

Annual Report

City of Joplin, Missouri

2025

Contents

Letter From The Mayor 1
Letter From the City Manager 3
Grant funded projects 5
Administrative Departments. 7
Economic Development 9
Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services. 11
Tourism 13
Police Department 15
Fire Department. 17
Parks & Recreation 19
Health Department 21
Public Works. 23

JOPLIN
MISSOURI

City Council



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City of Joplin Phone Directory

Emergency – Police/Fire	911
Airport	623.0262
Animal Control	623.6122
Athletic Complex	625.4750
Cemeteries	623.7990
Convention & Visitors Bureau	625.4789
Court (court dates, fines)	627.2930
Emergency Management	623.5858
Fire Dept. (non.emergency)	623.0403
Health Dept.	623.6122
Library	623.7953
MAPS (Metro Area PublicTransit System)	626.8607
Parks & Recreation	625.4750
Police (non.emergency)	623.3131
Schifferdecker Golf Course	624.3533
Trash Service – Residential	1.800.431.1507
Utility Billing	627.2955
Wastewater & Trash Bill	627.2955
WIC (Women, Infant & Children Supplemental Food Program)	623.1928

City's Main Number **417.624.0820**

Department	Ext.
Animal Control	1280
Building Codes/Inspections	1521
City Clerk	1220
City Manager	1201
Community Development	1542
Engineering	1530
Finance	1241
Human Resources (Personnel)	1423
Jail	1460
Marketing/Communications	1204
Mayor/City Council Information	1221
Municipal Court (Traffic Tickets, Court Dates, Fines)	1233
Neighborhood Improvement	1518
Public Information Office	1204
Recycling	1501
Zoning & Planning	1511

JOPLIN MISSOURI

Letter From The Mayor

As Mayor, it's my honor to get to introduce the City of Joplin's first annual report document, summarizing the accomplishments of our city staff in Fiscal Year 2025. We wanted to begin producing a document like this for the same reason we wanted to begin producing an annual Guide to City Finances and the State of the Community event (in fact, the two documents compliment the event and its videos perfectly) – because we recognize the need to improve our proactive communication for the sake of transparency and building understanding. This annual report should impress you – your municipal government achieved a lot in 2025 - but it's not the whole story. Our community is made up of so much more than City Hall, 15 departments and 26 divisions.

The State of the Community isn't just about the City government. It's about the state of our entire community – and celebrating everything we are doing together to make Joplin a better place every single day.

If you were not able to attend the State of the Community event, I hope you'll take a moment to view the State of the City video, and the update videos from each of our governmental partners.

Our community also includes a strong business sector, a thriving nonprofit network, and countless social organizations that connect people and create opportunities. And let's not forget the simple, everyday acts of neighborliness: volunteering, donating, helping one another, small acts of kindness that make our neighborhoods stronger. These contributions deserve recognition – and today, we celebrate them all.

The state of our community is strong, and moving forward with momentum. The stage has been set. And that raises a question for each of us: what are we going to do now that the stage is ready?

City Council has defined clear priorities that guide our work:

Public safety remains our top priority – reducing crime, improving safety, and ensuring first responders have the support, training, and resources they need.

Economic opportunity – growing businesses, attracting investment, and creating jobs.

Sustainable revenue – so we can continue funding essential services and infrastructure.

Neighborhood improvement – strengthening the places we call home – breathing new life into some of our older and declining neighborhoods.

Beautification – creating spaces where people want to be. Showing a sense of pride in our corner of the world.

And **addressing homelessness** – with compassion and collaboration.

These priorities aren't abstract. They guide investments in projects that will shape our future: better pay for police, fire, and dispatchers; ongoing discussions about historic Memorial Hall; the development of Prospect Village; expansion of our industrial park; and thoughtful annexation to support growth. Long-term infrastructure is also critical. We need a west bypass from I-44 to Highway 171. We're working with other southwest Missouri cities to secure a long-term drinking water supply from Stockton Lake. All of this sets the stage for the next act of Joplin's story.

However, the City cannot achieve these grand visions alone. We need collaboration. That's why we work closely with so many partners:

Economic development organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce, MOKAN, the Downtown Joplin Alliance, and the Joplin Industrial Development Authority, to grow business and attract jobs.

Sports tourism, through the Joplin Sports Authority, bringing visitors and supporting local businesses.

Transit and transportation planning, through JATSO – helping plan everything from highways to sidewalks, trails, transit, and airport connections.

Health and education collaborations, including JRAH and with our hospitals and institutions of higher education, ensuring Joplin leads in health sciences and training the care providers needed in one of our largest sectors.

Regional health initiatives, partnering with One Joplin to survey community needs and develop long-term strategies.

Homelessness solutions, through the newly founded Regional Commission on Homelessness, better coordinating services, resources, and response.

Beautification and neighborhood improvement, with the Joplin Redevelopment Corporation, Historic Preservation Commission, and Housing Authority.

Public safety partnerships, improving

communication through upgraded radio systems for first responders across the city and county.

These partnerships and too many others to list – each demonstrate what's possible when we work together, rather than in isolation.

However, the focus of this document is the achievements of the City government staff during Fiscal Year 2025, and I hope it makes you as proud as I feel about the hard work of the dedicated public servants who show up every day to make Joplin a little better each day.

Thank you again for reviewing this report, for supporting our community, and for helping set the stage for the next generation.

