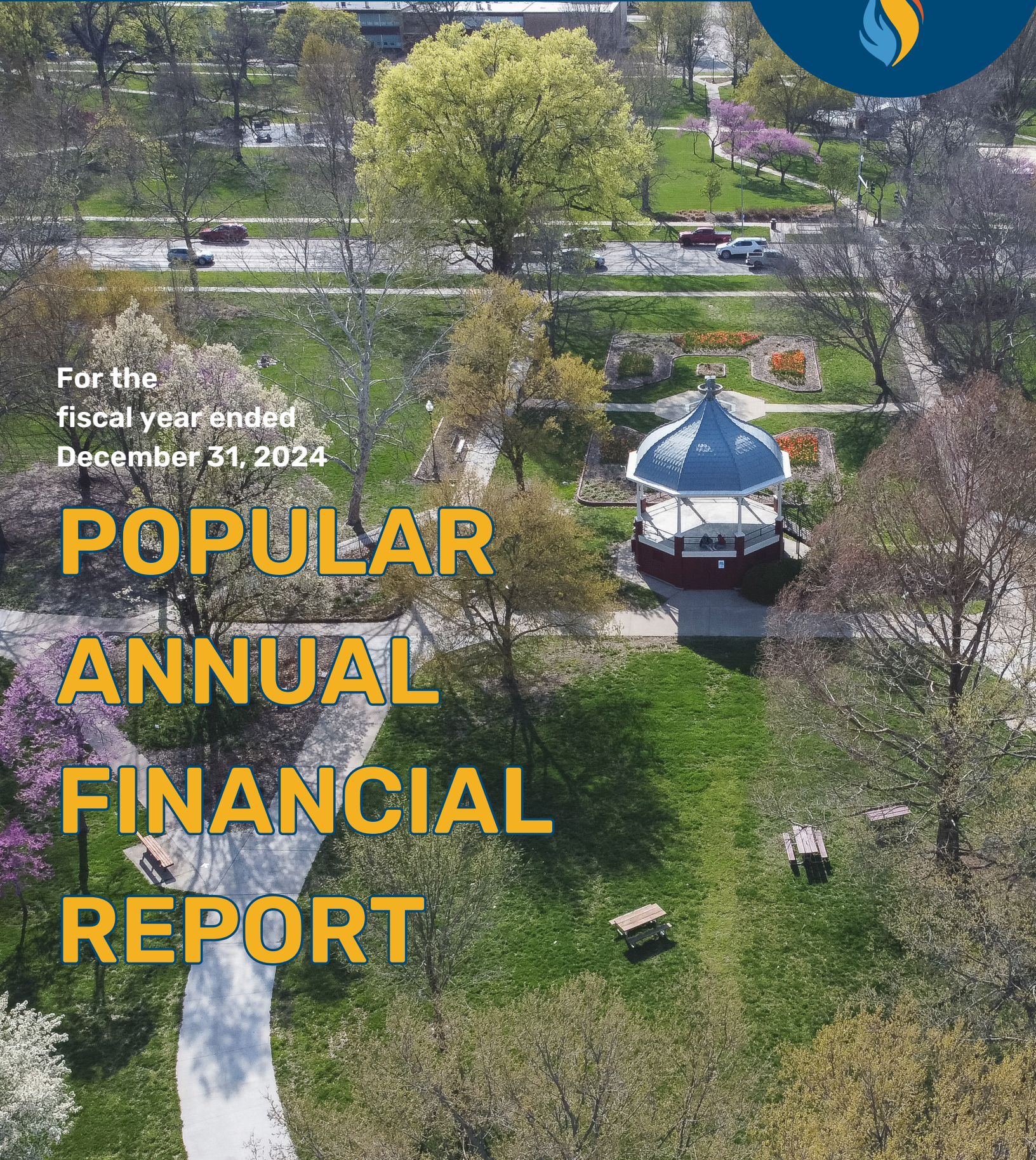


# CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS



For the  
fiscal year ended  
December 31, 2024

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT





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# ABOUT THIS REPORT

As part of the City’s commitment to Sound Fiscal Stewardship, we present the 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This report’s intent is to **communicate the financial standing of the City of Lawrence to the general public**. The content of this report is taken from the City’s audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The ACFR presents the City’s financial statements according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and any applicable legal requirements.

