requests and allocation of personnel became very fluid. The weather (wind specifically) had embers traveling significant distances, causing multiple spot fires.

There was an incredible amount of teamwork, collaboration, and conversation on filling the demands of the two large fires, keeping fire districts covered, and providing information and resources to the community.

All agencies were flexible and adaptable at times with conflicting information.

The upgrading of the EOC from a level 2 activation for the wildland fire to a level 1 activation due to the second fire at EVRAZ proved to be an insightful and positively impactful call. Conversations, communications, and requests were able to be made quickly and effectively by pulling in the experts in all respective areas.

42 partner organization came together to respond to both the EVRAZ and Vision Hills fires. Below is a list of partner organizations that assisted, responded and staffed the EOC.

1. American Medical Response
2. Beulah Fire Department
3. City of Pueblo Mayor's Office
4. Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
5. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
6. Colorado Department of Transportation
7. Colorado State Patrol
8. Colorado State Patrol Hazmat
9. Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control
10. Colorado State Extension Office
11. Deer Mountain Fire Protection
12. El Paso County Engine team
13. Environmental Protection Agency
14. EVRAZ Fire Department
15. Fowler Fire Department
16. Fremont County Office of Emergency Management
17. Huerfano County Office of Emergency Management
18. La Junta Fire Department
19. La Veta Fire Department
20. Manzanola Fire Department
21. Pueblo Fire Department
22. Pueblo Chemical Depot Fire Department
23. Pueblo County Parks and Recreation
24. Pueblo County Road and Bridge
25. Pueblo County Sheriff's Office
26. Pueblo County Sheriff- Emergency Services Division
27. Pueblo Police Department
28. Pueblo Rural Fire Department
29. Pueblo West Fire Department
30. Rocky Ford Fire Department
31. Rye Fire Department
32. West Metro Fire Department
33. West Park Fire Department
34. Community Animal Rescue Team
35. American Red Cross
36. TAVA(DFPC), Steel City(DFPC), Arkansas(DFPC), SoCO(DFPC)
37. Black Hills Energy
38. City of Pueblo, Public Works
39. Hanover Fire Department
40. Pueblo Chemical Depot Fire Department
41. Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment
42. Pikes Peak Mutual Aid, ATTN: Chief Kovaks

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. The team of highly trained professionals manage the airport with the needs of the community as well as the tenants of the airport in mind. In 2024, the airport received over \$10 million dollars in Federal Aviation Association (FAA), State and local funding to complete multiple projects, including rehabilitation of the primary runway, acquiring a new snowplow, a new forklift, pavement rehab of the east ramp and other airport projects to help enhance safety for airport users.



New ramp and asphalt improvements completed in 2024 at Pueblo Memorial Airport

Pueblo Airport is also proud of the relationship with the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum (PWAM) who will be having their annual Wings and Wheels Car Show, April 12, at the museum. This popular event continues to grow, making it the museum's primary fundraiser for the year.

Overall, 2024 was a successful year for Pueblo Memorial Airport. The City remains optimistic that 2025 will continue that trend and the airport will find more opportunities to support the City of Pueblo's vision for the future.

PUEBLO MEMORIAL AIRPORT

Partnerships

In the fall of 2024, Pueblo Memorial Airport recently had an opportunity to provide additional service to the public outside of the normal day-to-day operations. Aviation Security and Contracts Coordinator Jayme Riddell from the Pueblo Memorial Airport was contacted by Pueblo Diversified Industries (PDI) to help prepare a group of travelers to navigate the TSA process for their trip to Nashville, TN.

PDI empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and had fundraised over the summer to give their clients the opportunity to experience the country music stage and fun of Nashville. To prepare for this trip of a lifetime, Terri Weldon, director of community engagement with PDI wanted to give the group of travelers the opportunity to practice the TSA screening process. A run through was set up to ease any fears or potential mishaps with a first flight. This trip was scheduled to fly out of Denver International Airport (DIA) in the weeks to follow.

Riddell worked with Weldon directly to arrange a visit to Pueblo Memorial Airport (PUB). Riddell then worked with TSA partners and the TSA Manager at PUB to arrange for the Airport Operations team to create a mock security walk through and demonstration for the PDI clients. PDI was able to complete their trip of a lifetime to Nashville which included a visit to the Country Music Hall of Fame, Ryman Auditorium and the Grand Ole Opry. Pueblo Memorial Airport and the TSA partners at PUB are proud of the role they played to help these individuals experience their dream trip.



Featured above, staff and clients of Pueblo Diversified Industries joined PUB TSA staff at Pueblo Memorial Airport terminal for security planning assistance ahead of trip to Nashville, TN.

Partnerships

In late summer of 2025, the airport will be host to the Pueblo Wings of Pride Airshow featuring the Airforce Thunderbirds. This two-day event will be held Sept 27-28 and is anticipated to draw over 60,00 aviation enthusiasts to Pueblo.



2025 provides multiple opportunities for the Pueblo Memorial Airport. A new airline is anticipated to partner with an announcement in January, to help keep the Pueblo community connected. Pueblo Memorial Airport will continue to receive FAA, State, and local funding to construct more hangars, see a terminal renovation, and to continue with asphalt improvements of the east ramp.



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 stand-alone 2024 Mayoral Runoff Election and the 2024 November 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 of Pueblo.



Election Judges: Swearing in the staff of the Clerk's Office as election judges for the 2024 Mayoral Runoff election so they could handle ballots, issue replacement ballots, and assist voters.

The City Clerk's office held a successful 2024 Mayoral Runoff Election in January, the first stand-alone election the City has run by itself in at least 20 years. This meant that the Clerk's office had to start from scratch in creating and implementing protocols and procedures for an election, as a modern mail ballot election had not previously been held by the City. Election Judges hand-processed 25,148 ballots, and final unofficial results were tallied by 11 p.m. on Election Day.

Election LAT: Vince Petkosek fills out a test ballot for the County's Logic and Analytics Test, ensuring the ballot counting equipment is working properly.

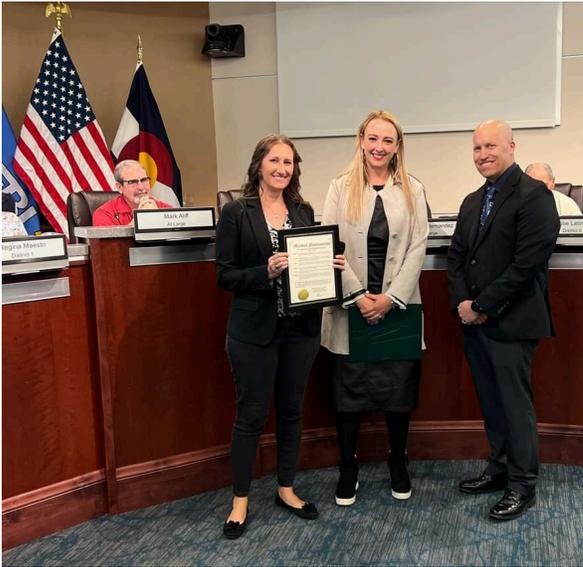


The 2024 November City election had four Charter Amendments suggested by City staff which City Council voted to place on the ballot. They were 2A: Municipal Court Maximum Fines, which passed, 2B: Modernize Terms & Technology, which failed, 2C: Greater Election Coordination, which passed, and 2D: Municipal Election Provisions, which failed.

For the first time, Campaign Finance reports for the municipal elections were created and collected online and published to the public on the City's website, increasing transparency and accountability for monies used in election campaigning.

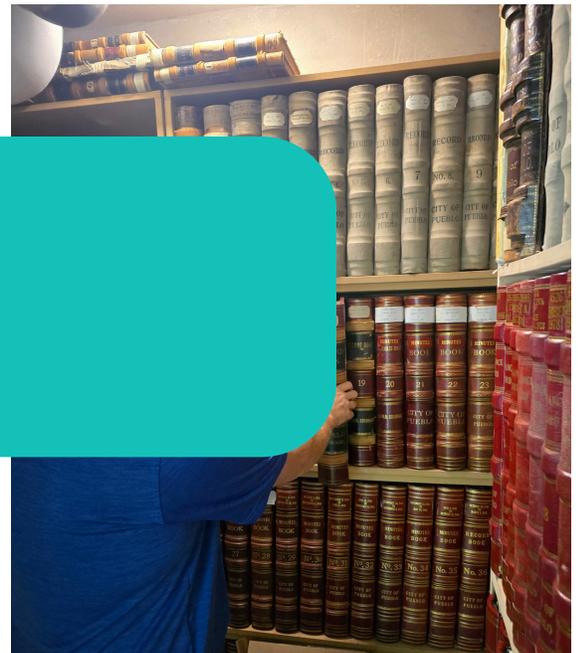
The City Clerk's office continued to administratively run approximately 24 City Council meetings and 52 work sessions in 2024, all of which were televised and streamed live for the public. 154 agendas were created for the public to view and keep updated on City happenings using the agenda management software implemented in 2023, over six different meeting types.

A City Council At-Large seat was filled twice this year by Council appointment. The City Clerk's office collected 59 resumes, coordinated 11 interviews, and swore in two new Councilors as part of this process.



Municipal Clerks Week: Mayoral Proclamation celebrating Municipal Clerks' week.

Records: Clyde Bishop reviews some older City records as part of his job as records coordinator.



City Clerk Marisa Stoller continued her role as an active member of the state-wide Colorado Municipal Clerks Association (CMCA). She was elected by the membership to serve as a Director on the 2024-2025 CMCA Board and also served as the Chair of the Education Committee. Additionally, she was named to the 2024 Municipal Clerks Honor Roll, one of eight in the state of Colorado.



State Board Swearing In: Stoller is sworn in as a Director after being elected to the State Board for the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association.

Stoller also oversaw the 2024 disbursement of the settlement funds granted to the City by multiple opioid lawsuits. This year, funding was completed for 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 continued for School District 60 to support the Intervention Coordinator position, which is scaling up to provide Botvin Life Skills Training to every middle schooler within the district as well as engaging with parents, conducting school and community education programs and campaigns, and assisting with the reduction of community-wide stigma.

Deputy City Clerk Vince Petkosek earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation after completing his third year and graduating from the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association's Institute.

City Clerk Stoller taught a Nuts & Bolts training for new clerks and their staff and moderated a panel on Artificial Intelligence during the annual CMCA conference. Deputy City Clerk Petkosek and Records Coordinator Clyde Bishop also taught a De-escalation course at the CMCA Institute.

In addition to their work in the City, Petkosek and Licensing Coordinator Tammy Martinez were chosen to serve collectively on three state boards, providing input on changes in state policy that would affect the local licensing of the City of Pueblo. Petkosek served on the Liquor Advisory Working Group and the Substance Use Disorder Recovery Work Group, and Martinez served on the Tobacco Rules Working Group.

The Clerk's office officially launched the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) portal to the public early in the year. This has allowed the public to submit requests online as well as to pay any fees for their requests digitally, and provides a better record of tracking CORAs. Approximately 425 CORA requests are expected to be processed by the Clerk's office in 2024.

Internally, processes and the City Code were updated to allow for digital signatures on Resolutions and Ordinances. The institution of Docusign for these City documents improved the processing time by over 60%, allowing City staff to begin work on approved projects that much sooner.

