

City of Longview 2019 Legislative Priorities

CAPITAL FUNDING PLACEHOLDER / OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

- **Sports Complex Funding:** The City of Longview respectfully requests \$1,000,000 in capital budget funding for a recreational sports complex in the City. The sports complex would include turf baseball and soccer fields, basketball courts, restrooms, and picnic and play areas, similar to the Regional Athletic Complex in Lacey. The complex would be an anchor for economic development in the region, and would be used by various youth and adult sports teams, including the Longview School District, Lower Columbia College, and other teams in the Northwest Athletic Conference. A master plan is underway for this project and the funds requested would be used to install a year-round artificial turf surface in the first phase of construction. Each baseball/softball field is estimated to cost \$500,000 to replace with artificial turf. Full phasing of the project and total cost of the project will be realized with investments from the City, multiple stakeholders, and grant requests submitted to the Recreation Conservation Office of the State of Washington.
- **Beech Street Expansion:** The City has created a Local Improvement District to complete paving and street improvements to Beech Street from 14th Ave. to California Way, which will open 76 acres to commercial and industrial use development. The project will consist of the design and construction of 2,000 lineal feet of three-lane roadway, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, bike lanes, street trees, street lights and drainage features. 73 percent of property owners inside the LID signed a petition in support of the project. The total cost of this project is \$4,400,000; the city has dedicated \$575,000 in Rural Public Facilities Grant funding to the project and will generate roughly \$3,700,000 from the tax revenue created by the LID. However, the project will still require additional funding, and that is why the City asks for \$156,000 in capital budget funding to complete this project.
- **Longview Police Station First Floor remodel:** The City of Longview respectfully requests \$1,100,000 in capital budget funding for the Longview Police Department (LPD) to remodel the main floor of the Hudson Street building to accommodate current and future needs. The Police Department has hired more staff and continued to grow over the years, and the current building is not adequate for the Department's needs. This remodel would allow the LPD to create more offices, work stations, meeting spaces, and a community room that would allow the Department to host more local trainings resulting in a cost savings.
- **Longview Public Library Modernization Project:** The Longview Public Library serves residents and visitors in the heart of downtown Longview. One of Longview's most iconic and beloved civic buildings, the library is an essential educational, informational and cultural asset to its community, offering 21st century technology as well as traditional library services. The library hasn't been comprehensively renovated for 50 years, and currently suffers from many deficiencies. The City recently engaged the services of an architectural firm to develop a space needs assessment and modernization study, which conclude that the library needs: expanded and redesigned areas, new computers, increased meeting room capacity, study rooms and more. The total cost to renovate the library is \$10,500,600, and the City will need to explore multiple funding mechanisms for the project to be completed.

(It is our understanding that the Council received an update on this issue on Oct. 25. We will need to identify a specific dollar amount for the request.)

- **Park Restrooms:** The City respectfully requests \$700,000 in funding for replacement of two restroom facilities at Lake Sacajawea Park. The buildings have eight single stall individual locking units that are now to the point that repair and painting does not bring them back to an appropriate service level. The current design of the restroom buildings lends themselves to vandalism and misuse allowing individuals to lock themselves in for an extended period of time. Two new facilities with multiple stall areas inside and with the external door to the park being unable to lock from the inside would reduce the amount of damage that currently is occurring. Automatic magnetic door locks on timers and a more open floor plan would also assist with reducing the amount of time individuals spent inside the room. Adding additional lighting to the outside of the facility would also increase safety and security. Currently, the City contracts with a local security company to go to the park when it is closing to remove individuals from the restrooms and lock them each night so that when City staff open them in the morning for cleaning they are unoccupied. Lake Sacajawea is the most used park in Longview both for day use and for large community events such as fun runs, outdoor movies, summer concert series, and others. During a recent community wide survey for the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, upgrade to park restrooms was the number one improvement requested by residents.
- **EV Charging Stations:** The City asks for funding to include EV plug-in stations for electric vehicles in the City. With the emergence of more electric vehicles – both within the City’s fleet and privately owned – the City lacks adequate charging stations, especially for travelers along the I-5 corridor. The City has identified City Hall as a good location for these stations, and request \$___ funding for ___ stations.
- **Housing Authority / Parkview Apartments:** The City of Longview requests \$_____ in funding to construct the Parkview Apartments, which will be an apartment complex of approximately 125 multi-family housing units in the City. The goal of the project is to build a mixed income complex with several units targeted at serving special needs populations, as well as families earning 50%-80% of the area’s median income and other targeted populations. The City also anticipates setting aside units for homeless families with children and veterans. The City is currently in the process of predevelopment for the site.
- **911 Call Center:** The City of Longview is in the preliminary stages of planning a new 911 Call Center, and asks for funding to move the regional 911 Call Center out of the flood zone that the center is currently in. The City envisions a stand-alone center and supports a regional coordinated effort as this center serves various communities in the region. (Need a specific dollar amount)
- **Longview Fire Station 83:** The City of Longview completed a Fire Department Capital Facilities Plan in 2011, and identified various facility improvements needed for the Fire Department, including near, mid and long-term planning improvements. The study showed that the Longview Fire Department’s response performance would be substantially improved by providing services from three stations as opposed to two they currently have. That is why the City request \$_____ to construct a new Headquarters Fire Station 83 in the City. This new headquarters would house the Fire Department’s administrative personnel, and would free up valuable space within existing Fire Station

