

The Year in Review 2024
Mayor Lisa Brown's
First Year





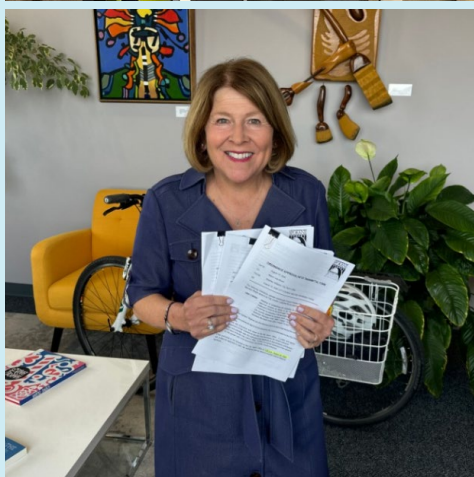
A Better Way Starts Here

Mayor Lisa Brown's first year in office was marked by productivity and delivering substantial progress across a broad set of priorities, including community safety, housing and homelessness, community and economic development, sustainability and transportation, as well as fiscal responsibility.

The Brown Administration, both at the Cabinet and staff levels, has delivered several significant accomplishments related to these priorities, including many recommendations outlined by the Mayor's transition committees just one year ago.

The past year has been dedicated to getting the City of Spokane back on track financially, while implementing strategic changes and overhauling outdated systems to set a solid foundation for sustained progress and long-term stability.

Better Starts Here.



Community Safety

Law Enforcement and Fire Safety

- Hired a new Police Chief and Fire Chief, utilizing a hiring process that relied heavily on public input and community priorities.
 - Hosted a series of community safety meetings in each Council district to provide feedback on community safety priorities.
 - Published a survey to collect feedback on community priorities that was translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Marshallese.
 - Created and hired a new Deputy City Administrator position to focus on work related directly to community safety.
 - Passed the Community Safety Sales Tax (1/10 of 1%) to fund critical enhancements across the Spokane Police Department, Spokane Fire Department, Municipal justice system, and Office of the Police Ombuds.
 - Participated in regional conversations related to jail capacity facilitated by Empire Health Foundation, Greater Spokane Inc., and Downtown Spokane Partnership.
- Launched the CORE Plan – a pilot deploying additional behavioral health and law enforcement resources throughout downtown.
 - Launched the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) funded by the City and supervised by the U.S. Attorney to expand high level drug enforcement within City limits.
 - Added limited commission for Park Rangers.
 - Partnered with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to proactively mitigate fuel and fire risk across Spokane’s Wildland Urban Interface.
 - Utilized ARPA funding to launch the Residential Lighting Program.
 - Launched the “Know the Number” campaign to help residents understand what resource to call for specific complaints and/or emergencies.
 - Participated in development of the new Hate Crimes Hotline, administered through the Washington State Attorney General’s Office.
 - Joined Governor-elect Bob Ferguson’s transition subcommittee on public safety alongside Police Chief Kevin Hall.

These achievements are related to recommendations from Mayor Brown’s five transition committees.



Cleaning and Code Enforcement

- Allocated \$719,000 of ARPA funding for downtown clean-up and activation.
- Split Homeless Outreach Team into two to address more sites citywide.
- Secured state funding to invest in gateway cleanup.
- Passed legislation to update City code to align with state law on penalties for illegal dumping.
- Responded to record numbers of Code Enforcement cases:
 - Removed 1,186,520 pounds of waste across the City.
 - Responded to 4,283 complaints of unlawful camping.
 - Conducted 2,115 illegal dumping abatements.
 - Abated garbage at 2,641 sites.

- Launched the High Utilizer Initiative, a partnership with Consistent Care, to provide intensive case management to up to 50 “high utilizers” who cycle between Municipal Court, the emergency medical system, shelters and/or streets.

- Secured \$1 million from the state legislature to expand street medicine across Spokane. Street Medicine provides primary care services, addiction treatment, and critical referrals to the unhoused population.

- Coordinated regular meetings with healthcare and street medicine providers to map assets and gaps.

- Conducted Sequential Intercept Mapping, a comprehensive map of the behavioral health and criminal justice systems, to identify gaps and develop effective strategies.

- Improved information-sharing across the City through overdose detection mapping and homeless management information system access for CARES and Community Court.