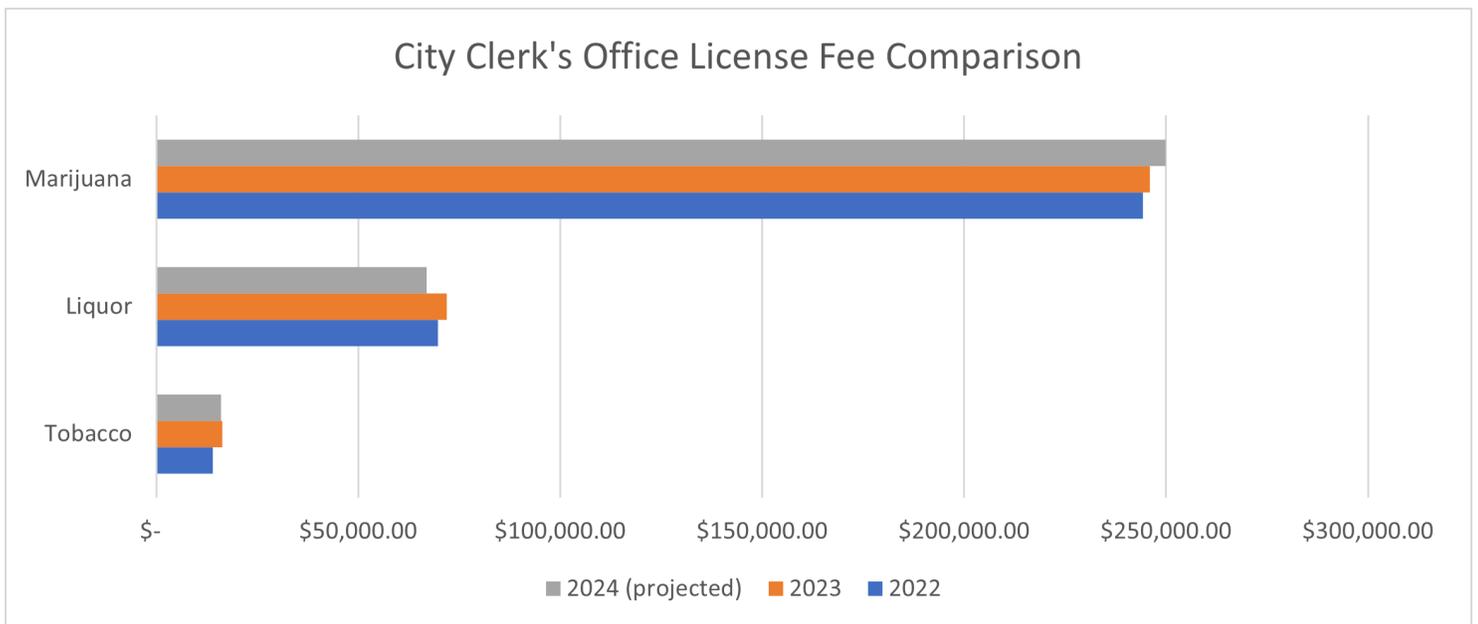
CITY CLERK

Licensing Fees are projected to remain fairly steady for Liquor, Tobacco, and Marijuana.

Licenses	2022	2023	2024
Tobacco	\$13,957.00	\$16,300.00	\$15,990.00
Liquor	\$69,742.00	\$71,885.00	\$66,884.00
Marijuana	\$244,200.00	\$246,010.00	\$249,900.00

Licensing Revenue

Tobacco	\$15,990.00
Liquor	\$66,884.00
Marijuana	\$249,900.00



In Liquor licensing, the City did away with the Cabaret license, previously required for businesses which allowed dancing and served liquor. The State of Colorado also separated the previous Lodging & Entertainment license into two separate licenses, requiring business owners select the best fit of the two for their establishments going forward.

CITY CLERK

Type of Tobacco License	2024
Tobacco	139

Type of Marijuana License	2024
Retail Grow	5
Retail Testing	1
Retail Store	8
Retail Product Manufacturing	4
Total Retail Licenses	18
Medical Grow	2
Medical Testing	1
Medical Store	2
Medical Product Manufacturing	3
Total Medical Licenses	8
Total Active Marijuana Licenses	26

Type of Liquor License	2023
Retail Establishment (formerly Art Gallery)	1
Beer & Wine	7
Brew Pub	2
Cabaret	30
Club	7
Hotel & Restaurant	59
Lodging & Entertainment	12
Off Premise Fermented Malt Beverage & Wine	59
On Premise Fermented Malt Beverage	4
Racetrack	0
Retail Store	31
Special Events	23
Tasting	3
Tavern	41
Total Active Liquor Licenses	279

Liquor and Marijuana business inspections continued to be conducted by the City Clerk's office, ensuring the sustained health and safety of the citizens of Pueblo.

Finally, the City Council voted to alter the structure of the Liquor and Marijuana Authorities from five person boards to a Hearing Officer. This change will take effect in 2025, with the expectation that it will streamline the process for business owners, be a cost and time savings for the City, and the increase in knowledge of licensing laws and legal processes and procedures will minimize the risk of appeal due to an insufficient record or improper legal analysis.

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 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 * as of Dec. 17, 2024
<p align="center">ADA Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Anna Jones Donald Bruestle Joe Treanor Laura Leyba Mary Agnes Leonard Mikiel Ghelieh Rita Gonzales Robert Long Sharon Campbell Tiffany Garcia Tura Cowan</p>
<p align="center">Bandera Special Improvement Maintenance District</p>	<p>Andrew Hayes Bob Cook Danny Nunn Steven Meier Ted Hernandez</p>
<p align="center">Board of Appeals - Building</p>	<p>Amy Hurtig-Smith David Knuth Mark Kleven Robert Leverington Andy Jesik Andrew Hayes</p>
<p align="center">Board of Appeals - Electrical</p>	<p>Charles Montera Dan Henderson Jason Olds Larry Moore</p>

Board or Commission	Members
Board of Appeals - Electrical (continued)	Robert Berrier Seth Boutilier Ace Spriggs
Board of Appeals- Mechanical	Eric Dunton Patrick Grubb Robert Vigil Steve Girodo Kent Stringer
Board of Appeals- Plumbing	Dan White John Chrisman Ken Gulley Lance Harvey Russell Giffing Steven Contreras
Pueblo Regional Building Commission	Albert Herrera Andy Jesik Anthony Nunez Bryan "Kent" Shelman Diana Oldermeyer Eppie Griego Kent Stringer Regina Maestri Steven Contreras Mark Guerrero
Board of Health	Abel Chavez Donald Moore Eileen Dennis Zolanye McCulley-Bachicha Zsuzsa Glasscock
Board of Elections	Robert Childers Alvin Rivera Marisa Stoller
Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH)	Alexis Ellis Alexis Romero Stewart Ashleigh Winans Bart Mikitowics Brandi Adakai Brittany Moudy Caroline Trani Donald Moore Dustin Taylor Eppie Griego Jimmy Duffner

<p>Community Commission on Housing and Homelessness (CCHH) continued</p>	<p>Nicholas Sheppard Nicole Dale Oren Olson Patrick Hurley Sarah Martinez Shanna Farmer Spencer Miles Teah Miller</p>
<p>Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC)</p>	<p>Alva Claussen Anita Cofer Daniel McHenry Gina Lopez Ferguson Jason Baker Jean Latka Jeff Heckler Karen Callanan Lyndsey Caldwell Mary Lee Miles Lucero Sandra Sherrer Shanna Farmer Tony Montoya</p>
<p>El Centro del Quinto Sol Recreation Center Board of Directors</p>	<p>Alyssa Vargas-Lopez Janelle Quick Joe Latino Shawn Vecellio Thomas Carrigan</p>
<p>Fire Board of Appeals</p>	<p>Frank Nemick Gary Micheli Michael Carlisle Robert Hudgens Shawn Shelton</p>
<p>Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control & Greenway District Governing Board</p>	<p>Anthony Nunez Daneya Esgar Jessica Mills Jim Romanello Mark Aliff Nancy Henjum Robert Barr Stan VanDerwerf Tamara Estes Terry Hart Dennis Flores Zach Swearingen</p>

Board or Commission	Members
<p align="center">Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>David Anderson Dennis Maroney Don Banner Mark Aliff Rita Fox Sam Krage Steve Nawrocki Zach Swearingen</p>
<p align="center">Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo Authority Foundation</p>	<p>Beth Gladney Betty Martinez Bill Vidmar Brian Lucas David Anderson Eppie Griego Ken West Ken White Larry Ohrdorf Lauri Kilpatrick Mark Aliff Marty Garcia Tracy Velasquez</p>
<p align="center">Historic Preservation Commission</p>	<p>Anthony Perko George Koncilja Guy Chabot Janet Schraner Laurel B Campbell Raymond Chavez Sandra Morrison</p>
<p align="center">Honor Farm Enterprise Citizens Advisory Board</p>	<p>Christopher Bratnick Kyle Rayburn Michael Larimore Michael Riley Robert Esser Warren Rivera Zach Pittman</p>
<p align="center">Housing Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>Amanda Marascola Andrea Aragon David Kochis Melanie Bravo Phyllis Sanchez Steven Trujillo</p>
<p align="center">Liquor and Beer Licensing Board</p>	<p>Carma Loontjer Elizabeth (Liz) Chapman Modesto Cartegena Stephen Cornetta Tom Rose</p>