Keenan T. Cortez, Sr.
Mayor
keenan.cortez@joplinmo.org



Six City Council Priorities

- Crime & Safety
- Economic Development
- Resilient Revenue
- Community Appearance
- Declining Neighborhoods
- Addressing Homelessness

Letter From the City Manager

Joplin has so much to be proud of and celebrate. We have come a long way since I began serving as City Manager — a role I assumed on the very first day City Hall staff were being sent home due to the 2020 pandemic. From that moment, I knew that if we were going to move the city forward, we first needed to understand the direction you, the people of Joplin, wanted us to take.

That's why we conducted the City Manager's listening tour — to hear directly from residents about your priorities, your concerns, and your vision for our community. More than 5 years have passed. Now, our inaugural State of the Community event is an opportunity to report our progress since the listening tour, and we plan to provide this update each year with a spirit of transparency and collaboration.

You told us you wanted real results, and I'm proud to report that every City department is stepping up to deliver those results. Our staff have taken on more responsibilities and managed more projects than ever before, all aligned with the six council priorities.

Council is responsible for setting that high-level vision, but I have the honor of leading the city staff who do the work to execute and implement the direction we get from the community and your elected leaders. None of this is possible without the dedicated public servants on our staff. From the visible departments like Police, Fire, and Public Works, to the internal service departments like HR, Finance and IT – who lay the groundwork behind the scenes which supports everything the City does. We really have an exceptional group of employees who wake up every day thinking about how to make the community better for you.

Once a marine, always a marine – so I think about a concept I was trained on. A marine without a rifle is useless. And a rifle without a marine is useless. So it is with our municipal government. Everything is achieved by the combination of our people and the tools we put in their hands.

One critical way we've been able to accomplish more, faster, is by aggressively pursuing federal and state funding — including American Rescue Plan Act grants — to bring additional resources to Joplin. These funds allowed us to enhance and expand projects already prioritized by voters, which meant city departments had to work quickly, juggling multiple major initiatives simultaneously. The fruits of that effort are paying off — and the vision you helped shape is starting to come together.

Since 2020, we've made critical improvements to infrastructure like streets and reduced the effects of flash flooding. We've begun beautifying and cleaning up public spaces like our parks, downtown, and even adding flourishes to infrastructure projects just to make them look nicer. We have expanded our parks and trails systems, including the opening of MOmentum Bike Park and the Tin Cup Trail, and major renovations are coming for Ewert and Parr Hill parks.

We're putting tremendous effort into economic development, which has delivered successes such as 32nd Street Place, a major expansion of the Crossroads Industrial Park, investments into the restoration of downtown buildings, and laying the groundwork for Prospect Village.

We're investing into our Public Safety departments – stabilizing their pension funding, expanding training, and improving equipment and facilities for police, fire, and 911 dispatchers. We have already made improvements to pay



for our public servants across a variety of departments – but there's more to do. Our goal is to offer competitive pay for every position.

We've added new technology, and expanded staffing where needed, so we can provide better services and more transparency.

These successes are possible because of your support for resilient revenue. In 2021, voters approved the Parks & Stormwater sales tax. That same year, voters passed the Use Tax, which allows us to implement the Action Plans prioritized from the feedback received during the Listening Tour. Then, in 2024, voters approved the Capital Improvement Sales Tax, creating a 12-year, $95 million funding plan for infrastructure improvements. In each case, the City is delivering what was promised using the revenue provided by voters.

We have also listened to your clear directive to prioritize public safety. We know we need to offer competitive pay to our 911 dispatchers, police officers, and firefighters to retain and recruit the best talent. We know we need to invest in facilities, training, and equipment so our first responders can do their jobs safely and effectively.

Everything we are doing is setting the stage for Joplin's future. The question is: what will play out on this stage next? What will we do, and how will we ensure that the next generation can grow up in a community that is safe, vibrant, and full of opportunity? Let's continue building together, keeping our city safe, thriving, and always building momentum. Thank you.



Nick Edwards
City Manager
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About this Document:

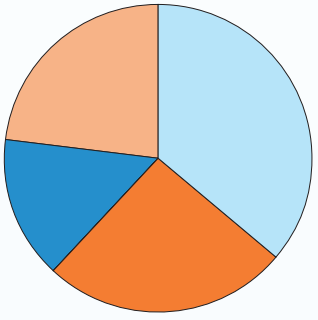
This document, our first annual report, provides an update on the highlights and achievements for each City department in 2025. We hope you'll also review the City's 2024 Guide to Finances, which provides a plain language explanation of the city's most recent complete set of actual and audited financial data. You'll see the 2025 Guide come out in 2026, following the completion of our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY2025 and the audit of our 2025 actuals.

Grant funded projects

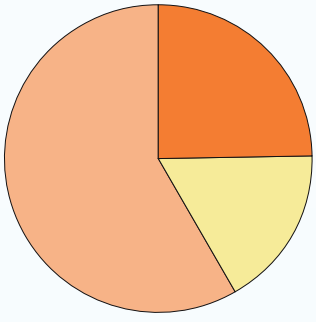
The City of Joplin is using grant funding to multiply the impact of voter-approved tax funding for improving our community. These are just 13 of our most impactful projects, representing an investment of just over $147 million. 35% of the funding is coming from the City and the remaining 65% is secured through grants and contributions by partner jurisdictions.

By being resourceful, efficient, and practical, Joplin is not just growing —we're building a better, stronger community for generations to come.

