



CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Public Safety Campus

The City requests \$1.3 million within the 2023 capital budget to acquire 8 acres of land to develop a new Public Safety Campus that will better serve the community and surrounding areas within the region. The current police, fire and municipal court buildings of Airway Heights are inadequate in size, layout and location, and need to be replaced and relocated to meet the growing demand for public safety services. The City of Airway Heights provides emergency response services to the Spokane Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, the Department of Corrections Airway Heights Corrections Center, and Fairchild Airforce Base, as well as law enforcement services to the Cheney Public School District. After receiving a classified Department of Homeland Security report, and completing a local public safety needs assessment, it became clear that the outdated facilities are the primary obstacle in addressing critical public safety improvements. Given the local and regional support for this project, the City plans to take a local public safety levy to the voters in November 2023 to fund construction for the Public Safety Campus. The state's investment in purchasing the land for this project will allow the City to dedicate every local dollar towards constructing the facilities and improving public safety services for the community.

Public Safety Policies

The City encourages the Legislature to pass public safety laws that protect the community through safe and accountable police service and establish offender accountability complemented by required and available treatment. The City supports authorizing law enforcement officers to take custodial action for the possession of controlled substances, coupled with investments to meet treatment option needs. Additionally, the City supports legislation to clarify that law enforcement officers may engage in vehicular pursuits under certain circumstances using a reasonable suspicion standard.

Water Utilities Support

The City urges the Legislature to increase grant funding opportunities that support updating and improving local wastewater treatment plant facilities. Without financial partnership to complete these large-scale utility projects, communities undertake a significant cost burden, which often leads to increasing utility rates for residents. The City has submitted an application to the Water Quality Combined Funding Program to improve the city's sewer system. By enhancing state appropriations for programs within the Department of Ecology, as well as the Public Works Assistance Account, cities like Airway Heights can address critical components such as service expansion, environmental impacts, community health and efficiency.

Transportation

The City, along with the Spokane Regional Transportation Council requests that the state make the following investments:

- \$24.8 million for US 2 Multimodal Improvements
- \$2.8 million for 6th Avenue Multimodal Improvements
- \$11.250 million for Hayford/US 2 Congestion & Safety Project, and 21st Avenue Improvements

The City supports the 2023 Association of Washington Cities' Legislative Agenda