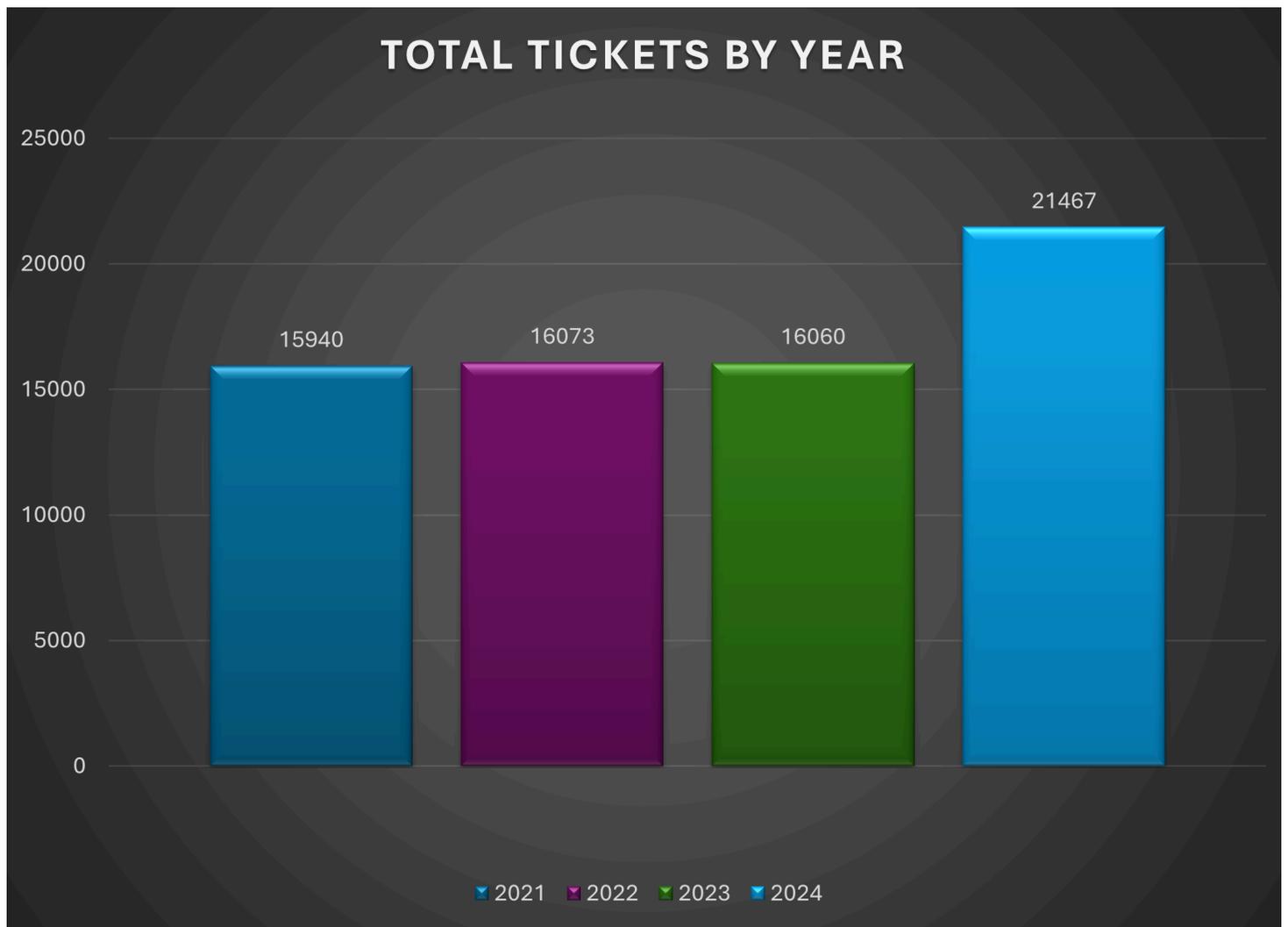
Board or Commission	Members
<p align="center">Planning and Zoning Commission</p>	<p>Alexandra Aznar Cheryl Spinuzzi Christopher Pasternak Elizabeth (Lisa) Bailey Mike Castellucci Patrick Avalos Regina Maestri</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Doreen Martinez Fredrick Quintana Iris Clark Jeffrey DeHerrera Jessie Ones Stephanie Garcia Trisha Macias</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Conservancy District</p>	<p>Bonifacio Cosyleon Carl Elley Corinne Koehler Dennis Maroney Donna Phillips Jim Pioreschi Marisa Lopez Paul Willumstad Ronald Serna</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors</p>	<p>Allan McConnell Ed Brown Eileen Dennis Jason Schierling Joseph A Latino Kurt Madic Patsy Creswell</p>
<p align="center">Pueblo Energy Advisory Commission</p>	<p>Alan Ward Anthony Vigil Brett Boston Dylan Goodman Edgie Walrath Jodie Hendershott John Vigil Kenneth Danti Laura Getts Michael Briscoe Mike Wakefield Patti Olenick Thea Rodriguez Tom Corlett Tyler Surat</p>

Board or Commission	Members
Pueblo Human Relations Commission	Acasha Kerr Andrea Naglich Benji Caldera Claire Schad Corrina Bradley Dawn Tripp-Sena Erik Segall Jennifer Horn Kennedy Pugh Paz Hall Richard Blair Riya Singh Velissia Arzapalo
Pueblo Memorial Airport Advisory Committee	Brett Boston James Spitzer Janet Schraner John Wark Josh Allison Michael Occhiato Nathanael Dinsmore Peter Quinby Ryan Frushour Walter (Scott) L Ross Zach Swearingen
Pueblo Municipal Golf Course Enterprise Advisory Committee	Michael Ricottone Scott Bridgman Joe Latino Tony Montoya
Pueblo Depot Activity Development Authority Board of Directors	Allan McConnell Ed Brown Eileen Dennis Jason Schierling Joseph A Latino Kurt Madic Patsy Creswell
Pueblo Streetscape Advisory Committee	David Roscover Elvis Martinez Jacqueline Rutherford Jean Latka Joshua Carpenter Rebecca Knapp William (Bill) Adams

Board or Commission	Members
Retail & Medical Marijuana Licensing Authority	Joseph J Perko Kimberly Archuletta Richard Berry Robert Esser Tom Rose
Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center Board of Trustees	Harvi Callaham Janet Creswell Jessica Moore Joe Arrigo Justin Bowen Kristie Denbrock Leslie Martinez Rebecca Diaz Reid Weber Rita Fox Rosina Sonntag Wendy Rapp Duane Nava Noah Commerford Zach Swearingen
SouthPointe Special Improvement Maintenance District Advisory Committee	John Scanio Maclovio Martinez Weston Burrer
Urban Renewal Authority of the City of Pueblo	Corinne Koehler Crystal Estrada Dennis Flores Elizabeth Gallegos Eppie Griego Garrison Ortiz James R Valenzuela Jeanette Garcia Jon Walker Louie Carleo Mark Aliff Steve Nawrocki
Zoning Board of Appeals	Elizabeth (Lisa) Bailey Georgia Way Mike Castellucci Steve Anselmo Yvonne Lujan-Slak

MUNICIPAL COURT

The City of Pueblo Municipal Court strives to provide an efficient, equitable, and impartial forum to hear and resolve alleged violations of the Pueblo Municipal Code, impose appropriate consequences, and 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. The 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 significantly in 2024. This year, 21,467 charges were filed in Municipal Court. The Court recognizes the efforts of local law enforcement agencies and expects this number to increase as the Police Department obtains full staffing for patrol officers.

2024	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Traffic Tickets	280	298	260	241	277	368	307	356	258	226	293	338	3500
General Offense- Adult	225	212	181	209	191	177	350	511	422	380	322	282	3462
General Offense	17	34	35	42	17	5	21	22	30	26	14	20	283
Animal Offenses	160	110	140	143	139	123	147	114	161	145	121	77	1580
Misc Offenses	467	487	500	343	410	321	609	416	915	739	523	494	6224
Code Enforcement	88	108	145	87	114	236	169	216	161	174	160	145	1803
Parking Tickets	401	423	275	437	319	390	415	616	605	353	178	203	4615
	1638	1670	1536	1502	1467	1620	2018	2251	2552	2043	1611	1559	21467

The Court continues to provide sentencing options to address the underlying needs of defendants, with the aim of eliminating recidivism. Defendants sentenced to jail can typically qualify for day-for-day credit against their sentences for stays at inpatient treatment facilities, with the aim of addressing substance use or mental health issues. Defendants sentenced to pay fines, except for traffic infractions, have the option to address their fines through the completion of community service.

Community Service

The Court's community service team, comprising Court staff and adult and juvenile defendants, continues fulfilling its primary function of citywide graffiti removal, addressing 33,575 graffiti cleanup projects in 2024. The team also oversees the City's community garden, assists with community clean-up events, helps local nonprofit agencies, and participates in events such as the State Fair and holiday parades. The community garden is maintained by community service crews, and food grown in the garden is donated to the Pueblo Soup Kitchen. Defendants participating in the community service program may also take some of the fruit and vegetables grown in the garden home.



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The community service team expanded its efforts to keep Pueblo clean in 2024 and played a key role in cleanup projects, removing over 434 tons of garbage from areas along the Fountain Creek



Probation Department

The Court's probation department works with defendants to ensure timely payment of fines and completion of court-ordered classes, treatment, and community service. In 2024, the probation department monitored 585 cases for adult defendants and 206 cases for juveniles.

The Court's probation department has begun a partnership with the Jail-based Behavioral Health Services (JBBS) at Pueblo County Jail, which provides services for defendants who are incarcerated. The aim of the partnership is to assist those persons who struggle with difficult issues, such as maintaining stable housing, to provide state-funded resources in situations where defendants qualify for the benefits and comply with the terms and conditions of their probation sentence.

The Court works diligently to meet defendants where they are and ensure that their sentence does not set them up for failure; however, the Court's chief goal has been and will continue to be to increase accountability and improve the community one person at a time.

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 49.0 full-time employees (FTEs) and relies on approximately 300 seasonal and temporary employees throughout the year to maintain our park facilities and oversee our many recreational 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 (lighted)
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	25
Whitewater Kayak Park	1

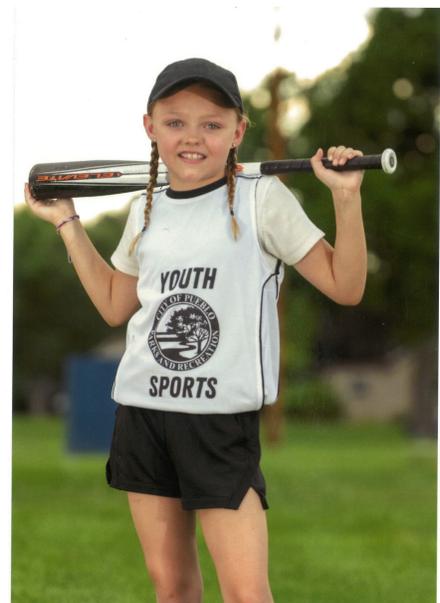
Facilities (continued)	Number (continued)
El Centro del Quinto Sol Community Recreation Center	1
Zoo	1
Cemeteries	2
Lakes	4
Fountains	4
Statues and Monuments	31
Art Gallery (indoor)	1
Auto/Motorcycle Sports	4 tracks
Municipal Shooting Range (indoor)	1
Pro/Am Disc Golf Course	1
Park Concessions Sites (in-house)	7

The 2024 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 \$99.47. The Pueblo Parks and Recreation Department continues to do more with less with \$74.93 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 in 2024 and increasing 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 2024. 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	Number of Participants in 2024
Tennis (lessons & trneys)	1,297	1,560	3,680	2,474
Pickleball (lessons & trneys)	---	---	305	490
Aquatics (all ages)	56,842	57,074	52,648	52,061
Youth Basketball	664	715	747	192+
Youth Flag Football	168	207	220	302
Youth Baseball	517	526	528	673
Youth Track & Field	36	100	139	169
Adult Softball	360	456	456	360
Adult Kickball	120	288	240	160+
Adult Cornhole (Spring/Fall)	...	92	106	18+
El Centro del Quinto Sol	2,692	8,058	9,292	10,554
Rides at City Park	364,862	329,067	393,290	366,064
Movies in the Park	720	2,725	1,257	894
Park Facility Reservations	6,050	6,579	6,967	6,000

After a thirteen-year absence, the Parks and Recreation Department successfully reintroduced the Learn-to-Swim program in 2023. The program saw a significant increase in participation in 2024. Four (4) morning sessions throughout the summer were offered that focused on water safety skills as well as swimming techniques. Each session was comprised of eight 30-minute lessons. Classes were offered at City Park and Mineral Palace Park Pools and will be rotated to different pool locations in 2025 to reach different neighborhoods within the city.

Due to the summer success of the Learn-to-Swim program, two additional sessions of lessons were offered this past fall at South High School in partnership with Pueblo School District No. 60.



