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## CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Investing in Water & Sewer Infrastructure for Industrial Job Growth

#### **Industrial Infrastructure Investment Phase 7A**

The City respectfully request \$1.8 million to install a sewer main and lift station service to serve 2 committed industrial businesses. Cumulatively, these businesses will create 325 new industrial jobs. The utility improvements include the construction of .65 miles of sewer force main and a lift station. One of the two industrial developments is presently under construction with a temporary sewer service. This utility project will provide a permanent sewer service to both projects and support future industrial growth.

### Fueling West Plains Economic Growth

#### **West Plains Childcare Development Center**

The City recently completed a childcare needs assessment and feasibility study in partnership Washington State Department of Commerce to evaluate the community's childcare and early learning needs. According to the study, with only two options for childcare in the City of Airway Heights and limited options available in the surrounding West Plains Community, the area is a "childcare desert".

According to the study, the City's rapid commercial and residential growth creates high demand for childcare that accommodates varying work schedules. There is a need for childcare that accommodates various schedules, but primarily shift-work (i.e., later evening hours and potentially overnight care). At least half of survey respondents stated that at least one adult in their home has not been able to work because they could not find childcare. Approximately 84% of survey respondents indicated their children stay home with them or their partner/spouse, despite a need for childcare services.

The City is requesting \$185,000 to perform design and preconstruction planning for a large childcare facility with wrap-around services for children and families near the childcare site.

### Strengthen the Economic Development Ecosystem

#### **Military Benefit Zone**

Washington State has the sixth highest regional concentration of military presence in the United States. In addition to providing an integral role in national security, the state's military installations constitute a

significant economic contributor. The City supports legislation that would expand financing tools for military communities to support and encourage private economic development. Military Benefit Zones would improve the viability of existing businesses in the zone, encourage new private development, reduce traffic congestion, and support the needs of housing, services, and the overall quality of life for military personnel and families.

## Public Safety Considerations

### **Public Safety Legislative Changes**

We support clarification to the public safety legislation that reinforces officers ability to use nonlethal alternatives, conduct brief investigative holds, use force for noncriminal activities relating to community caretaking, and assist with transporting persons under the Involuntary Treatment Act. We support a resolution for two conflicting domestic violence laws that prevent an officer from engaging in a vehicular pursuit unless the underlying offense is a violent or sex offense. If a person flees a location prior to arrest, our officers cannot pursue them. Lastly, we support additional investment in the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to hire and train more officers during a time when the State is facing historic vacancies. Moreover, we would also like to see a sustain investment made to support therapeutic courts beyond the two year State funding commitment.

## Airway Heights Also Supports

### **Association of Washington Cities 2022 Legislative Priorities**

The City Council affirms its support of AWC's legislative priorities.