The PAFR **summarizes information from the ACFR about the financial position and operations of the City**. For more information on any aspect of this report, please review the full ACFR at <https://lawrenceks.org/finance/accounting>.

The City of Lawrence reports financial information from three categories of activities:

### GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Governmental activities statements provide a view of the City’s general government operations and include the basic services the City provides.

### BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES

Business-type activities are used to account for the finances of services the City provides that are funded by user fees. Examples include our Utility funds and Parking.

### COMPONENT UNITS

A component unit is a legally separate entity that has such a significant relationship with the primary government that their finances are reported alongside the City’s.

## FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The City has operated under the Commission-Manager form of government since 1951. The five-member Commission is elected at large. Each year, the Commission chooses one member to serve as Mayor.

The **City Commission** is responsible for policy making, passing ordinances, adopting the annual budget, appointing citizens to committees, and hiring the City Manager.

The **City Manager** is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City, including hiring all personnel.

## CITY COMMISSION

As of December 31, 2024



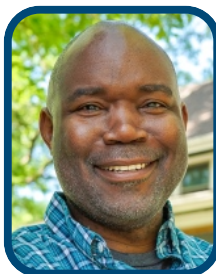
**MAYOR**  
Mike Dever



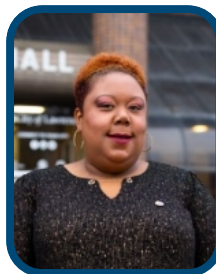
**VICE MAYOR**  
Brad Finkeldei



**COMMISSIONER**  
Lisa Larsen



**COMMISSIONER**  
Bart Littlejohn



**COMMISSIONER**  
Amber Sellers

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

**CITY MANAGER**  
Craig Owens

**BUDGET, STRATEGY, & PERFORMANCE**  
Alley Porter

**CITY ATTORNEY**  
Toni Wheeler

**CITY CLERK**  
Sherri Riedemann

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
Cori Wallace

**FINANCE**  
Rachelle Mathews

**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
Megan Dodge

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
Brian Thomas

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**  
Casey Toomay

**EQUITY & INCLUSION**  
Farris Muhammad

**FIRE MEDICAL**  
Joe Hardy (Acting)

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE**  
Luis Ruiz

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
Jeff Crick

**POLICE**  
Rich Lockhart

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**  
Brandon McGuire

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
Misty Bosch-Hastings

**HOMELESS SOLUTIONS**  
Misty Bosch-Hastings

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES & OPERATIONS**  
Melissa Sieben

**SUSTAINABILITY**  
Kathy Richardson

**TRANSIT & PARKING**  
Adam Weigel

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

Lawrence is known for its live music venues, vibrant art scene, and walkable downtown, which is called one of the best destinations in Kansas. Massachusetts Street, called Mass Street by locals, has locally owned restaurants, art galleries, unique shops, breweries, and cafes.

The City is also home to numerous parks, trails, and recreation facilities. From its scenic parks providing serene escapes to its bustling educational offerings, alongside a cultural scene buzzing with creativity, Lawrence beckons all to enjoy life and feel at home.

Lawrence serves as the county seat for Douglas County and is the sixth largest city in Kansas. The City encompasses 34.4 square miles and is bordered by both the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers.



**POPULATION**  
**96,207**



**VOLUMES IN THE LIBRARY**  
**218,251**



**PARKS**  
**71**



**PER CAPITA INCOME**  
**\$56,846**



**MILES OF STREETS**  
**354.05**



# STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan Framework was adopted by the City Commission in October 2020. There are five strategic [Outcomes](#), representing what our City is “in business to do” and what we plan to accomplish with our community.

Guiding our community Outcomes are the City’s six [Commitments](#) to the way we do work. The Framework drives the “what” and “how” of the organization. To align our resources to this Framework, the City has developed indicators to measure and report its progress. More about the Strategic Plan can be found here <https://www.lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan/>

The Strategic Plan drives the annual Operating Budget which, in turn, moderates the Strategic Plan. The development of indicators also allows for Strategic Management.



