Report on 2023 Community Input

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JUNE 16, 2022
REPORT ON COMMUNITY INPUT

UG Budget 2023

This is an overview of the input received throughout the 2023 budget planning process with key insights and recommendations from Wyandotte County community members.

A shortened version of this report will be presented the Unified Government Board of Commissioners on June 16, 2022.
**DISCOVER + FOCUS**

Engaging differently.

**GOAL**
Improve our community understanding and reach across Wyandotte.

**STRATEGY**
Test new ways share information, collect feedback, and engage community.

**OUTPUT**
Share with UG elected officials, administration. Learn for next round.

ABOVE: Mayor Tyrone A. Garner (right) with Assistant County Administrator Emerick Cross (left) and Tayler Wash (center) at the Parkwood Park Earth Day Clean-Up, April 22, 2022, hosted by the Unified Government.
**BUILDING OUR BUDGET**

**Collecting your ideas.**

- Community insights can inform more than just spending decisions.
- Supports **UG Forward** initiative to reimagine the Unified Government for the next 25 years.

**Education & Outreach**

Developed social media campaign and outreach videos to explain the budget process and tools of engagement.

**Community Input**

- Program Data + Community Comparisons
- Budget Hearings
- Community Survey
- NEW! Dotte Talk Community Conversations
- NEW! Online Budget Simulator

- Parks & Recreation Survey
- Community Development & Housing Survey
- goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy
- Community Input Sessions
- American Rescue Plan Act Workshop
- Mayor Tyrone Tuesdays
- Commission Town Halls
PRIORITIZING YOUR BUDGET

Learning & growing.

STEP ONE: Staff imagined, facilitated and participated in the process to engage the community in budget talks.

STEP TWO: Public feedback and ideas from multiple channels was tracked, counted, evaluated and reported.

STEP THREE: We will evaluate and evolve the engagement to improve access and overall participation.
DISCOVER + FOCUS

Improving access.

• Area of Focus
  • Community Services
  • Public Safety
  • Revenue & Growth
  • Public Works & Infrastructure

• Channels
  • Social Media
  • Community Survey and Other Data
  • Online Tools
  • In-Person Meetings
  • Adopted Area Plans
  • goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy
  • Comparison Cities – reflects data from other city and county budgets as a reference

DotteTalk
A community-wide conversation about our budget

Join CEO/Mayor Tyrone A. Garner, Unified Government Commissioners and staff, and other community members in an important conversation about our budget priorities. We want to hear from you: what is important for us to focus on as a city and county? Where should we make changes in our budget? We will also be introducing a new Budget Simulator – an interactive tool where you can create your own budget models and share them with the Unified Government.

West
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
6PM-8PM
Wyandotte County Museum
631 N. 126th Street
Bonner Springs, KS 66012

East
Wednesday, April 27, 2022
6PM-8PM
Beatrice L. Lee Community Center
1310 N. 10th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Central
Saturday, April 30, 2022
9AM-11AM
Eisenhower Community Center
2901 N. 72nd Street
Kansas City, KS 66109

We’ll be offering snacks and activities for youth so please let us know if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly.

RSVP at wycokck.org

DotteTalk Save-the-Date
Tested a new format for community engagement and launched multi-channel outreach effort.
DOTTE TALK: 2022 AMENDED / 2023 BUDGET

Community Input

PROGRAM DATA + COMMUNITY COMPARISONS

BUDGET HEARINGS

COMMUNITY SURVEY

DOTTE TALK COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE BUDGET SIMULATOR

#DotteTalk
wycokck.org/budget
RECENT & ONGOING INITIATIVES

Engaging effectively.

- Exploring how we can leverage this community input into our budget process will help establish a roadmap for future engagement.
- Ensuring that we maintain an effective outreach strategy that is self-sustaining, meaningful, and measurable.
PRIORITIZING YOUR BUDGET
Sharing your ideas.

Start
• What do you need in your neighborhood that is not currently available?
• Would you cut another service to start this?
• How would you rate this priority (high, medium, low)?

Stop
• What services do we currently provide that you do not feel are important?
• How might this impact others across the city/county?
• What would you propose as an alternative for people currently using this service?

Continue
• What services do you like from the Unified Government?
• Would you increase this service?
• What might be a trade-off for continuing and/or expanding this service?
• Budget Simulator had 127 responses.