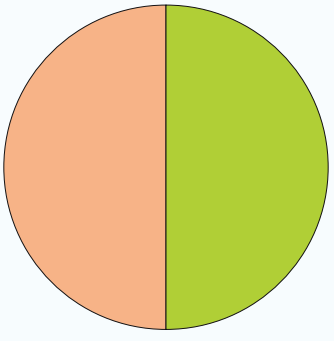
Momentum Bike Park
$6,774,507



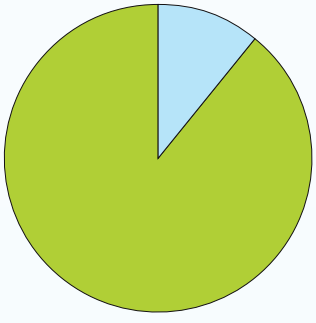
Stormwater Projects
$14,831,427



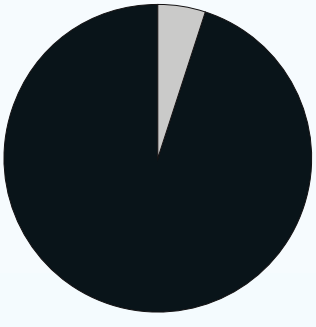
Water System Improvements
$10,000,000



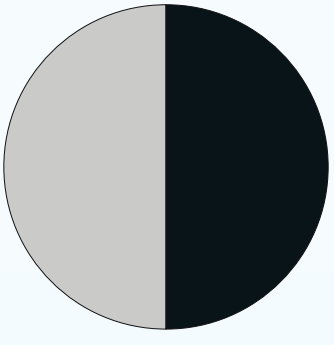
Broadband Internet
$45,000,000



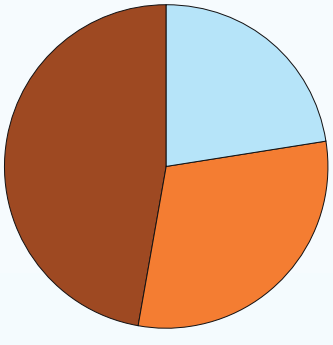
Airport Runway Rehab
$11,800,000



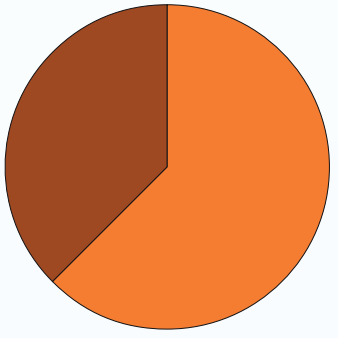
Streetscaping Main Street
$6,000,000



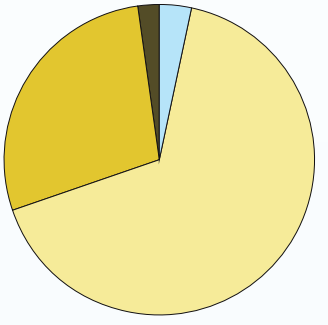
Tin Cup Trail & Bridge
$3,298,416



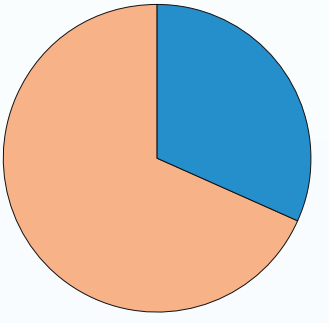
Ewert Splash Park & Amenities
$9,966,772



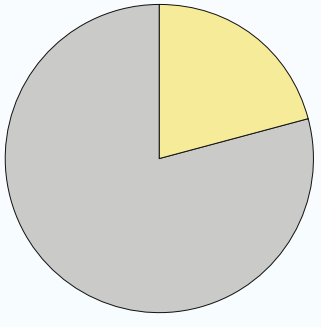
W. 20th St. Widening
$14,220,000



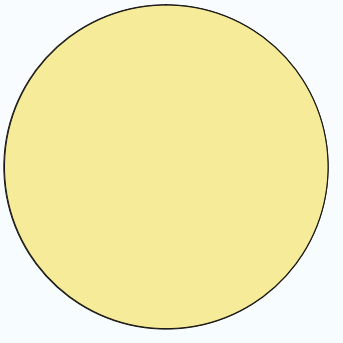
Sanitary Sewer Projects
$5,266,782



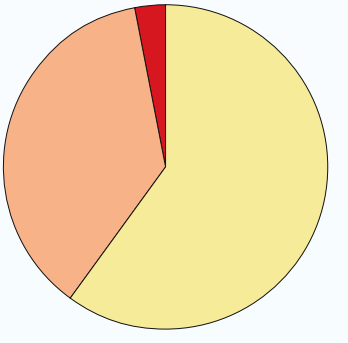
Street Resurfacing - Mill & Overlay
$4,317,468



Pennsylvania Viaduct Demo
$4,800,000



Zora Widening
$10,754,000



Funding Key

- Federal ARPA
- Use Tax
- Joplin Special Road District
- Parks -Stormwater
- City Funds
- City of Webb City
- Capital Improvement Sales Tax
- State Grants
- Federal Grants
- Transportation Sales Tax
- Jasper County ARPA
- Private Investment

Administrative Departments

Total FY2025 City Budget $213.3 Million

Across all funds, the City's workforce is made up of 583.45 Full-Time and 51.5 Part-Time positions.

634.95 FTE positions budgeted in FY2025

Finance

34th Consecutive Year

The City of Joplin earned the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

281,680 Utility Bills Invoiced.