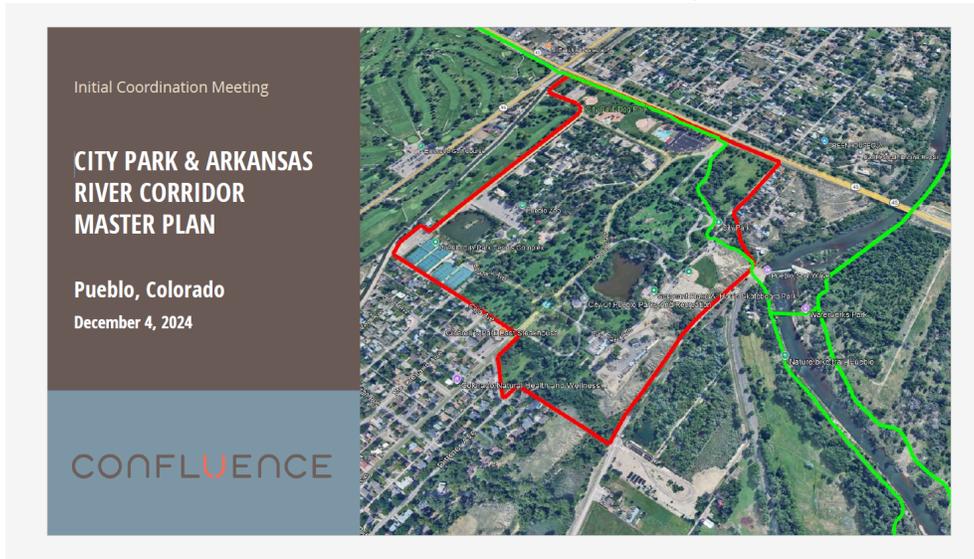
WaterWorks Park

Water Works Park, a Board of Water Works funded project is nearing completion. The \$11,000,000 project began in 2022 to rehabilitate the Southside Diversion Dam located in the northern area of City Park on the Arkansas River. The project goal is to improve safety on the river by creating a passageway to allow users to ride the river unimpeded to Runyon Lake. The park is expected to be populated by river tubers, rafters, kayakers, paddleboarders, and surfers by next summer.

The project also included two bridges, an “island” beach area, and passageways to allow fish species to migrate and spawn in the area. This new amenity will be included in the City Park & Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan project which kicked off this past December.

City Park & Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan

The City of Pueblo and the Pueblo Conservancy District joined together in an effort to provide a Master Plan for the 2.75-mile stretch of the Arkansas River Flood Levee adjacent to Historic Downtown Pueblo. With the development of Water Works Park, the City and the District solicited for a third-party consultant to help expand the vision of the Arkansas River Corridor for further development from the Pueblo Dam to Runyon Lake.



The primary goals for the project include developing a Master Plan for the enhancement of the corridor for recreation use; address vehicle movement through and around City Park with safe vehicle access to the new water park and identify parking needs; improve pedestrian and bicycle use of the existing trail system; improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the corridor; identify opportunities for art, culture, and learning within the corridor; create new trail connections to adjacent neighborhoods and throughout the Arkansas River Trail System; create resting points and overlooks along the trail with seating, lighting, and information; identify river hazards that must be removed to make the river safe for use; and analyze abandoned railroad property in the corridor. On July 30, 2024, RFP 24-100 City Park & Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan Project was advertised with seven vendors submitting proposals. After a lengthy evaluation process, Confluence, Inc. was recommended by the Project Evaluation Committee and was approved by City Council on November 11, 2024. The project is expected to be completed the Spring of 2025.

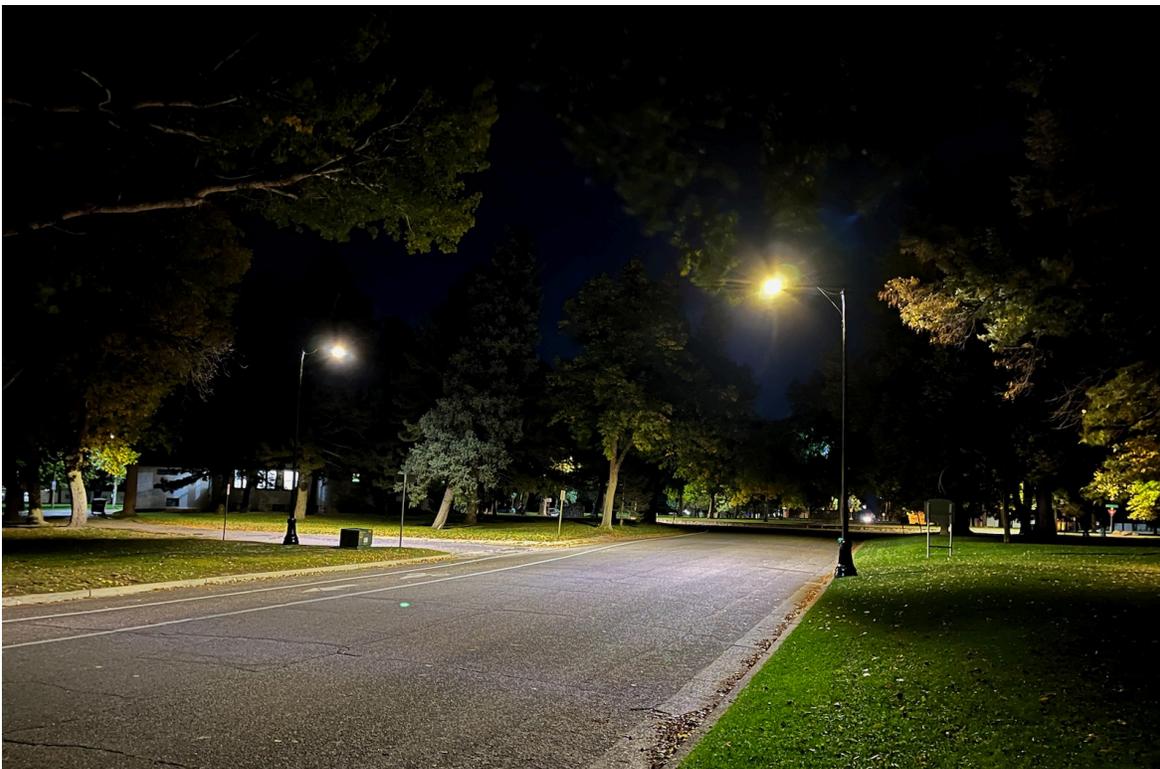
Capital Improvement Projects

On May 28, City Council approved Ordinance No. 10721, which approved a Purchasing Agreement with MUSCO Sports Lighting, Inc. to replace several outdoor field and sports court lighting. Approximately 99% of City-owned softball fields, outdoor basketball courts, and tennis courts consist of metal halide lamps, which use large quantities of wattage to operate. The use of these old lights resulted in exceptionally high utility expenses to operate annually.

The project included replacement of the old lights with new LED lights and poles at City Park Ball Fields #3 and #4 and addition of new LED lights and poles to the Mineral Palace Park Pickleball Courts. The cost for this project is \$649,894, which will be amortized over five years. Future light replacement projects include the 17-court City Park Tennis Complex, Joe Santos Field at Ray Aguilera Park, St. Anne's Ball Field, and Stauter Field.



In 2023, the City was awarded a "Better LED Spaces" Grant from the State of Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice in the amount of \$744,000 to improve public safety by bettering park lighting with upgrades and additions of LED lighting fixtures in City Park, Mitchell Park, and Ray Aguilera Park. Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with the Pueblo Police Department to identify parks that exhibit high crime statistics that would benefit from additional and upgraded LED lighting. The streetlights in the main roadway of City Park consist of decorative, antique style light poles. The project was completed in late September 2024 and has made an immediate impact helping to keep our park spaces safe for our citizens



Pueblo City Park has new lighting installed from Better LED Spaces Grant

Team Up to Clean Up

The “Team Up to Clean Up” Program, aka ARPA Neighborhood Cleanup Projects, established in 2023 to clean up trash and debris throughout the community in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) of the City. As of the end of November 2024, the “Team Up to Clean Up” crew removed and disposed of approximately 170 tons of trash, over 1,500 tires, over 11,500 used hypodermic needles, and 1,500 shopping carts. The program continues to make a significant impact on the City having a cleaner and safer appearance.



City Park Tennis Clubhouse

The original City Park Tennis Clubhouse building was constructed in stone in the late 1930s by Work Progress Administration (WPA) workers who used the same sandstone rock as other projects throughout the park. The building was originally constructed as a multipurpose building or bathhouse with concession stand for the original City Park wading pool. The wood frame-built addition with stucco exterior was added many years later primarily used as office space and additional storage for the original building. The existing restrooms are approximately 1,700 square feet, are not ADA accessible, and cannot adequately facilitate tournament players, staff, and spectators.



- In 2014, funding in the amount of \$200,000 was budgeted into Capital Improvement Project CII108 – City Park Tennis Clubhouse Renovation.
- The Tennis Complex Fundraiser Kickoff took place in early 2019 to raise additional funds to renovate the City Park Tennis Court Clubhouse and Restroom Building.
- The approved 2023 budget allocated an additional \$550,000 to the project.

City Park Tennis Clubhouse (continued)

- On February 27, 2023, City Council approved a professional architectural services agreement with HGF Architects in the amount of \$44,514 to design the City Park Tennis Court Restrooms to renovate the existing building to be ADA accessible and usable for office space, meeting room, storage, and restrooms. The project also included adding HVAC equipment to the existing building to make it available for use year-round, a nearby plaza area between the building and courts to accommodate tennis events, incorporating the old stone tower and archway into the plaza.
 - A structural analysis revealed foundation problems so severe that the existing building would require extensive, expensive modifications for code and structural safety.
 - Three options were given to Mayor Gradisar and Parks Administration: 1) Renovate existing building at an estimated cost of \$4M; 2) Build new at estimated cost of \$1.8-\$2M; 3) Do nothing. The decision was made to change the project scope from renovation of the existing building to designing a new, less expensive clubhouse.
- Additional funds allocated to the construction project: ARPA \$500,000 and Rawlings Foundation grant \$182,000.
- On March 25, 2024, City Council approved Amendment No. 1 to the professional architectural services agreement with HGF Architects in the amount of \$64,053 for schematic design for a new Pueblo City Park Tennis Court Restroom Facility.
- On May 13, 2024, City Council approved Amendment No. 2 to the professional architectural service agreement with HGF Architects in the amount of \$20,680 for Geotechnical Survey & Testing for new 3,500 SF Tennis Court Tournament and Restroom Facility.
- The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) met on May 15, 2004, with a project presentation made by HGF Architects and City staff.
- On June 17, 2024, the HPC made a presentation to City Council concerning saving the City Park Tennis Clubhouse Building. The HPC filed with the City Planning & Development Department an application to designate the building as a Local Historic landmark, which halted bidding the project. The City Planning & Zoning Commission did not recommend this designation.
- On September 9, 2024, Ordinance 10778 which designated the City Park Bathhouse Building as a Local Historic landmark was approved by City Council then vetoed by Mayor Graham.
- On September 23, 2024, the Mayor's veto of Ordinance 10778 to designate the City Park Bathhouse Building a Local Historic landmark was upheld by a vote of 3 yes, 4 no.
- The project went to bid on September 17, 2024, and bids were received on October 30, 2024. The lower bid was approximately \$1.3 million over budget.
- Over the past eighteen months, funding had been secured to replace the City Park Tennis Clubhouse and Restroom. These funds consisted of General Fund Capital Improvement Funds of \$701,690, Conservation Trust (Lottery) Funds of \$350,000, ARPA funds in the amount of \$500,000, and a Rawlings Foundation Grant in the amount of \$182,000.
- On November 25, 2024, three Resolutions were on the City Council agenda that would have transferred a total of \$1,316,861 in funds from other Capital Projects that were considered available to go towards the total construction award to Spire Building Group in the amount of \$2,962,392, including contingencies. All of the Resolutions failed which means that the City Park Tennis Clubhouse Project is dead. ARPA and Rawlings Foundation Grant funds have been returned.

PARKS & RECREATION

Outdoor Recreation

On May 28, 2024, City Council approved Ordinance 10713 which approved and accepted an Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) Grant from the State of Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office for the funding of an Outdoor Recreation Administrator in the amount of \$100,000. This position will be paid through June 2025 and is responsible for its own sustainability through measurable revenue-generating outdoor recreation events and activities. The Parks and Recreation Department's previous Marketing Coordinator, Lindsay Martin was hired on August 1, 2024, and begin working to develop a comprehensive Outdoor Recreation program plan for the City.