## OUTCOMES



**UNMISTAKABLE  
IDENTITY**



**STRONG,  
WELCOMING  
NEIGHBORHOODS**



**SAFE &  
SECURE**



**PROSPERITY &  
ECONOMIC  
SECURITY**



**CONNECTED  
CITY**

## COMMITMENTS



**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



**EFFICIENT &  
EFFECTIVE PROCESSES**



**ENGAGED &  
EMPOWERED TEAMS**



**EQUITY &  
INCLUSION**



**SOUND FISCAL  
STEWARDSHIP**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY**



## REVENUES: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

### TAXES

Taxes are a major revenue source for the City. The below information describes the types of tax revenues that the City receives and illustrates the percent of total taxes collected by type.



The City has four sales taxes: 1 cent for general purpose, 0.3 cent for infrastructure and equipment, 0.2 cent for public transportation, and 0.05 cent for affordable housing.



These are taxes collected on real property, personal property, and state assessed utilities.



Franchise fees are charges to allow utilities to provide services within the city and to locate within the public right-of-way.



Motor vehicle taxes are a subset of property taxes that are collected on motor vehicles, trailers, all-terrain vehicles, boats, and other units.

The City of Lawrence receives revenue from a variety of sources to fund the services that our community enjoys. The table below shows the City’s governmental activities revenue (in thousands) received in 2024 compared to previous years.

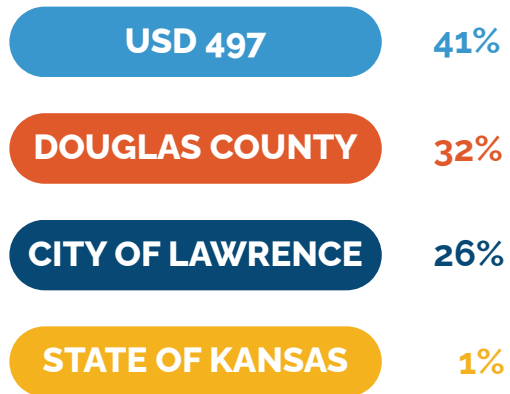
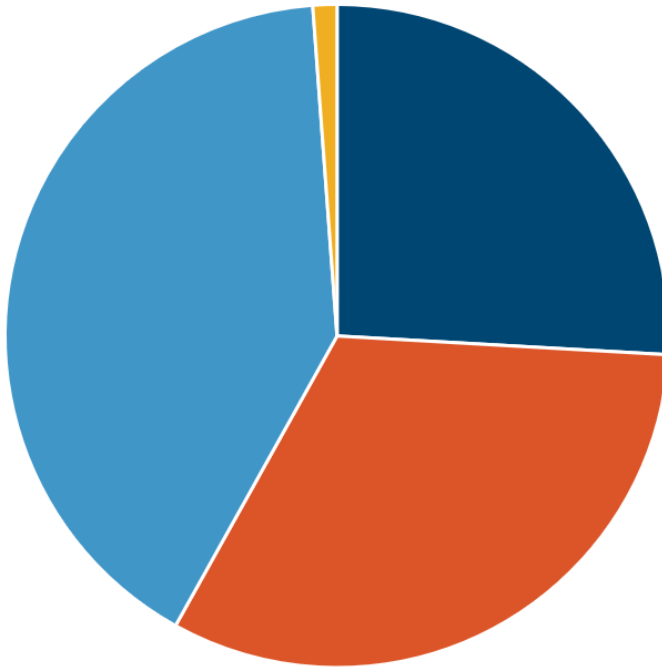
	2022	2023	2024
<i>Taxes</i>	\$ 103,358	\$ 108,661	\$ 114,444
<i>Special Assessments</i>	1,129	772	757
<i>Licenses and Permits</i>	1,585	1,297	1,308
<i>Charges for Services</i>	16,644	14,975	17,047
<i>Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties</i>	913	891	1,008
<i>Interest</i>	1,753	6,949	6,860
<i>Intergovernmental</i>	29,209	27,387	23,959
<i>Reimbursements</i>	1,931	5,014	1,710
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	2,155	2,390	3,020
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 158,677</b>	<b>\$ 168,336</b>	<b>\$ 170,113</b>



## REVENUES: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

### PROPERTY TAX

The 2024 property tax rate for the City of Lawrence is **33.232 mills**. Property taxes collected within the City of Lawrence not only fund the city government but also the county, state, and school district. The City receives approximately 26% of total property taxes.



### HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL

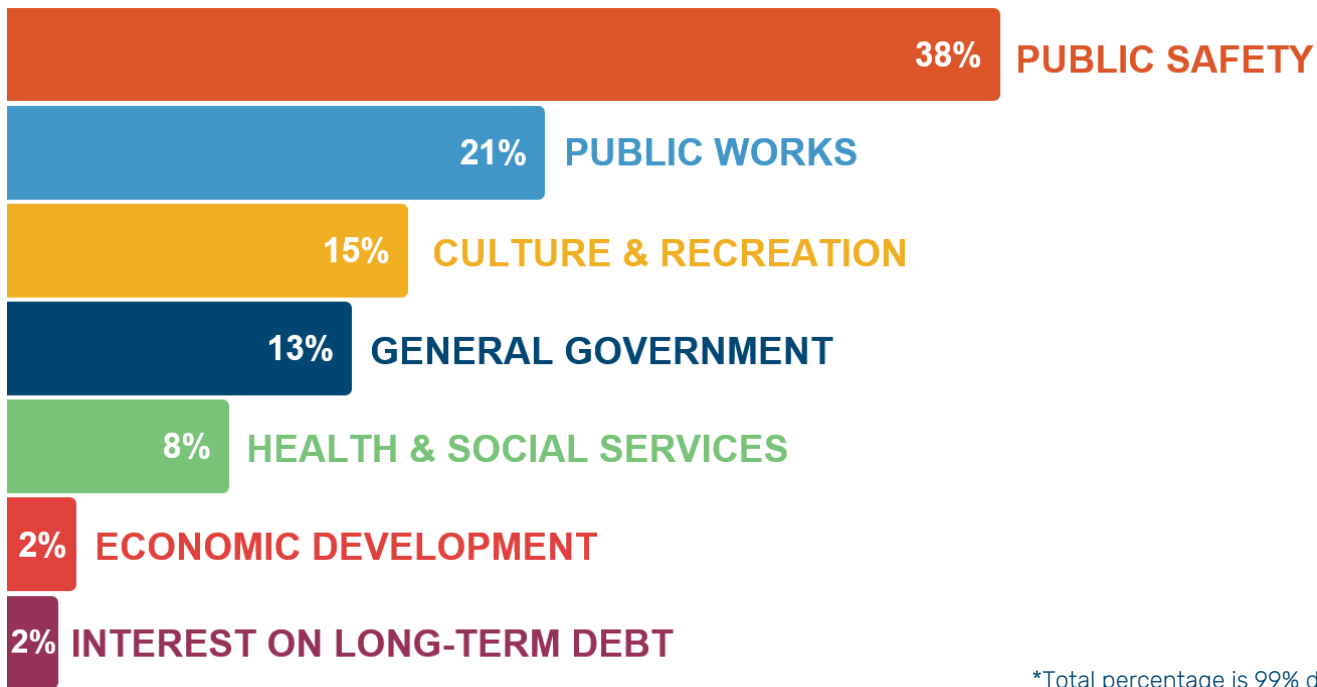
- 1 Determine the assessed valuation for your residential property by multiplying the appraised value of your home by 11.5%.
- 2 Multiply your assessed valuation by the mill rate levied by the City.
- 3 Divide by 1,000. The result is your estimated tax bill for the City of Lawrence.



## EXPENSES: WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

### EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Governmental activities are categorized into the below service areas. This chart is intended to illustrate the percent of total expenditures each category makes up.



\*Total percentage is 99% due to rounding.

The City of Lawrence provides a variety of services to the community including police, fire medical, parks and recreation, and street maintenance. The table below shows the City’s governmental activities expenses (in thousands) in 2024 compared to previous years.

	2022	2023	2024
<i>General Government</i>	\$ 23,515	\$ 22,564	\$ 24,053
<i>Public Safety</i>	67,013	69,621	70,112
<i>Public Works</i>	45,475	26,146	37,787
<i>Health &amp; Social Services</i>	5,926	14,562	15,324
<i>Culture &amp; Recreation</i>	22,346	27,028	28,026
<i>Economic Development &amp; Tourism</i>	4,515	4,418	4,442
<i>Interest on Long-Term Debt</i>	2,980	6,278	3,159
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 171,770</b>	<b>\$ 170,617</b>	<b>\$ 182,903</b>



# NET POSITION

An important question about the City’s finances is “Is the City, as a whole, better or worse off as a result of the year’s activities?” The statement of net position helps to answer this question.