Information Technology

550 Users maintained across 24 facilities
101 computers replaced/upgraded

Municipal Court

16,264 cases processed

Human Resources

323 new hires onboarded in FY2025

City Clerk

Over 36 meetings requiring agendas & minutes to be created and posted.

Central Garage

4 Mechanics.

2,400 oil changes.

732 vehicles/equipment to service.

Over 5,000 services (not including oil changes) provided to those vehicles/equipment.

19 police car upfits performed.

14 dump truck LED light installations.





Marketing & Communications

1st full year for the City's newest department.

1st annual State of the Community Event

4 quarterly print newsletters mailed to every Joplin residential address.

12 monthly e-mail newsletters sent to over 18,400 subscribers.

Mayor discusses key issues in monthly "Community Update" videos

THE CITIZEN

Want more City news?

Subscribe to our new monthly email newsletter, The Citizen. You'll receive a monthly email near the first of the month with updates on projects and improvements, recent Council actions, and videos about our programs and services. Read about staff in the employee spotlight, note upcoming events, and enjoy hearing news firsthand in the Community Update, a monthly video from Mayor Cortez.

Sign up by scanning this QR code:

Or visit the City's website: joplinmo.org/subscribe

Coming in 2026

- Adopted budget of $191.4 million
- New City Website
- New HR software system
- New Business License Online Portal

Economic Development



Prospect Village

Status: Incentives and Funding Secured

Next step: Begin clean-up of former EPA superfund site

Indoor Sports Complex - 135,000 sq/ft
Outdoor turf fields
Anchor Retail: Possible grocery store
375 Apartment Units
Park Area

32nd Street Place

- Movie Theater - Complete
- Menards - Complete
- 250 Apartments - Complete
- + Room for more retail space

ALLO Fiber Internet

Under Constructio n!

High speed connectivity
Hardened against storms
Service available throughout Joplin
$40 million investment of fiber

Economic Growth Indicators

Ranked at 20 on "The 25 Best Affordable Places to Live in the U.S." by U.S. News & World Report, Joplin boasts low housing prices that are less than half the national average, as well as a cost of living that is 14% below the rest of the U.S.

2025 Population Estimate
55,239

Labor Force (Sept. 2025)
98,178
(Increase of 337 jobs over Sept. 2024)

Average Wage
$25.21/hour
(Bureau of Labor Statistics - latest report May 2024)

3.2%
Projected Regional Job Growth Through 2029

2025 Highlights:

Local businesses growing their Joplin presence.

General Mills
$48 million expansion and adding 47 new jobs.

Refresco
$30 million expansion and 40 new jobs.

EaglePicher Technologies
$20.9 million major expansion and adding 100 new jobs.

Allgeier Martin

$3.5 million expansion adding 14 jobs, 12 of those professional & technical.

Business Licenses

- 2,255 NEW business licenses
- 16% increase over FY24
- 4,584 business licenses renewed

Top 3 Categories of all businesses:

- Retailers (105)
- Service Centers (56)
- Restaurants (24)

Top 10 Job Sectors:

Last Reported May 2024

Transportation & Material Moving	13.1%
Production	10.9%
Office & Administrative Support	10.8%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	9.0%
Sales & Related	8.5%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	7.0%
Educational Instruction & Library	5.9%
Healthcare Support	5.3%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	5.1%
Construction & Extraction	3.6%

Top 5 In-Demand Skills:

1. Nursing
2. Merchandising
3. Auditing
4. Marketing
5. Selling Techniques

Coming in 2026

- City to invest in annexation to expand our developable footprint.
- City to explore development opportunities near MSSU and Northpark Mall.
- City and Chamber of Commerce to collaborate on an economic development strategic plan.



Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services

NEW!

Apply for Permits Online

Property owners and builders can now apply for certain permits online, eliminating paperwork and streamlining processes. In addition to applying for permits, it is now possible to:

- Track the status of applications
- Pay for permits
- Schedule and review inspections

We plan to expand this process and offer it for more permit types in the future – so you won't have to physically visit City Hall during a construction project.

154 new homes permitted for a total value of $38 million

277 residential addition/ renovation projects permitted with a total value of $7 million

17 new Commercial construction projects permitted with total value of $46.7 million

142 commercial addition/ renovation projects permitted with total value of $57 million

1,371 other permitted projects (roofing, fences, pools, sheds etc.)

59 vacant and dangerous buildings demolished in FY2025

4,329 individual permits issued with total value of projects of $155,636,000

Neighborhood Services

425 See.Click.Fix. notifications received

4,687 Complaint & routine neighborhood inspection cases initiated

10,638 Inspections completed

314 Court Appearances on non-compliant cases

Old Freeman Hospital Demolished

Council approved the use of ARPA grant funding to demolish the old Freeman Hospital property. ESC and Habitat for Humanity partnered to construct affordable housing for seniors and veterans on the lot. The City only used ARPA funding to pay for the demolition of the former hospital structure which was vacant and dangerous.





Planning & Zoning

32.5 acres
annexed in FY 25

19
Rezoning cases finalized

P & Z Commission heard
42
action items

Zoning/development code amended, making it easier to build, creating more choices and smoother processes.

Neighborhood Revitalization

87 families
moved into homes with Joplin Housing Assistance Program 2.0

$2 million
in grant funding is supporting home rehabilitation in Joplin's core, with the City partnering with ESC to make critical repairs using local contractors.