Arkansas River Levee in the fall home of the Whitewater Kayak Park, two levee bridges and connecting Arkansas River trail.

Maintenance and Horticulture

Parks Maintenance and Horticulture teams continued the exemplary maintenance of over 613 irrigated park acres and more than 39 acres of streetscapes, medians, and highway ROW within the City. The team of dedicated staff continues to keep Pueblo's parks, trails, and streetscapes green, clean, and safe. Some of the notable projects completed in 2024 include:

- Installation of new all-inclusive playground at Laura's Park, formerly known as Starlite Park. Ribbon cutting was held during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, May 25.
- Completed repair of the historic Goodnight Avenue entrance to City Park. The metal gate, stone pillar, and gargoyle were all reset to their original location prior to the traffic accident which occurred earlier this year.
- Purchase of a new stump grinder to assist in the process of removing dead trees.



Maintenance and Horticulture (continued)

- Replaced chain link fencing backstops at Stauter Field #1, Stauter Field #2, City Park Ball Field #3, and City Park Ball Field #4.
- Park Caretaker Amy Mayer received the “Person of the Year” award from the Southern Colorado Equality Alliance for her efforts to find an owner of a dog found tied to a parked vehicle during the 2023 Pueblo Pride event in Mineral Palace Park. Congratulations Amy!

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

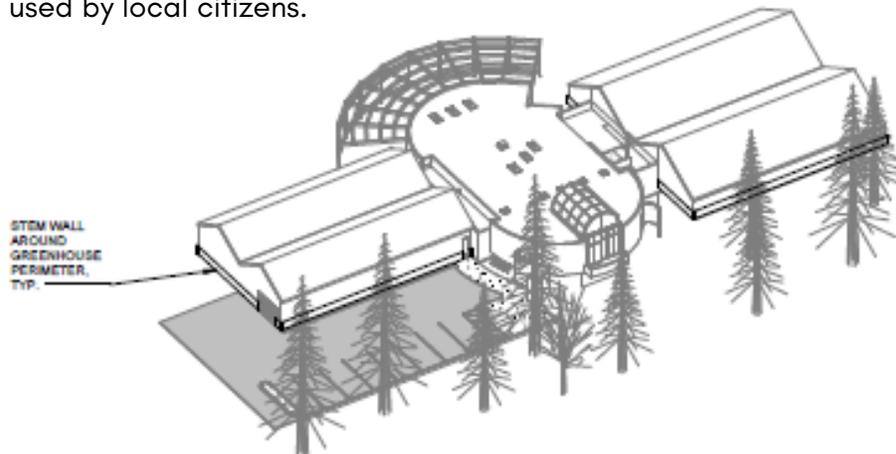
El Centro del Quinto Sol received \$1 million in ARPA funds to renovate to kitchen and HVAC system. In 2022, City Council awarded an agreement in the amount of \$90,800 for architectural consulting services to EV Studio, Inc. for the project. Fast forward to April 8, 2024, where a Resolution was passed awarding a construction contract in the amount of \$640,660.07 and another \$260,464.93 for contingencies to KR Construction Group Inc. for the project. The project consists of three major scopes of work. The initial phase, which is currently underway, before any construction takes place, the building must be abated. The next phase is renovating the basement space to convert it into a cooking class/event space for the public.



The final phase is upgrading the HVAC system by installing new RTUs on the roof along with split systems and electric baseboard heaters around the building. The entire project is scheduled to be completed early 2025.

Site plan and mock up of El Centro del Quinto Sol renovation

The City received \$1.5 million in ARPA funds to rebuild the greenhouse buildings in Mineral Palace Park. The project consists of a 5,215 SF upgrade of the southern greenhouses, a 3,481 SF new construction of a northern greenhouse to be operated and managed by the City, and a 68 SF remodel of the atrium. The atrium remodel will include ADA accessibility and restroom upgrades. The purpose of this project is to allow for improved growing of plants to be used for landscaping purposes all around the city. There is also the potential for the northern greenhouse to be used for public gardening classes, or growing vegetables and fruit to be used by local citizens.



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA continued)

In 2022, the City awarded an agreement in the amount of \$21,664 for professional mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineering service to Bridgers & Paxton Consultant Engineering, Inc. for the project. In 2023, an agreement was awarded for professional services in the amount of \$46,000 to EV Studio for the project. A construction contract was awarded in the amount of \$195,602.85 and \$29,340.15 in contingencies to Rocky Mechanical, LLC for the greenhouse atrium mechanical improvements. In July/August 2024, bids were advertised and received for the construction of the Mineral Palace Greenhouse and on September 9, 2024, City Council awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$903,508.35 and \$126,224 in contingencies to Fortis General Contracting for the project. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2025.

In May 2023, City Council approved a Resolution which authorized \$150,000 from ARPA Project Funds for the Streetscape Renovation Project on Northern Avenue from Orman Avenue to Elm Street.



This streetscape renovation project was completed in September 2024 and included dead tree removal, soil replacement, new drip irrigation installation, planting of shrubs/groundcover, and repair of the Northern Avenue parking lot which is adjacent to the plaza area of the park

City Council approved a Resolution that authorized the payment of \$180,000 for the purchase of the property known as 2701 East 12th Street, a.k.a. St. Anne's Park and Ball Field. The Diocese of Pueblo decided not to extend the long-standing lease agreement for the City's recreational use of the property. The appraised property value for the subdivided property was estimated at \$140,000. The Diocese agreed to sell the property to the City for \$120,000, but the City will be required to install a fence along the new property boundary and make adjustments to the irrigation and electrical systems.

New trash truck to assist in the neighborhood and City Park cleanup projects



Team Up to Clean Up trash truck with Parks and Recreation

The SLAB

On March 25, 2024, City Council approved a Resolution to award a construction contract to LER Inc., dba Renner Sports Surfaces for the Elizabeth Street Parkway (Slab) - Outdoor Basketball Courts Replacement Project. The project consisted of the installation of a new post-tension concrete basketball court slab, court surfacing, striping, new basketball posts and hoops, benches, ADA accessible sidewalk, and the replacement of the court lights with new, energy efficient LED lights.



The Colorado Lottery has agreed to sponsor each of the four mural artists with a \$2,500 commission payable to the City of Pueblo at the conclusion of the renovation project. No general fund monies have been used in this project. The Parks and Recreation Department advertised for qualified mural artists to design and ultimately paint original murals on each of the four outdoor basketball courts. Forty-nine mural designs were submitted, and after a short project delay, the four finalists began painting their murals sometime in early September 2024. A grand ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place following the scheduled completion in Spring 2025.



Another project in 2024, included removal of the Steelworker's Wall along Northern Avenue in Ray Aguilera Park. The wall was originally constructed in the early to mid-1970s that included tiles commemorating the numerous men and women who were employed at the C.F.& I. for decades. Over the past few years, the wall has been providing a screen for illegal activities in the park. Park patrons have expressed that they have a concern for their safety when utilizing this area of the park. Park Administration met with Executive Director of the Steelworks Center of West Museum to discuss the relocation of the tiles that were part of the Steelworker's Wall.

Park Ranger Program

The Parks and Recreation Department's Park Ranger Program saw some significant accomplishments in 2024:

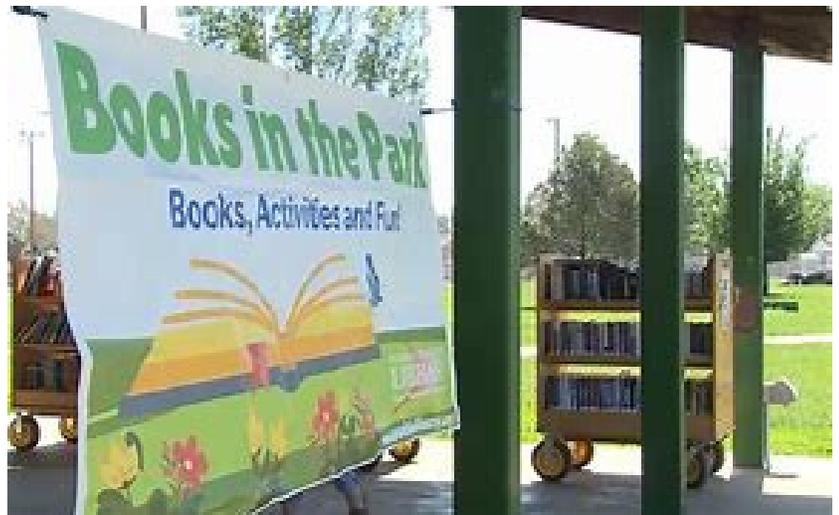
- A second full-time Park Ranger was hired in January 2024.
- With the new Water Works Park, located below City Park on the Arkansas River nearing completion, Park Rangers trained with the Pueblo Fire Department on swift water rescue incidents.
- Safety meetings were scheduled regularly with the El Centro del Quinto Community Recreation Center staff.
- In-service Park Ranger training implemented to enhance customer service and education to park patrons.
- Participated in numerous special events sponsored by community organizations.
- Three (3) new Ford Mavericks were added to the Park Ranger Fleet.



“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:

A long-standing partnership with the Pueblo City/County Library District that dates back to 2004, the “Books in the Park” program looked different this year. This year’s program took place under the picnic shelters at the Langoni Sports Complex and Veteran’s Park at Lake Minnequa. Parks and Recreation staff provided arts and crafts opportunities while the library staff brought their book trailer with a wide assortment of books for the kids to take home.



Some of the popular activities included a magic show, Fire Fit demonstration, food trucks, and a mobile market.

“Experiencing the Collaboration and Community Engagement” (continued)



Local mural artist, Eric Sarracino completed an Eastside mural art project which included a historically inspired mural on the existing retaining wall along the east side of Mitchell Park. At the conclusion of the project, a neighborhood block party was held in celebration of the completed mural, which included volunteer participation by numerous East Side youth. ARPA funds were allocated for this project.

With support from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Southern Colorado Farmers Market and Craft Fair saw its fifth 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



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 sixth annual conservation and stewardship event sponsored by the Colorado Lottery with a partnership with the City of Pueblo.

PARKS & RECREATION



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. The Historic Pueblo Pioneer Cemetery Association also hosts an annual "Arts & Craft Boutique" with the support of the Parks and Recreation Department. This annual November fund-raising event offers numerous homemade craft items as well as homemade jams and jellies. All proceeds go towards the repair or monument stones within the historic cemetery.

Tree Trimming

In March 2023, City Council approved funding in the amount of \$75,000 to non-profit corporation Trees Please, Inc. 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. The project was completed in August 2024.

Parks and Recreation Horticulture Specialist Sarah Parks organized a sensory activity during the Easter holiday event at the Pueblo Regional Center in Pueblo West. The children taking part in the activity planted flowers in pots then proceeded to dig for worms in the dirt. The flowers and worms were not real, and the activity was a success!



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing and Citizen Services Division

The Housing and Citizen Services Division is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality and livability of the City's older neighborhoods, maintaining the housing stock, safeguarding the value of the real estate tax base, and promoting the economic viability and development of city neighborhoods. Their mission is supported by two federal grants—the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Grant—as well as an annual private activity bond allocation.

This year, the City established five strategies for affordable housing and has made significant progress in achieving these goals:

1. Funding for Demolition, Acquisition and Redevelopment

The City aims to secure funding for the demolition, acquisition, and redevelopment of older housing stock that has been condemned due to lack of maintenance, structural failure, or fires. City staff is actively pursuing funding sources aimed at demolishing condemned homes, acquiring properties, and facilitating infill housing redevelopment.