• Participants had to submit a balanced budget to have their feedback recorded. This provides a qualitative benefit as responses had to be considered within that limitation.

• Opportunity to provide more in-depth feedback resulted in multiple comments and suggestions.
Social media messages provide basic information and additional context for the 2023 budget season.

Educational video content will help with navigation of open budget data and other publicly available tools.

Community members expressed appreciation for having this information as well customer service from staff.
### Leveraging data.

- Examine all sources of data, including recent surveys.
  - Avoid survey fatigue among community members.
  - Encourage consolidation of survey tools, data sources.
- Multiple issues ranking at the same level of importance points to the overall need and ongoing challenge of prioritization.
- Impacts of COVID on our community resonated throughout the feedback.

#### 2022 UG Community Development Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Safety Facilities (Fire, Police, Emergency Management)</th>
<th>Low Need</th>
<th>High Need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvements to Existing Facilities / ADA Accessibility</td>
<td>35.07%</td>
<td>56.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Facilities</td>
<td>44.36%</td>
<td>53.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>34.33%</td>
<td>60.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Parks, Gyms and Recreational Fields</td>
<td>24.63%</td>
<td>68.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Centers</td>
<td>26.87%</td>
<td>67.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Centers (e.g. Youth, Senior, Cultural)</td>
<td>26.87%</td>
<td>68.66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EVALUATE

Total Participation

**Various**
- Program Data + Community Comparisons

**3 participants**
- Budget Hearings (More to Come)

**3,152 responses**
* +/- 1.7% at 95% level of confidence
- Community Survey

**56 attendees**
- Dotte Talk Community Conversations

**45 Posts**
(Mar-May 2022)
- 17,518 Post Reach
  1,768 Engagement
- Social Media Engagement

**127 responses**
- Online Budget Simulator

Community Input

DOTTE TALK: 2022 AMENDED / 2023 BUDGET
SNAPSHOT
Community Services

DATA + COMPARISONS
Decrease in satisfaction was comparable to other communities (COVID).
UG mid-range in resources allocated to code enforcement and street sweeping.
Second to lowest level of funding allocated to Parks and Recreation services in Community Comparisons research.

BUDGET HEARINGS
Community centers should have their own operating funds so they can make the type of changes needed.

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY
76% of respondents gave positive feedback on Public Health response to COVID.
Focus on motor vehicles, senior services, programs for developmental disabilities.
Top priorities include maintenance of city streets, police services, code enforcement, parks & recreation facilities.

DOTTE TALK
Need more services (transit, health, aging, parks, NRC).
Services need to be accessible and local.
Volunteers and community partners help.
Address inequity and enforce the rules.
Affordable housing is the top priority for our recovery as a community.

BUDGET SIMULATOR
Invest in better, more equitable code enforcement.
Improve parks by better maintaining what we have or adding new programming and/or amenities.
Average funding level change in line with revenue adjustments for Community Service Departments.

Includes neighborhood programs, public health and well-being, planning, community development, housing, parks and recreation programs, mental health and well-being programs, youth services and programs, aging services, etc.
### COMMUNITY SURVEY

#### Overall Importance and Satisfaction

- Maintenance of city streets and code enforcement ranked **most important** with the greatest potential to improve satisfaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Service</th>
<th>Most Important (%)</th>
<th>Most Important Rank</th>
<th>Satisfaction (%)</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rank</th>
<th>Importance-Satisfaction Ranking</th>
<th>I-S Rating Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of City Streets</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.5392</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Enforcement</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.2491</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Services</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1623</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Rec Facilities</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.1567</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Zoning</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.1559</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater Management Systems</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.1333</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.1327</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Rec Programs</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.1272</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer and Wastewater System</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.1133</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trash Collection and Recycling</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Court</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.0579</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Services</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0298</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Services</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0274</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have one of the lowest levels of funding for parks and recreation across similar communities and the region. We spend a very small portion of our budget on community services.

I need to leave the county to get the things I need and want.

More funding for social services is badly needed.

I would like to see aging services expanded, especially after COVID hit WyCo so hard.

Map community resources across the county to identify gaps and needs.

More parks and rec programming.

We need much more public transit.

More mental health treatment and services.

I'd like to get more involved but volunteering for the UG isn't easy.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

#DotteTalk
wyecokck.org/budget
Changes to proposed Community Services funding were roughly equal to the average revenue reduction seen across the simulator.