33 of 59
structures demolished used ARPA funding in cooperation with property owners, opening the door for new residential development in neighborhood areas.

City's Housing Revitalization program invested $1 Million to assist builders to demolish 20 dilapidated structures and construct new homes to revive aging neighborhoods. An additional 7 properties are under construction to close the program.

Coming in 2026

- Additional funding $1 Million for the Joplin Homebuyer Assistance Program 2.0 (JHAP2) to help with down payment assistance for qualifying citizens who were on the original waiting list when JHAP2 was activated in 2024. Given the needs for assistance, funding was reallocated from the demolitions program to boost homeownership.

Tourism

The Joplin Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), also known as Visit Joplin, coordinates tourism and visitor attraction to the community.



Visitor Data

	2025	2024
Total visitors from January – October	3,809	1,785
Number of these guest from Missouri	107	99
Rest represented 48 states (RI & WY missing)	1,418	618
International addresses (49 countries)	2,284	1,068

The Joplin Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB), also known as VisitJoplin, coordinates tourism and visitor attraction to the community.

Joplin Sports Authority

24 tournaments hosted in 2025

Those tournaments generated:

14,507 room nights

$10,047,082 million in spending

This impact is created by the teams alone. The economic impact of families and fans traveling to watch the games is not calculated.

Note: The JSA is not a City department, but an independent organization funded by the City's Hotel/Motel Tax.



World Street Painting Festival

Joplin's Route 66 Centennial contribution includes 33 artists creating Route 66-themed street paintings at three locations by June 7. This performance art uses semi-permanent pavement designs that come alive through a camera lens when viewers pose with the artwork.

MOmentum Bike Park

Joplin opened the largest bike park of its kind in Missouri. This world-class facility boasts 95 acres and 10 miles of single-track mountain bike trails, plus a BMX pump track, progressive jump lines, a skills course, and a children's bike playground - all in one central location. The park is unique in its design to serve riders of every age and skill level — from children learning to ride, to elite athletes pushing their limits. The park is an ideal destination for families looking for a place to explore on two wheels together.

The park is already generating excitement, attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and strengthening Joplin's reputation as a hub for outdoor adventure.

A Grand Launch Party is set for May 2, 2026, and the first annual fall bike festival is being planned for the first weekend of November.

Funding was provided by the DED ARPA Local Tourism Grant, Parks & Stormwater Tax, and Hotel/Motel Tax.



Coming in 2026

- World Cup games hosted in KC expected to draw Route 66 tourists to Joplin.
- Celebrating 100 Years of Route 66
- MOmentum Bike Park Grand Launch Party & Fall Festival
- World Street Art Festival - world's largest collection of 3D street art

Police Department



FY 24 vs. FY 25	FY 24	FY 25	% Change
Total violent crime	1810	1765	-2%
Total Property Crime	3348	3028	-10%
Total Crime	6068	5850	-4%
Calls For Service	83,296	79,908	-4%

Take-Home Patrol Vehicles

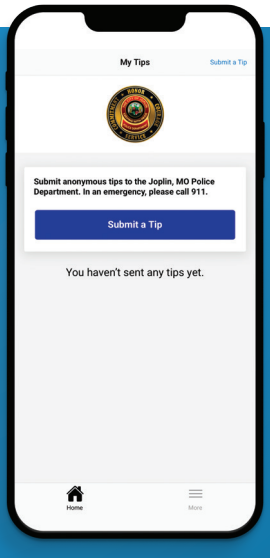
Council's approval for additional police patrol vehicles added to the fleet allows us to let officers with at least 1 year of service take home their work vehicle. This creates visibility, has a crime prevention benefit, and enables faster response times. This also makes it easier to recruit officers, since other area agencies also offer take home vehicles.

Flex Platoon

JPD's new unit proactively addresses criminal complaints, breaking up illegal drug distribution networks, getting criminals off the street, and producing positive results.

Expanded Bike Patrols

JPD bicycle and ATV patrols downtown and on our trails help increase security and crime prevention.



Joplin PD Mobile App

Submit Anonymous Tips to the Police Department

The Joplin PD app provides citizens the ability to submit anonymous tips to the Joplin Police Department The app also allows officers to respond to the citizen providing the tip and seek further information while remaining anonymous.

Available in the App Store



Co-Responder Unit

JPD and Ozark Center are partnering to address non-criminal issues which can be the root cause of criminal activity. Co-Responders identify needs and connect individuals to the support they need. This ensures the most appropriate response, improves outcomes, and frees officers to focus on criminal issues.

Co-Responder Unit Calls for Service: 690



Expungement Day

Provides assistance to those with low-level, non-violent felony convictions, and helps reintegrate them into society by restoring opportunities they've lost. Ultimately, it improves the quality of life for individuals and their families. The 2025 clinic hosted 246 people. After vetting them, 25 families were helped and the Court will formally expunge the cases in early 2026.