2. Funding for Rehabilitation of Older Housing Stock

The Housing and Citizen Services Department is prioritizing efforts to develop a funding source for the rehabilitation of older housing stock in underserved neighborhoods. Currently, a portion of the Community Development Block Grant is used annually to help income qualified homeowners rehabilitate their own homes.

3. Development- Ready Properties for Missing Middle Housing

The City is committed to making properties development-ready for missing middle housing, including smaller-scale, higher-density townhomes, multi-unit houses, row houses, and small apartment buildings. The City has allocated two years of private activity bond allocations and other HOME funds to support the development of the 192-unit Compass Point Affordable Housing Apartment Project at Oakshire Drive and Beaumont Avenue, developed by the Kittle Property Group. The project's application was approved by CHFA and awarded 4% Low-income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and additional Private Activity Bonds (PAB'S) in November 2024.

In January 2024, the City of Pueblo transferred two lots to the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority (PURA). PURA successfully constructed four housing units, consisting of two duplexes, on these lots. These units are designated for households exiting homelessness or at risk of homelessness, facilitated through a partnership with Posada of Pueblo. This initiative serves as a pilot project to explore the potential for the City to collaborate with developers by offering low-cost lots in exchange for workforce housing units for Pueblo's citizens. The two duplexes are set to be available for occupancy in the first quarter of 2025.



4. Acquisition and Redevelopment of Large Vacant Buildings

The City is actively acquiring and demolishing properties with large vacant buildings to prepare them for redevelopment into higher-density residential units within residential neighborhoods. A property located at the corner of East 5th and North Lacrosse Streets, the previous site of the Pueblo Community Health Center. The City demolished the building and is currently working toward identifying a developer for the property.

5. Homeless Solutions

In 2024, the City of Pueblo took a significant step forward in addressing homelessness by acquiring the homeless shelter at 728 West 4th Street and the Porchlight Campus at 710 West 4th Street. This acquisition will create a unique opportunity to provide on-site wrap-around services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The City began operating the shelter in December 2024.

To further support those in need, the City has allocated funding for pallet shelter communities equipped with restrooms and shower facilities. These communities will serve as temporary housing solutions for individuals transitioning out of homelessness, providing them with the stability and support they need.

Additional Accomplishments

In addition to the creation and progress to addressing the five strategies for affordable housing, the City of Pueblo Housing and Citizen Services department achieved the following accomplishments:

Accomplishment	Details
Public Infrastructure Improvements	Improved streetscape, installed accessible curb ramps, replaced sidewalks, and demolished blighted structures in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
Rehabilitation Funding	Awarded funding and oversaw necessary rehabilitation for low-income homeowners of Pueblo, addressing the challenges of aging housing stock.
Homeless Youth Services	Provided funding to local non-profit organizations for homeless youth services, offering a safe environment, education, and support.
Eviction Diversion Funding	Provided funding for eviction diversion to low-income residents, helping prevent homelessness by offering financial assistance and mediation services.
Environmental Compliance	The City of Pueblo completed required environmental reviews on properties throughout the City that may be impacted by federal funding. These reviews ensure the properties are free from any contaminants and safe for future use. In 2024, a total of seventy-one (71) environmental reviews and assessments were completed.

Planning & Land Use Division

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 1,286 in 2024, compared to 1,412 in 2023.

In 2024 single-family and multi-family residential unit building permits increased from 173 in 2023 to 431 housing units, an increase of 249% from 2023. The significant increase is a result of the 351 new apartment and duplex units that received building permits in 2024. The number of single-family homes and manufactured homes receiving building permits in 2024 was 80 homes, compared to 157 homes in 2023. Land use applications for subdivisions, rezoning, annexations, street vacations, rearrangement of property boundaries and land use plans totaled 45 applications, an increase of 25% from 2023, which also reflected the slight economic recovery from the 2023 figures.

South Pueblo Boulevard Commercial Developments

In 2024 construction started on several commercial businesses along the South Pueblo Blvd corridor. These new businesses include a Whataburger – fast food restaurant, Starbuck’s Coffee, and a Circle K – fuel and convenience store. Maverik Travel Center at the intersection of I-25 & Pueblo Blvd opened in April 2024 and Murphy’s USA fuel station opened in October 2024.



Above left is the Maverik Travel Center at I-25 and Pueblo Boulevard. Above right is Murphy’s USA Fuel Station on Pueblo Boulevard. Below is the beginning of construction on Whataburger near Lowe’s Home Improvement store.



Pinon Ridge Commercial Center Developments

Three new businesses are under construction in the Pinon Ridge Commercial Center located west of I-25 on the north side of Drew Dix Blvd including a TA Travel Center, Black Bear Diner, and LV Petroleum Truck Service Center.



Above left is the construction of Black Bear Diner. Above right is construction of the LV Petroleum Truck Service Center. Below is the construction of the TA Travel Center.



North Pueblo Boulevard Apartment Housing Developments

Two new housing developments are under construction east of Pueblo Blvd in the Park West area of the City. Pueblo Springs Apartments first phase will have 199 apartment units located south of 31st Street. The Cottages at Park West located south of Spaulding Avenue is constructing 186 housing units within 93 duplex buildings.



Above left and right is the development and construction of the Cottages at Park West located south of Spaulding Avenue with 186 units within 93 duplex buildings.

Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Channel Extension and Boathouse

The City Planning & Zoning Commission approved the development plans for the HARP, Phase IV Expansion and construction of the project started In June 2024 The project includes extending the Channel towards Santa Fe Avenue and building a two-story, Boathouse facility at the Riverwalk. The lower level of the two-story multi-use facility will feature a space for additional public restrooms, excursion boat ticket sales, concessions and a space for boat storage and maintenance. The second level of the Boathouse will feature a permanent location for the HARP Authority Office, and two conference rooms with waterfront views that will be available for public use. An open-air rooftop party deck will provide a venue available for rent to the public for events and gatherings.



Progress of the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk Channel Extension and Boathouse project.

Pueblo County Detention Facility

Construction on the new Pueblo County Detention Facility broke ground in May 2024 in conjunction with the construction of the Medal of Honor Blvd connecting from Pueblo Blvd to Purcell Blvd in Pueblo West. The detention facility, a Pueblo County Government funded project, is being constructed within the city limits of Pueblo following the annexation of the property in 2023.



Unified Development Code

The Planning Department, through the consultant team from Multistudios, Inc. completed assessments of the City's current zoning, development and subdivision codes, along with assessments of the city's historic development and street system patterns and how these patterns have evolved over time as the City expanded. The next steps in the project will be the reformatting and drafting of the new zoning, subdivision and historic preservation codes. The Unified Development Code will modernize the codes, 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. The new Unified Development Code is slated to be completed for approval by City Council in August 2025.

Housing Units- Summary

Housing Units- Building Permits Issued by PRB	2022	2023	2024
Constructed On-site	263	132	404
Manufactured Homes	30	41	14
Total Housing Units	293	173	418

Land Use Applications and Zoning Compliance Reviews (2022 - 2024) - Summary

	2022	2023	2024
Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	56	36	45
Planning & Zoning (Actions)	4	5	5
Zoning Board of Appeal (actions)	45	44	64
Historic Preservation Commission	21	10	12
Administrative Certifications	1163	927	797
Administrative Approvals	85	77	66
Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	506	313	296
Total	1880	1412	1285

Planning & Zoning (Recommendations)	2022	2023	2024
Property Rezoning	22	12	23
Annexations	6	6	5
Subdivision	14	10	9
R-O-W Vacations	9	3	5
Street Name Changes	1	2	3
Urban Renewal Plan	2	2	0
Special District Service Plans	3	1	0
Total Applications	56	36	45

Planning & Zoning (Actions)	2022	2023	2024
Subdivision Special Area Plans	3	3	3
Phased Subdivision Master Plans	1	1	1
Development Plan Reviews	0	1	0
PUD Site Plan Reviews	0	1	1
Total Applications	4	5	5

Zoning Board of Appeal (Actions)	2022 Applications	2023 Applications	2024 Applications
Variances & Special Use Permits & Special Exceptions	45	44	64
Total Applications	45	44	64

Historic Preservation Commission	2022 Applications	2023 Applications	2024 Applications
Certificates of Appropriateness	11	7	5
Certified Local Gov't 106 Reviews	5	0	1
Historic Landmark Nominations	1	2	4
CLG & ADM DET	4	1	2
Total Applications	21	10	12

Administrative Certifications	2022 Applications	2023 Applications	2024 Applications
Business License Zoning	695	655	602
Single- Family CO Inspections	165	113	99
Single-Family Applications	227	116	76
Zoning/Legal Non-Conforming Certificates	76	43	49
Total Applications	1,163	927	826

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Administrative Approvals	2022 Applications	2023 Applications	2024 Applications
Commercial/Industrial Site Plan Review	22	31	20
Cell Tower Permits	17	9	14
Conditional & Limited Use Permits- Marijuana	27	19	21 + 2 UP
Subdivision- Lot Line Rearrangements	15	16	7
Extraterritorial Water	2	1	1
Interim Use Permit	2	0	0
Activities of State Interest (HB-1041)	0	1	2
Total Applications	85	77	67

Permit Approvals, COs, Demolitions	2022 Applications	2023 Applications	2024 Applications
Single Family	227	116	76
Single Family C.O.'s	165	113	99
Single Family Attached	6	2	6
Single Family Attached C.O.'s	0	0	5
Resident accessory structure	79	58	79
Resident additions	26	21	23
Demos			
Residential	3	2	6
Mobile Homes	0	1	2
Total Applications	506	313	296

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Transportation Planning Division

The Pueblo Area Council of Government (PACOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has had a successful year coordinating and collaborating with local jurisdictions and community groups to make transportation in Pueblo more accessible, multi-modal friendly, and equitable. In March, the MPO worked with Pueblo Transit to help promote and launch two new shopping routes that enable riders to get to key shopping areas in the north and south side of Pueblo more efficiently. In June, The MPO collaborated with several partners such as Pueblo Active Community Environments (PACE), Grassroots Gravel, Fuel & Iron, Pueblo Conservancy District, The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations to celebrate bicycling in our community by making June, Pueblo Bike Month. Community members participated in Bike Bingo which was a fun activity for people to partake in bike related activities around the community such as riding over a bridge, riding to art gallery, or reading a book about bikes.

Throughout the year the MPO awarded several projects in our community using state Multi Modal Transportation and Mitigations Options Funds. Some of the projects that were awarded will fund; new wayfinding and informational signage along the Arkansas River Trail, the MyRide App, that provides real-time transit information for transit riders, and additional funding of Haaff Elementary Safe Routes to School project. Over \$1.3 million in projects were awarded to the region in 2024. The MPO is continuing their work to implement a Complete Streets Policy and has been awarded an FHWA peer to peer exchange program that will provide guidance on best practices of complete streets implementation.

Within the next year, four additional roundabouts will be constructed within in the city limits. Since this this type of infrastructure is new to the community, the MPO has taken the initiative to conduct an educational campaign about roundabouts that will provide the community an understanding of why roundabouts are being built, how to safely maneuver them and interact with other users while in a roundabout. An update to the 2019 Transit Facility Study was funded in 2024. This study will provide Pueblo Transit the information needed to seek and obtain funding for a new facility, which will allow for future transit capacity and growth.

PUBLIC WORKS

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. Our 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.

Transportation/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.

Transportation/Traffic Maintenance

- 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.

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.