Behavioral Health and System Integration

- Expanded the CARES team by three case managers to expand stabilizing services delivered by the Spokane Fire Department.
- Partnered with Spokane County to invest Mental Health Sales Tax Dollars into the City’s Behavioral Health Response Team (BRU) that pairs a mental health clinician with a SFD paramedic. The investment will increase the BRU from 1 team to 4 teams, reaching near 24/7 coverage.

- Awarded opioid funds to integrate providers with the Homeless Outreach Team to increase targeted outreach to those struggling with or at risk of developing an opioid-use disorder.

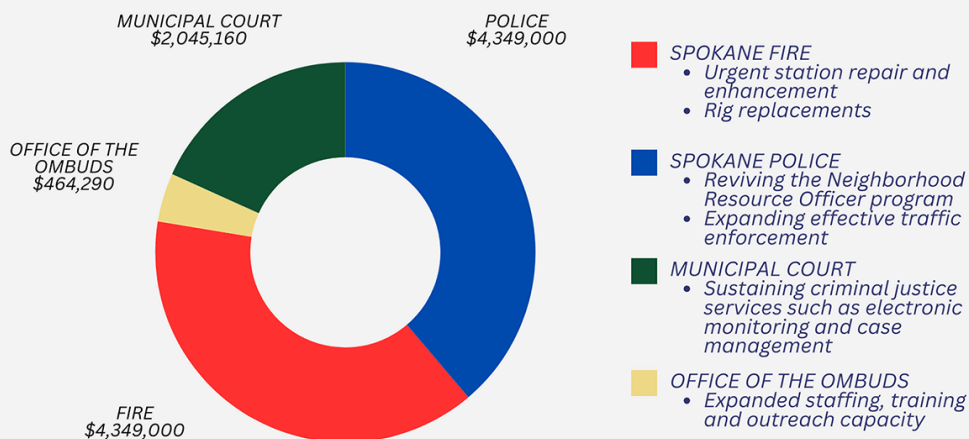
- Purchased a new vehicle for CAR50 presence along the Division St. corridor. CAR50 provides safe transportation for intoxicated individuals to treatment, sobering, and other resources.

- Supported Spokane County’s federal request to expand crisis stabilization beds.

- Initiated City’s federal request for increased co-responder teams, including civilian responders.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INVESTMENTS

2025 -2026
BIENNIAL
BUDGET



Mayor’s estimated proposal based on revenue projections



Housing and Homelessness

- Accessed state funds to designate the Division St. corridor as an encampment and invest critical resources to successfully move 39 individuals off Division St. and into a temporary transition facility.

- Conducted a full audit of the region's shelter system.
- Decommissioned the Trent Resource and Assistance Center and housed 136 individuals in the final six weeks.

- Granted Volunteers of America \$1.2 million to keep Hope House in operation, preserving 80 shelter beds for women.

- Increased investments in inclement weather sheltering by \$800,000 for 2025 and 2026.
- Identified under-performing contracts and recaptured those funds, making them available for other providers to ensure critical resources stay in Spokane.

These achievements are related to recommendations from Mayor Brown's five transition committees.

- Launched the Navigation Center pilot at the Cannon Facility.
- Allocated \$5,776,223 to Empire Health Foundation to open and operate six scattered site shelters.
- Put millions of House Bill 1590 and HOME/HOME ARP dollars into the community, resulting in nearly 150 new and/or rehabbed units of affordable housing.
- Completed data-sharing agreements with the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane County.
- Launched a data dashboard to help the community better understand homelessness and the programs that exist to provide support to those who are unhoused.
- Joined Governor-elect Bob Ferguson's transition subcommittee on housing.



Community and Economic Development

- Signed an Executive Order regarding the adoption of a new Economic Development Priority Review Process to streamline permitting and application processes.
- Established the Economic Development Rapid Response Team to improve coordination across City departments as they devise creative solutions to permitting roadblocks on key projects.
- Secured Department of Commerce funding to support the City's existing efforts to transition its permanent review process to a new fully digital system by mid-2025.
- Launched the Case Manager pilot program to provide targeted support for economic development by delivering specialized services to high-priority projects that require expert assistance and problem solving.

- Began review of the City's mixed-use Centers and Corridors and planning for an update to the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit code.
- Secured funding for alley activation and a study on converting vacant buildings to housing.
- Engaged Planning and Economic Development departments to identify restrictive codes and advance new policies to improve local zoning for daycares.

These achievements are related to recommendations from Mayor Brown's five transition committees.