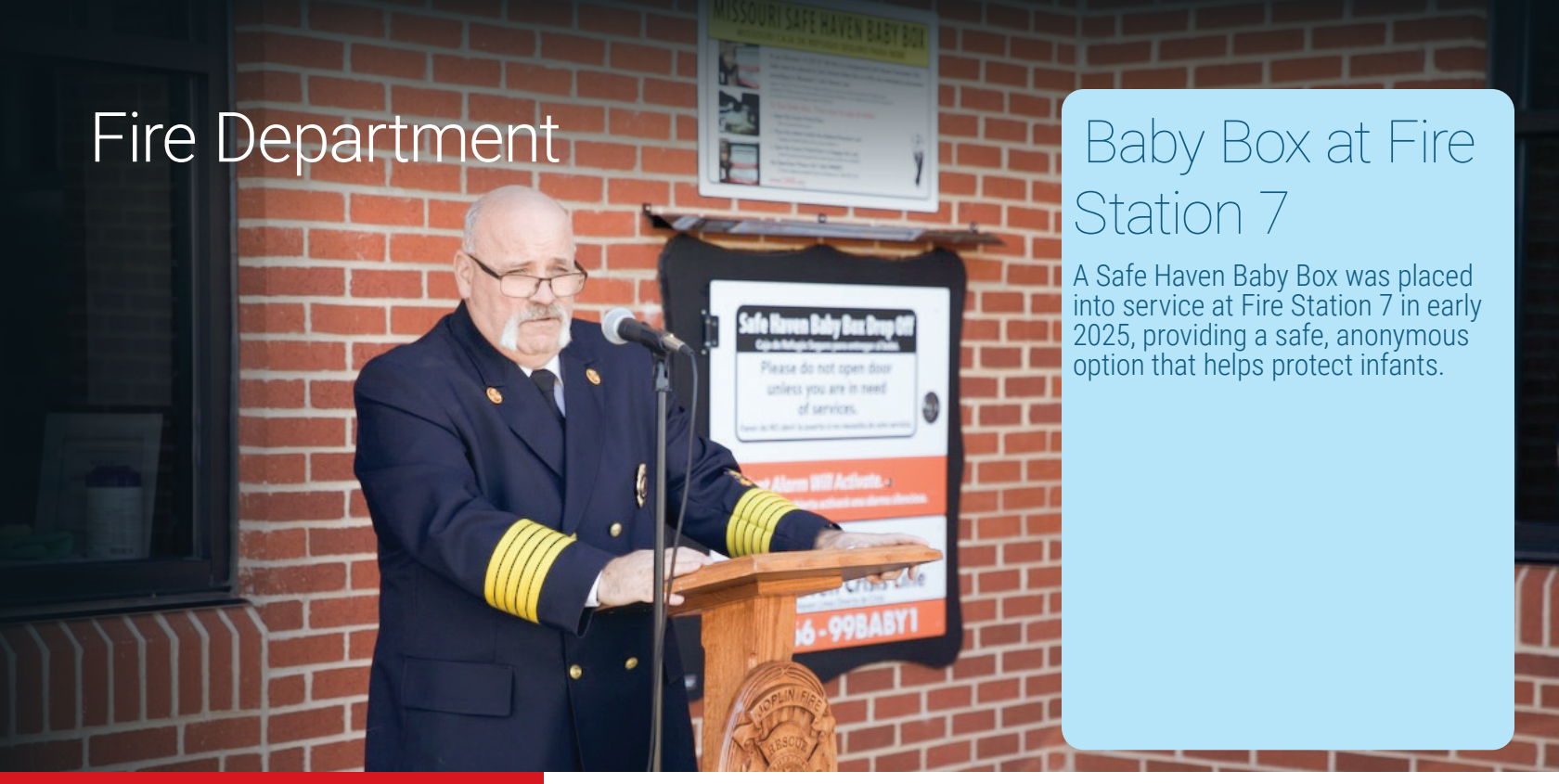
CALEA Accreditation

17th year of CALEA Accreditation demonstrates excellence, accountability, and ongoing commitment to high standards.

Coming in 2026

- Police Officer and 911 Dispatcher Recruitment
- Another expungement event in Summer 2026.
- Working to expand the co-responder program to cover weekend shifts.
- Expanding drug interdiction effort on I-44.

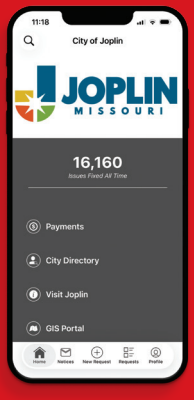
Fire Department



Baby Box at Fire Station 7

A Safe Haven Baby Box was placed into service at Fire Station 7 in early 2025, providing a safe, anonymous option that helps protect infants.

SeeClickFix



The City's SeeClickFix app makes it easy and anonymous for residents to report illegal occupancy and other issues, helping address neighborhood concerns more quickly.

Available in the App Store

Calls for Service

9,980 calls for service (Jan-Dec 2025) JFD's highest annual call volume and 5% increase over 2024's total calls.

61 structure fires in Joplin

29 mutual/auto aid fires

869 Fire inspections

34 Fire Investigations

Fires in Illegally Occupied Structures:

Each winter, buildings which are dangerous or vacant become vulnerable to structure fires. Buildings which are not intended to be occupied and do not have permanent utility services are extremely dangerous, and should not be connected to structures using extension cords, generators, or garden hoses. This can lead to fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. Fires also threaten neighboring structures.

"We are asking citizens to report these situations if they see a building being used as a residence without utilities or if they believe no one should be inside the structure," says Deputy Fire Chief Andy Nimmo.

If you own vacant property, let your neighbors know so they can help watch for trespassers. We encourage the public to report illegally occupied structures using the SeeClickFix app.



Expanded Training for Confined Spaces, Swift Water Rescue, and Haz-Mat

JFD's year-round Training Division covers special operations, swift water rescue, emergency medical response, and added HazMat mission-specific operations and confined space rescue training in 2025, with continued focus planned for 2026 to support industrial park operations.