Net position presents information on all of the City’s assets, liabilities, deferred outflows, and deferred inflows. Essentially, **net position** represents the difference between what the City owns (assets and deferred outflows) and what the City owes (liabilities and deferred inflows).

**(Assets + Deferred Outflows) - (Liabilities + Deferred Inflows) = Net Position**



The City’s net position slightly decreased in 2024. The below table provides more details and is expressed in thousands.

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL ASSETS &amp; DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>						
Current & Other Assets	\$ 231,803	\$ 222,197	\$ 164,575	\$ 167,559	\$ 396,378	\$ 389,756
Capital Assets, net of depreciation	342,183	350,526	342,872	384,055	685,055	734,581
Total Assets	573,986	572,723	507,447	551,614	1,081,433	1,124,337
Deferred Outflows of Resources	29,688	23,183	5,783	5,296	35,471	28,479
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 603,674</b>	<b>\$ 595,906</b>	<b>\$ 513,230</b>	<b>\$ 556,910</b>	<b>\$ 1,116,904</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,816</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>						
Current Liabilities	\$ 71,049	\$ 73,225	\$ 30,182	\$ 38,710	\$ 101,231	\$ 111,935
Non-Current Liabilities	239,023	238,622	262,854	286,151	501,877	524,773
Total Liabilities	310,072	311,847	293,036	324,861	603,108	636,708
Deferred Inflows of Resources	60,679	64,668	1,856	2,403	62,535	67,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 370,751</b>	<b>\$ 376,515</b>	<b>\$ 294,892</b>	<b>\$ 327,264</b>	<b>\$ 665,643</b>	<b>\$ 703,779</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 201,115	\$ 203,957	\$ 134,719	\$ 141,083	\$ 335,834	\$ 345,040
Restricted	83,845	78,202	8,211	7,002	92,056	85,204
Unrestricted	(52,037)	(62,768)	75,408	81,561	23,371	18,793
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 232,923</b>	<b>\$ 219,391</b>	<b>\$ 218,338</b>	<b>\$ 229,646</b>	<b>\$ 451,261</b>	<b>\$ 449,037</b>



## CAPITAL ASSETS

**Capital assets** are things such as land, buildings, improvements, construction in progress, machinery and equipment, park and recreation facilities, storm sewers, roads, bridges, and sewer lines.

In order to coordinate and plan maintenance and construction on its capital assets, the City prepares a five-year **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**. The CIP includes estimated costs for constructing, upgrading, and replacing these assets.

While preparing the CIP, needs are assessed and public improvements are prioritized. Proposed projects are reviewed and reprioritized annually as the City’s financial condition is evaluated.



**\$122M**

CIP funding for 2024

**\$463M**

Total CIP funding for 2024-2028

## LONG-TERM DEBT

**\$163M**

### General Obligation debt

These bonds fund various public projects like street construction and other large scale improvements.

These bonds will be paid back through the City’s ability to raise funds through taxes or fees.

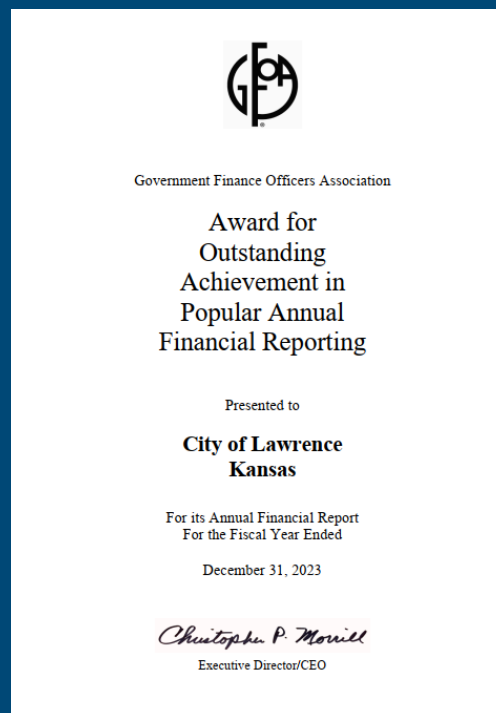
**\$266M**

### Revenue Bond debt

These bonds fund Water and Wastewater projects like water line replacements. These bonds will be paid back through a specific revenue source - Water and Wastewater fees.

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the City of Lawrence, KS for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.



**Lawrence**  
K A N S A S