- Engaged with Priority Spokane to work collaboratively on childcare workforce development.
- Joined the Hunt Institute's Early Learning Nation Policy Fellows program to work alongside national leaders on early childhood policy and new initiatives.
- Engaged business leaders and local developers to hear about their needs and identify opportunities for growth.
- Approved a formal hybrid work policy that returns City Hall employees to downtown at least three days per week.
- Revived the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee – now known as the Tourism and Cultural Investment Committee – and worked with City Council to ensure grants are distributed biannually to support tourism and cultural events in Spokane.
- Encouraged partnership between Spokane Parks and Recreation and Spokane Public Schools to ensure meaningful extracurricular opportunities for Spokane's youth through the engageIRL Initiative.
- Developed a mobile food vending program to provide local small food and beverage businesses an opportunity to sell concessions.
- Implemented event planning software to aid community event organizers with planning and execution.
- Began sport court renovations at Corbin and Underhill Parks.
- Began renovations at two dog parks.
- Conducted playground repairs at 16 parks through use of the Local Parks Maintenance grant.



Transportation and Sustainability

- Created a Cabinet position and hired a Director of Transportation and Sustainability.
- Created the new Transportation Commission, tasked with reviewing, analyzing, and recommending policies and projects related to Safe Streets infrastructure.
- Fully renovated the south suspension bridge in Riverfront Park.
- Installed new bicycle storage lockers outside of City Hall as part of a pilot program to test the utility and durability of this parking option.
- Reassigned SPD patrol officers on every shift to traffic enforcement.
- Began the process of adding two additional traffic enforcement cameras based on collision data.
- Doubled the Neighborhood Speed Feedback program over the next two years.
- Issued an Executive Order to implement Safe Streets Infrastructure and establish pedestrian and bicycle safety as top priorities for City transportation investments.
- Signed the Janet Mann Safe Streets Now resolution to adopt policy implementing several initiatives to improve road safety for bikes, pedestrians, and vehicles.
- Began the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update, which will include an increased focus on climate planning through a review of the Sustainability Action Plan and with Tribal engagement.
- Formed a new internal Resilience and Sustainability Action Team to collaborate and centralize communication for all City teams involved in grants, projects, and efforts related to resiliency, climate change, and sustainability.
- Partnered with the Gonzaga Institute for Climate, Water, and the Environment to secure EPA funding to create Smoke Ready Spokane, an initiative that will help reduce indoor exposure to pollutants in wildfire smoke through air-quality monitoring and HVAC upgrades at local community centers.
- Accelerated waste reduction through increasing food and yard waste curbside collection.
- Secured state funding to explore carbon sequestration at the Waste to Energy plant.
- Explored the creation of renewable natural gas at the City's Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility.
- Joined PFAS litigation, increasing Spokane's access to all resources to continue providing clean and safe drinking water.
- Partnered with the Spokane Riverkeeper and Avista to create a longer-term program to continuously remove debris, waste, and refuse from the Spokane River and shoreline between the Monroe St. and Division St. bridges.
- Implemented the Tree Equity Spokane grant to address inequities and environmental injustice by increasing tree canopy cover and providing urgent maintenance needs for trees in disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Launched a new Art, Nature and Natural Science camp through Spokane Parks and Recreation and Spokane Solid Waste, focused on recycled art projects and compost education for youth.
- Explored ongoing program offerings that have environmental education components.
- Replaced the antiquated irrigation system at Coeur d'Alene Park and developed funding plans for additional manual systems upgrades across Spokane parks.
- Began work to replace the pump house at the Creek at Qualchan.
- Purchased and installed new smart controllers within all parks to continue efforts for improved water efficiency.

These achievements are related to recommendations from Mayor Brown's five transition committees.



Budget

- Transitioned the City of Spokane to a biennial budget process to improve long-term and strategic planning.
- Instituted mandatory furlough days and delay of cost-of-living adjustments at the Cabinet level.
- Partnered with SPD and the Spokane Police Guild to offer voluntary early retirement incentives for eligible police officers.
- Partnered with the Managerial and Professional Association to offer voluntary early retirement incentives for eligible members.
- Created a new grant administrator position within the finance division.
- Rearranged staffing in IT to create a team dedicated to developing new AI-based solutions that streamline processes, increase accuracy, and reduce operating costs.
- Proposed and passed a balanced budget that will close the City of Spokane's nearly \$50 million deficit within two years.