Through August 2025, JFD logged 343 confined-space standby hours while providing emergency rescue support for area companies maintaining tanks—two-thirds of those hours were in the Station 7 district.



Coming in 2026

- Recruitment efforts will be focused on attracting experienced and certified fire fighters.



Parks & Recreation

Parks Stats:

24 park/greenways

1070 acres

18 miles of trails

12 parks w/ walking trails

4 cemeteries

2 aquatics centers saw 42,332 visitors in 2025

35,000+ rounds of golf

12 tennis courts

16 pickle ball courts

Skate Park

Museum

Senior Center. 2 collegiate/high school baseball stadiums

4 softball fields

3 practice ball fields

4 soccer fields

7 basketball courts

1 roller hockey/futsol court

7 sand volleyball courts

4 horseshoe competition areas

2 cornhole competition areas

1 18-hole golf course

Park Ranger Program

Citizen-focused service to assist with safety and accessibility.

Added a 3rd ranger to boost coverage and support for park-goers.

City set consistent park curfews (10pm), reducing misuse within parks.

Ewert Park Renovations Underway

100-year-old park being updated with new amenities, including a Splash park and Ice Ribbon, offering year-round fun. Plus, covered basketball courts, amphitheater, and new playground facilities. Historic park signage honors memories, people, and events.

Upgraded lighting & security improvements.

Opening in late 2026.

Tin Cup Trail

1.5-mile trail now open along Tin Cup Creek.

Scenic paved path from 32nd St. to Shoal Creek area.

Suspension bridge scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2026.



Joplin History & Mineral Museum

Nearly 9,200 visitors this year.
New decades of fashion display.
Refreshed Bonnie & Clyde exhibit.
Updated mineral gallery
Significant building maintenance and HVAC upgrade.

Other Parks Maintenance & Improvements

New rock wall at Schifferdecker Aquatic Center.
New sand volleyball courts in Cunningham Park.
Updated walking bridge on Disc Golf Course at McClelland Park.
New post and cable fencing between Schifferdecker Golf Course and the Park.

Coming in 2026

- Parr Hill Park Inclusive Playground & Other Improvements.
- Ewert Park reopening with Robinson-Gray & Meeks Legacy Complex
- Security lighting & cameras for 7 parks, plus cameras at 4 additional locations.
- Grand Falls Trail, Overlook & Parking Lot.
- Trail benches, bike racks and repair stations along with trail signage coming to 18 miles of public trails across 12 parks.

Health Department



1,460
Environmental Health Inspections
Restaurant, Lodging, Daycare

1,925
Vaccinations
given in 2025

5,018
Animal Control Calls
in 2025

Approximately
28,084 people
Served by WIC
(FY 2024)

9092
vital records were provided to citizens

Operational Assessment & Strategic Plan

In 2025, the Health Department completed an operational assessment, strategic plan, and developed a performance management system. This project was conducted from April - November, collecting 350+ inputs from residents, providers, and stakeholders. Staff reviewed input and prioritized findings. Six local health departments in Missouri provided benchmarking insight.

Department Mission: To protect and improve the health and well-being of the community the health department provides prevention, intervention, and education resources.

Vision: To achieve a healthy community serving residents of all ages and walks of life that allow them to reach their potential.

Strategic Priorities:

1. **Workforce development:** Strengthen workforce to support delivery of quality services.
2. **Funding:** Leverage funding to coordinate care and address service gaps while sustaining programs.
3. **Community Partnerships:** Collaborate with community partners to enhance health.
4. **Communication-Awareness:** Continue messaging of awareness, value, and impact of our services by telling our story of what public health is and why it matters.

Joplin is part of the Tri-State Community made up of 10 counties across Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Joplin collaborated with this group to determine the top 3 health priorities

The Top 3 community health priorities are:

1. Chronic Disease
2. Behavioral Health
3. Nutrition and Physical Exercise

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) has not yet been developed. This will be discussed with our community partners during an upcoming Community Health Collaborative (CHC) meeting where we will determine the best approach to move forward.



Public Health & Safety Education Classes

The Joplin Health Department continues to offer health and safety-related classes for the benefit of the community. Residents may contact the Health Department for more information about:

- CPR classes
- Car Seat Installation Classes
- Teen driver safety classes
- Serve Safe Food Handler classes
- Breastfeeding classes
- Pool Operator School

The department also performs a variety of other work to spread education about health and safety issues including working with local news media, providing presentations to schools and civic groups, sharing information on social media, and providing Worksite Wellness for City staff.

Programs

Animal Control

- Nuisance complaints
- Wildlife trapping
- Dangerous animals & bite investigations
- Animal abuse and neglect

Medical Vaccinations

- Insured, underinsured, uninsured

Communicable Disease Investigations

TB Testing

WIC

Food/Daycare/Lodging/Tattoo/Recreational Water Inspections

Pre-Development Consultation

Community Health Education and Planning

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Temporary Medicaid Enrollment

Mosquito Fogging

Coming in 2026

- Focus on Partnerships and Collaborations
- Animal Control regional sheltering study
- Continued outreach of services through education, offsite clinics, testing, safety training, and health promotional activities.

Public Works



New roundabout located at the intersection of West 20th Street & Black Cat Road.