81 to be used more efficiently and upgraded to meet current standards and operational practices. The total project cost for Station 83, including land acquisition, escalation and construction was estimated at \$13.9 million in 2011.

Mental Health Field Responders

The City of Longview supports funding for the City's police department to hire mental health professionals to work with police officers to connect at-risk individuals with support services. House Bill 2892 passed in 2018, and established the mental health field response grant program that accomplishes this goal. The City supports full funding for this grant program.

State Environmental Permitting Process

The State of Washington must streamline its environmental permitting processes so that permit decisions are made in a more timely and efficient manner. The communities of southwest Washington, including the City of Longview, have been on the front line as state agencies have turned local projects into extenuated ideological battles. The City supports appropriate environmental review that is balanced with the need for economic development in the region. The state must ensure that its permitting processes do a better job of striking this balance.

Economic Development

The City of Longview supports legislation providing more tools to cities to support economic development in downtown centers, including for commercial and industrial development such as the Beech Street industrial area. The City joins the Association of Washington of Cities in advocating for increment financing tools.

*The City supports the efforts of the
Association of Washington Cities and Sound Cities Association.*

2019 Legislative Policy Document

In addition to the City's 2019 adopted legislative priorities, the city has adopted the following policies. The policy document provides direction to city staff and the city lobbyist. These are issues that the city will monitor and support along with AWC and other stakeholders, but are secondary to the 2019 legislative priorities of the City.

- **Affordable Housing & Homeownership Tools:** The City of Longview joins housing advocates in requesting funding tools for affordable housing, funding for the Housing Trust Fund, reforms to the Condominium Liability Act, and other creative solutions to funding or incentivizing affordable housing.
- **Criminal Justice Training Commission /Basic Law Enforcement Academy Funding:** The City of Longview supports increased funding and other solutions to ensure newly hired officers are able complete training through the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) at the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) in a timely manner. At current funding levels, the Criminal Justice Training Commission has a backlog of officers awaiting training. State law requires that officers are trained within 6 months of hire, and the current backlog exceeds this statutory timeline. The City also supports equal prioritization by the CJTC when selecting officers to be trained in a timely manner.
- **Abandoned and Vacant Properties:** The City of Longview supports efforts to address nuisance abatement challenges associated with vacant and abandoned foreclosed properties, including efforts to address the health, safety and other problems associated with abandoned and vacant properties.
- **Reducing Labor Costs:** The City of Longview supports legislation that reduces labor costs. Legislation passed in 2018 (Senate Bill 5493) that ties prevailing wage rates to collective bargaining agreements. This legislation has had significant impacts on labor costs, and has driven up costs for the City. The City supports policies that mitigate the impacts of these increased labor costs.
- **Carbon tax:** The City of Longview opposes taxes on carbon that will disadvantage industrial and manufacturing activity in the City. Industrial and manufacturing activity are both key economic drivers to the local economy, and a carbon tax would likely impede the City's local economy. Furthermore, the City does not believe that a single-state approaches are the appropriate avenue forward on certain environmental issues.
- **Firearms:** The City of Longview opposes restrictions to citizen's rights to own firearms. Hunting and gaming is an economic driver for the City, and restrictions on gun rights will hamper popular activity city residents like to partake in.
- **Preemptions and Unfunded Mandates:** The City opposes any preemption of local control or the imposition of unfunded or underfunded state mandates.