1. Engineering

The Engineering Division has 24 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 2024, the Engineering Division oversaw dozens of capital improvement 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 including Parks and Recreation, Airport, Fire, Police, Municipal Court, and Planning and Community Development. Several projects undertaken this year are highlighted below:

- Dillon Drive Resurfacing
- Northern Avenue Resurfacing
- Granada Boulevard Resurfacing
- Cheyenne Avenue Resurfacing
- B Street, D Street, and Mechanic Street Resurfacing
- Amherst Ave Resurfacing
- Court Street (concrete improvements)
- Elizabeth Street (concrete improvements)
- Bonforte Avenue (concrete improvements)
- 29th Street (concrete improvements)
- Construct Adams & Jackson Roundabout
- Construct Fire Stations 6, 8, and 11
- HARP Channel Extension and Boathouse
- Elmwood Golf Paths

The HARP Channel Extension and Boathouse ground breaking ceremony in June 2024



1. Engineering (continued)

- Elmwood Parking Lot Repairs
- Walking Stick Golf Course Clubhouse Flooring Replacement
- Replace Elizabeth Street Basketball Courts
- Berkley/Mesa Roundabout Design
- Mineral Palace Greenhouse Design
- Northern Avenue Sewer Extension Design
- Southern Colorado Clinic Sanitary Sewer Upsizing Design
- West Side Sanitary Sewer Upsizing Design
- Abate and Demo 710 W. 4th Street
- Abate and Demo 519 W. 11th Street (in progress)
- PMJC Flooring Installation (IT Department spaces)
- Multiple ADA Curb Ramp upgrade projects
- Asphalt Crack Sealing - various locations

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 2024 was funded primarily from two sources:

- HUTF/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 will remain suspended through the end of 2025 unless additional action is taken by City Council.

Road Repairs and Maintenance (continued)

In 2024, approximately 14.4 lane miles (approximately 3.7 centerline miles) of aging roadways across the City were resurfaced. Not only were deteriorated pavements repaired, but damaged sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and curb ramps were also upgraded. Some of the projects also included significant repair of existing underground utility infrastructure. Road repair projects completed in 2024 included the following:

- Dillon Drive (Eagleridge to Carruth)
- Northern Avenue (Prairie to Abriendo)
- Granada Boulevard (Prairie to Farabaugh)
- Cheyenne Avenue (W. 14th Street to W. 18th Street)
- E. D Street (Main Street to Mechanic Street)
- Mechanic Street (E. B Street to E. D Street)
- E. B Street (Mechanic to cul-de-sac)
- Amherst Avenue (from Prairie to Cambridge)

ADA curb ramps were also upgraded on Court Street, W. 29th Street, and Bonforte Avenue in preparation for pavement resurfacing that will take place on those streets when funding is made available for that work.

The chart on the next page highlights the number of miles of City roads that were resurfaced or rebuilt between 2002 and 2024. 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.

Paving on Northern Avenue near Colorado State Fairgrounds

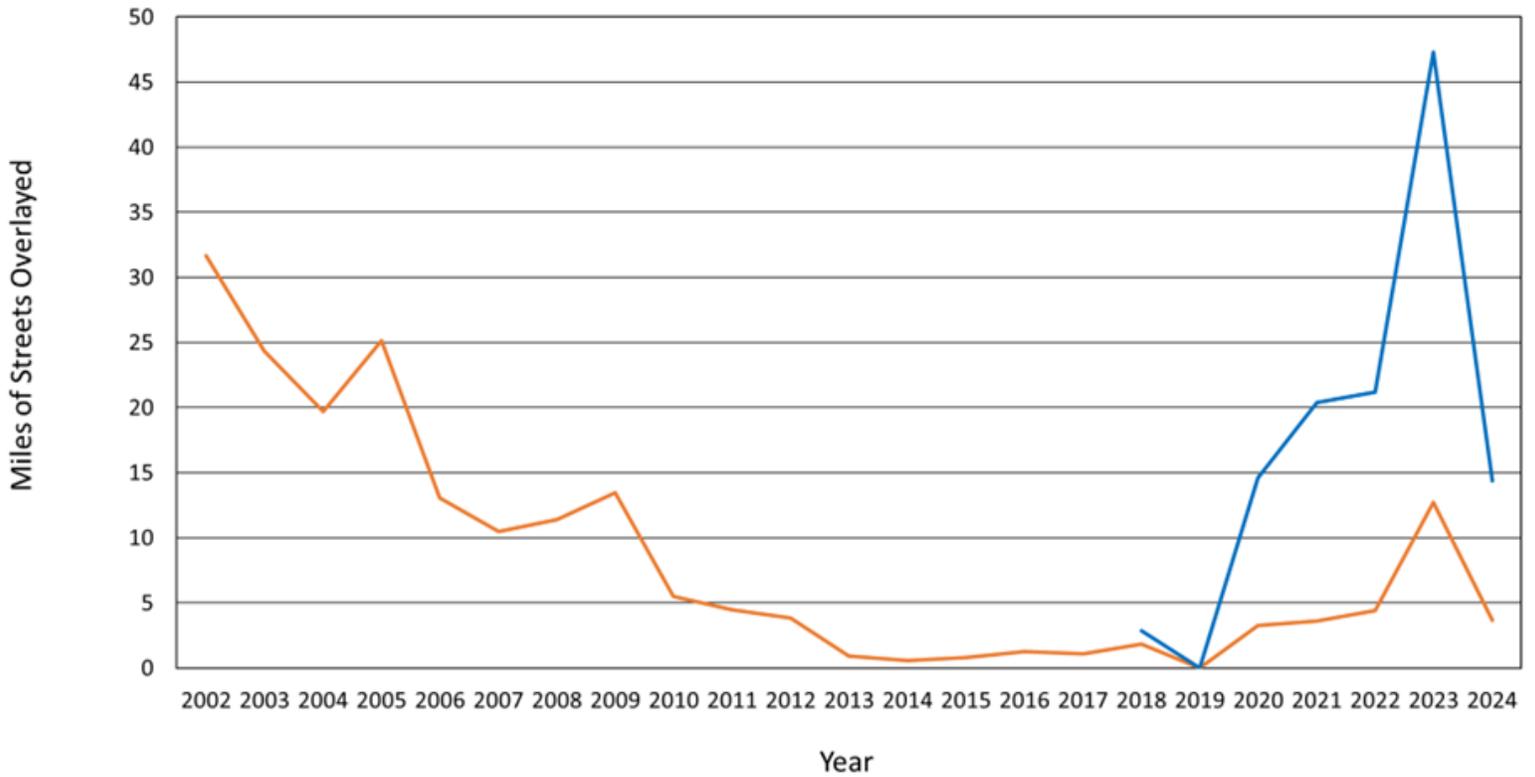


Paving on Northern Avenue near Orman Avenue

Streets Overlaid from 2002 - 2024

(Not Including Streets Maintained by CDOT)

— Miles — Lane Miles



Roadway System Inventory

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%
2024	507	3.7	0.73%

The “dip” in total miles of roadway being resurfaced from 2023 to 2024 is a reflection of significant utility infrastructure work that was required along some of the roadways that were repaired this year. In addition, road resurfacing projects generally trigger requirements for the City to upgrade pedestrian infrastructure that is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A significant number of concrete upgrades were completed in 2024 in preparation to facilitate future paving work on Court Street, Elizabeth Street, Bonforte Avenue, and W. 29th Street.

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.

In the City's 2025 annual budget, approximately \$5M will be allocated toward road improvement projects. Projects being planned for future design and construction in 2025 and beyond include:

- Bonforte Blvd (US 50B to CO 47)
- Elizabeth Street (City Center Dr. to W. 24th Street)
- W. 29th Street (I-25 to High Street)
- Monument Avenue (E. 7th Street to E. 12th Street)
- Court Street (City Center Dr. to W. 24th Street)
- Berkley & Mesa Roundabout
- W. 6th Street (Midtown Cir. To I-25)

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 30 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.

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 Street 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.



Paving at 27th St. and Cheyenne

PUBLIC WORKS

3. Transportation and Traffic Maintenance

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 maintains a total of 106 traffic signals owned by the City of Pueblo. 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.

Through its partnership with ChargePoint, the City currently operates five public charging stations located within the City's downtown area, including new two solar powered units that were installed in 2024. Additional public charging stations at Main Street Garage and Weisbrod Garage are planned for installation in 2025 thanks to funding received from the Colorado Energy Office.

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 44 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.

5. Pueblo RecycleWorks and Large Item Drop-off Program

Pueblo RecycleWorks opened to the public in 2018, offering a free recycling drop-off center for conventional recyclable materials. Each year since opening, PRW has seen a significant increase in the volume of customers served. In its first full year of operation (2019), PRW greeted 13,500 customers. In 2024, that number has grown to over 30,000 patrons.



PUEBLO TRANSIT

Accomplishments: The department accepted the Grant Award YFTG0124 between the City of Pueblo and Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA) for \$62,213.39, ensuring kids ride free through October 2025 continuing the program for a fifth straight year. Students Kindergarten through 12th grade ride free of charge with Pueblo Transit.

In coordination with PACOG Pueblo Transit Converted two underperforming trailer routes into two new transfer routes. These were the first additional new routes offered by Pueblo Transit since 1981. The North/South shopping routes have improved commute times to the city's most desired shopping and restaurant locations and offer the community an additional 13 transfer locations which makes the commute with Pueblo Transit fun and friendly for all.



Year End Goals: A Van pool pilot program has been funded with State Multi Modal Funds and is currently recruiting local companies to utilize the service and will be officially started in January 2025. Additionally, 70 bus stops will be outfitted with Solar lighting through a grant funded by state multimodal funds throughout 2025. A Transit rider's app has also been funded and will commence in the Spring of 2026.



Additionally, Pueblo Transit will kick off Veterans Ride Free starting January 2025. Veterans Ride Free will be a great initiative for the "Home of the Heroes".

Passes can be registered online at www.pueblo.us/1353/Purchase-Transit-Passes and no fee or payment will be collected for a veteran to register and receive a Veteran Transit Pass. Veterans can also register for a pass in person at the Pueblo Transit Center located at 123 Court St., or at the main Pueblo Transit administration office located at 350 Alan Hamel Ave.