Major Infrastructure Projects Completed or Construction begun in FY2025

- COMPLETED: Public Works Department operational assessment
- COMPLETED: Zora Widening from Range Line to I-249. PHASE 1
- 20th Street Widening ($8.9 million) estimated completion Winter 2026
- COMPLETED: 4th & Murphy Intersection with beautification ($1.7 million)
- COMPLETED: 15th & Range Line Intersection Improvements & added sidewalks
- 8 ARPA-funded stormwater projects. (Estimated to complete by Summer 2026)
- 2025 was also a big year for street resurfacing, completing 2 years' worth of work, including multiple streets throughout neighborhoods, plus Connecticut and Schifferdecker Avenues.



Beautification at the intersection of 4th & Murphy

Public Works Statistics

160 Public Works employees	398.51 miles of sanitary sewer mains	8,358 sewer manholes	825 lane miles of streets
100 miles of storm sewer pipes & culverts	9,000 inlets/catch basins	35+ buildings and facilities	



Seasonal Services:

Each year, City crews collect leaves citywide to prevent storm drain blockages and flooding. An interactive map helps residents get leaves to the curb on time: joplinmo.org/leafpickup.



2,800 Retention basins/Stormwater drains have been cleaned out to avoid flooding.

Heavy rains can wash leaves, soil, fertilizer, trash, pet waste, and pesticides into these drains, which flow to Shoal and Turkey Creeks, potentially harming recreation, wildlife, and drinking water.

City crews plow and treat nearly 250 lane miles of streets in Joplin. Snow and ice control helps ensure safe mobility for properly equipped, cautiously driven vehicles by plowing and treating streets.

Recycling:

535 tons were collected at the Recycling Center from paper, cardboard, glass, metals, e-waste, plus more!

"Recycle! It's how we roll!" campaign launches in early 2026, encouraging residents to make recycling part of their routine. Funded by an EPA grant, the educational effort promotes easy ways to recycle–sign up for a curbside cart, fill it up and roll it to the curb, or roll on down to the Recycling Center to drop off your recyclables.

Special Service Events

Shred Day

At the annual Shred Day, community members trusted the Recycling Center to securely shred 3.4 tons of sensitive documents at no cost.

Tire Drop-Off Day

1,710 tires were dropped off during the Tire Drop-Off Day, saving 3.4 tons from landfills. 340 rims (3.7 tons) of aluminum/steel.

City Surplus Auction

Once used to their fullest, 360 of the City's surplus items found a second life at the annual auction—vehicles, equipment, office furniture, computers, tools, bicycles, and more.



MAPS & Sunshine Lamp Trolley

Trolley provided 23,738 rides from February through October.
39,430 MAPS rides provided from Nov. '24 through Oct. '25.

Sunshine Lamp Trolley returned in February! From hiring and training enough drivers, to refreshing bus stops around town – our staff made an extraordinary effort to restore our fixed-route bus service. This was a huge victory for citizens who rely on our public transit to get where they need to go. In total, Joplin Public Transit served over 63,000 passengers in the Trolley's first year back in service.



Schedule your MAPS ride online

TripSpark

With the new TripSpark software, riders can schedule trips online 24/7, up to two weeks in advance, for reliable, courteous curb-to-curb rides. The MAPS service also launched TripSpark, so passengers can now schedule their rides online in advance.



Airport: (JLN)

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT

39,551 = Total Passengers (enplanements & replacements)

Daily air service to Chicago in the mornings and Denver in the evenings through SkyWest operating for United Airlines.

Total SkyWest Departures from JLN: 589

Total Operations to or from ORD (Chicago): 869

Total Operations to or from DEN (Denver): 596

Total itinerant IFR, VFR, jet, and local operations: 19,342

The ARFF building, completed in 2025, is a critical, FAA-required facility that centrally houses fire, rescue, and snow-removal equipment, enabling airport staff to respond to emergencies and winter conditions within seconds to keep the airport safe and operational. Funding was provided through two federal grants, with the City contributing a 5% match totaling $475,000.

Rehabilitation of Runway 13/31 and Taxiway E will improve airfield safety, extend pavement life, maintain FAA compliance, and support economic development, emergency services, and commercial air service. The $11 million project is funded 95% by an FAA Airport Improvement Program grant, with the City providing the local match.



Sewer Utility & Wastewater Treatment Plants:

14.5 million gallons of water treated daily, between both wastewater treatment plants (Turkey Creek and Shoal Creek)

370 miles of sewer lines

8,348 Manholes

25 Lift Stations

Coming in 2026

- Completion of the bridge on Tin Cup Trail.
- 7th Street MoDOT project coordinated with City infrastructure.
- Demolition of the Pennsylvania Street Viaduct bridge.
- Rehabilitation of the downtown parking garage.
- Streetscaping of Mid-town, 8th to 15th Street



YOUR *SHORTCUT* FROM RUNWAY TO REUNION

HOP IN

Fly

JOPLIN

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT

UNITED

Operated by SkyWest Airlines

CLOSE. CONVENIENT. CONNECTED.

Free parking, fast check-ins, and short security lines make flying from JLN easy.
With daily United Express flights operated by SkyWest Airlines to **Chicago O'Hare (ORD)** and **Denver (DEN)**, you're one easy connection from **HUNDREDS of destinations**.



Your mom called.

She said to get a job with a pension.

Public service to our community is meaningful work, and the pension plan for Joplin City employees means you can retire with peace of mind.

The younger you are when you start
(and the longer you serve before retirement),
the bigger the pension checks will be!

We also pay health insurance premiums for full-time employees,
provide paid leave for holidays, sick, and vacation
+ offer more benefits.

See current job openings at: joplinmo.org/jobs

JOPLIN
MISSOURI









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