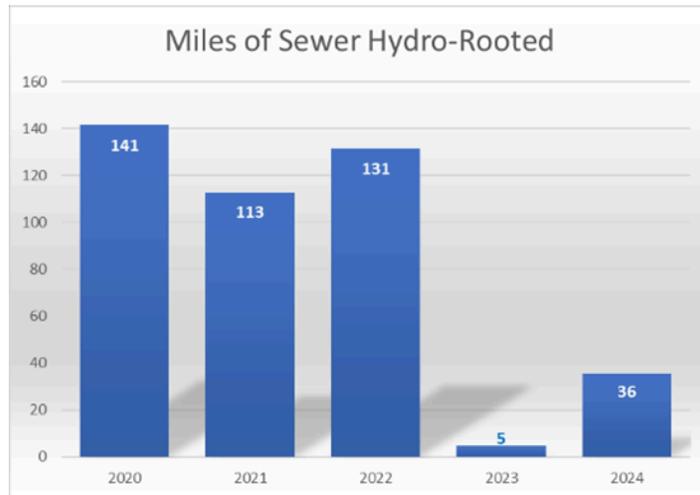
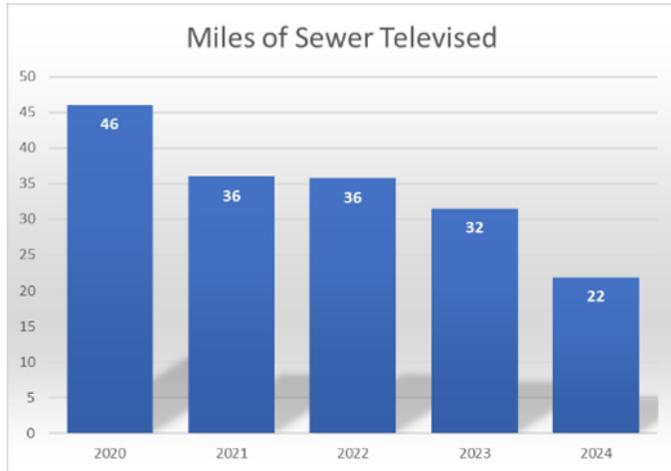
The Pueblo Transit Center is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

WASTEWATER

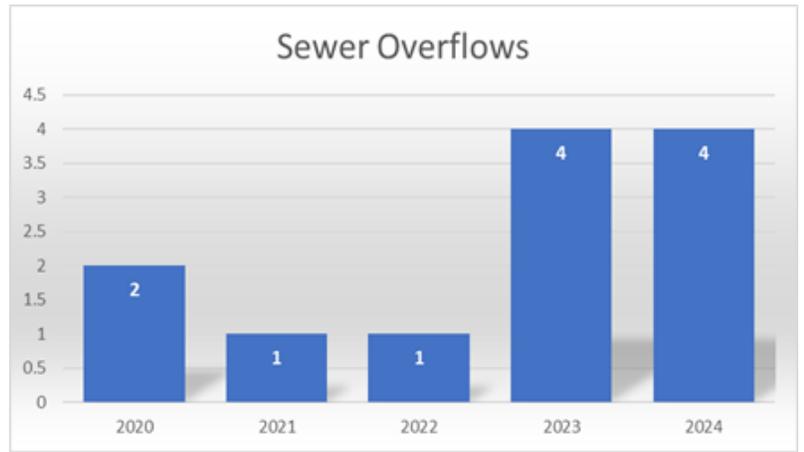
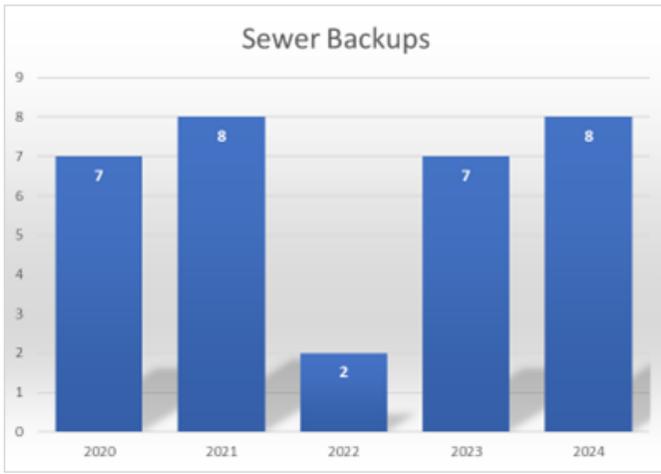
The Wastewater Department is an enterprise with the mission of collecting and reclaiming wastewater in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. This mission is done by collecting sanitary sewage from residences, businesses, and industries; conveying sewage to the wastewater treatment 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 facility treated an average of 12.3 million gallons of wastewater in 2024 that was returned to the Arkansas River.

The Pretreatment staff inspect and monitor industries to protect the Wastewater Reclamation Facility and the collection system from harmful discharges.



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



The 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 Silver Award for 4 years of compliance with the Colorado Discharge Permit from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.



Pueblo Wastewater Department completed multiple sewer lines for repair work during projects throughout 2024. This is from pipe replacement on Court Street.

Collection Projects	2024	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	
Large Main Lining	\$686,458		This money was used to design the lining of the 60-inch pipe that brings wastewater into the water reclamation facility, and two vaults at the headwaters
Small Main Remove and Replace	\$4,565,902		Pipe and manholes are removed and replaced in th main less than 24 inches.
Annual Manhole Rehabilitation	\$569,460		Replaced or epoxy coated manholes that were in poor condition.
Emergency Projects	\$602,095		Emergency repairs to fix sanitary mains that have failed or have a blockage
Southern Clinic Sewer Line Extension	\$974,073	\$3,000,000	The project extends the City sewer mains to the north near Wildhorse Creek to allow development in areas that were inhibited by lack of City infrastructure.
West Side Upsize Project	\$332,401	\$2,000,000	This project is to upsize the pipe on the west side of the city to accommodate flows from housing devleopment and the county detention center.
Northern Line Extension		\$1,438,085	This project is to extend the sanitary sewer line on Northern to facilitate development in the area

Water Reclamation Infrastructure	2024		
Dissolved Air Flotations Thickener (DAFT)	\$887,196		This piece of equipment was failing and needed to be repaired. It is used to thicken waste from secondary clarifiers.
Gravity Thickener	\$918,915		This project is in the design stage to replace the lids of two of four digesters and replace the polymer system.

WASTEWATER

In addition to the Water Reclamation Facility infrastructure and Collection system infrastructure improvements in 2024, 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. A pilot project was conducted in the sanitary sewer to find infiltration of groundwater into the system in dry weather using electrical pulses and temperature probes. This system was successful in finding infiltration. Projects will be undertaken next year to address these problems.
- 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). The 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.



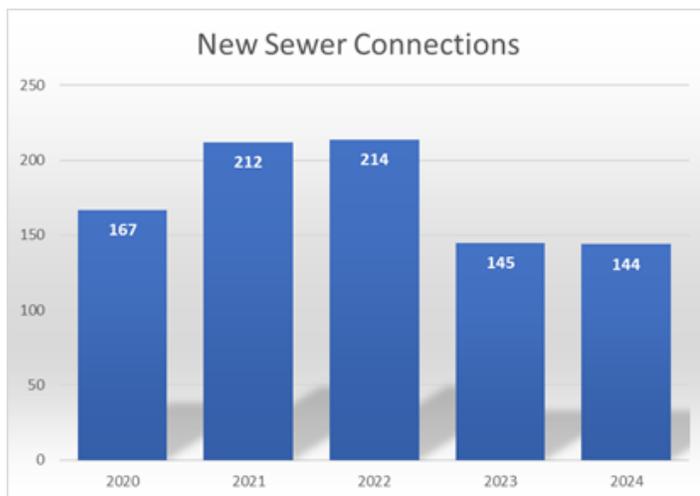
Picture of a televised sewer line in Pueblo

Goals of the Department

- 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 requirements. 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 three 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 need 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.



- 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.

- Improper disposal of grease into the sewer has caused backups of the mains and causes sewage to flow into residences.

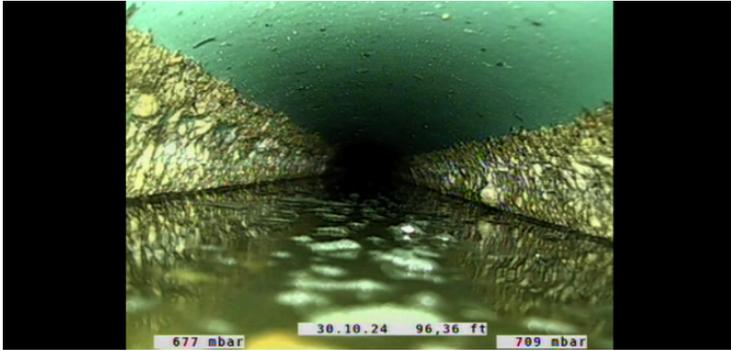
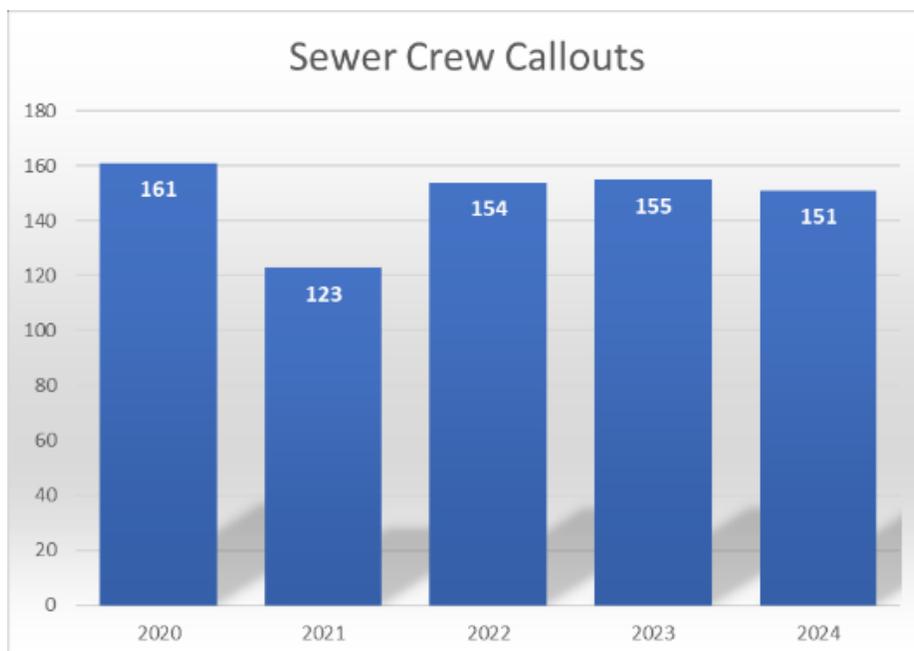


Image left of a sewer back up caused by improper disposal of grease

- The Collection crew responded to 151 emergency call outs in 2024 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

Pueblo City Council remained engaged throughout the year with the fight against the proposed Black Hills Energy rate increase. Council President Mark Aliff was vocal with Pueblo County Commissioners and Mayor Heather Graham.



Councilor Flores held another successful Economic Forum and supported the Comcast small business RISE grant for Southern Colorado. Councilor Sarah Martinez organized two community clean ups on Union Avenue and Northern Avenue with the "Broom Brigade."



Councilors Mark Aliff, Roger Gomez and Joe Latino were sworn in January of 2024



Councilor Brett Boston filled the At-Large vacancy, a position filled twice in 2024. Councilor Boston was sworn in during the month of June.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Parks and Recreation crew acted quickly after the microburst to assist residents and business owners with downed trees and limbs.



Ladder Truck 52 was added to the Fire Department Fleet and put into service in November 2024. It is the highest ladder truck at 125 ft. in the state of Colorado. It can assist with hard to reach buildings and river water rescue.



Mural artists were chosen and announced in 2024 for the “SLAB” project funded by Colorado Lottery. While weather and cold temperatures have stalled the project, the SLAB will be complete in Spring of 2025.

The Mitchell Park Mural project was completed in 2024 with the leadership of Eric Sarracino and the assistance of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Mayor Heather Graham and Chief Chris Noeller presented before the Department of Local Affairs in Montrose, CO to secure \$1 million in funding for the Real-Time Crime Center.

Mayor Heather Graham (below) and Craig Eliot Cisney (right) presented to the Economic Development Commission in December 2024 to help secure the permanent home of the Leonardo da Vinci museum at the Riverwalk. Many members of the community attended in support.





The City of Pueblo won the “Most Fitting Parade Theme” and “Most Creative” awards for the Fiesta Day Parade. Special thank you to the Pueblo Department of Public Works for the work on the floats for both the Fiesta Day and Colorado State Fair Parade.



The City of Pueblo won first place in the Civic/Community category for the Colorado State Fair Parade in 2024.