- Lower funding priority given to services with higher satisfaction levels (Community Survey).
- Historical Museum aligns with priority-based budgeting (PBB) low strategic goal alignment.

Public comments on the Departments of Planning & Urban Design and Economic Development identified the need change policy and practice/implementation, with no desire for a reduction in service by either department.
Top challenges of the pandemic for ARPA workshop participants included: housing, economic opportunity, affordable and reliable utilities, and mental health.

Affordable housing was the top challenge felt by the community per the workshop survey.

- Behavioral health and employment opportunities were tied as the second challenge.
Community Comparisons were completed based on census median household income, census population counts and neighboring communities.

Out of surveyed communities, UG Parks and Recreation funding allocations are among the lowest per capita investment.

- Surrounding regional communities on average spend more than double the UG allocation.

One of the top priorities on the Community Survey and UG budget simulator is parks and rec facilities and programming.

### Community Comparisons, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City &amp; County</th>
<th>Parks per Capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overland Park and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah and Chatham County, GA</td>
<td>$197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield and Greene County, MO</td>
<td>$189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan and Riley County, KS</td>
<td>$182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta-Richmond, GA*</td>
<td>$148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia and Boone County, MO</td>
<td>$131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topeka and Shawnee County, KS</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita and Sedgwick County, KS</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington-Fayette, KY*</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield, MA*</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unified Government</strong></td>
<td><strong>$56</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksville and Montgomery County, TN</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KCK Population for Comparison ~ 156,600
COMMUNITY SURVEY

Enforcement of Codes & Ordinances

- Biggest decreases in resident satisfaction:
  - Enforcement of the clean-up of junk, trash and debris in neighborhoods
  - Mowing and trimming of weeds on private/vacant property in neighborhoods
- Clean-up of junk, trash and debris city-wide is the most important code enforcement priority for respondents (59% selected this as one of their top three choices).
COMMUNITY COMPARISON

Cleanliness and appearance across our community was a top priority and opportunity for improvement.

- Digging deeper it will be important to understand where and how this varies across the city/county.
- Important to understand the source and nature of issue: e.g. vacant lots, public right-of-way, illegal dumping, code violations, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Code Enforcement Inspectors (FTE)</th>
<th>Full-Time Employee (FTE)/Sq. Mile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCMO</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCK</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Village</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roeland Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Street Sweepings per Year, 2021

- Prairie Village: 13 Arterial, 13 Residential
- Olathe: 17 Arterial, 3.5 Residential
- Roeland Park: 10 Arterial, 10 Residential
- KCK: 12 Arterial, 2 Residential
- Liberty: 4 Arterial, 2 Residential
- Shawnee: 3 Arterial, 2 Residential
- Lansing: 3 Arterial, 2 Residential

KCK Population for Comparison ~ 156,600
TOP INSIGHT
Focus on reducing blight and improving access to public amenities (type, cost, location, hours, volunteering, etc.).

PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS
Community Services

COMMUNITY IDEAS

Map Community Assets
Increase & Improve Services
Build More Digital Services
Data + Comparisons
Satisfaction in public safety has decreased in most communities across the US over past two years. UG investments substantially more than other communities on Fire/EMS services per capita and top tier in Law Enforcement. Higher commitments to Public Safety staffing offset lower levels of Other Governmental staffing than regional communities.

Budget Hearings
No feedback was given specifically on public safety beyond cleaning up public parks.

2022 Community Survey
Top priorities: community appearance and maintenance; police visibility in residential neighborhoods; animal control; and community policing. Highest level of satisfaction was received for Fire and EMS services.

Dotte Talk
Transition to even more community policing and community services. Audit current spending and look to reallocate to more community services. Housing, economic opportunity and mental health were identified among the top three greatest challenges of the COVID pandemic.

Budget Simulator
Highest levels of reductions were made in Public Safety Departments. Reallocate public safety spending to other uses.
• Highest public safety priority is our community appearance and maintenance.
  • More affordable option than street preservation but with strong likelihood to improve overall community satisfaction.

• Community suggested finding efficiencies in existing budgets, collecting fines for code violations, and increasing volunteer opportunities to fund programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Service</th>
<th>Most Important (%)</th>
<th>Most Important Rank</th>
<th>Satisfaction (%)</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rank</th>
<th>Importance-Satisfaction Ranking</th>
<th>I-S Rating Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community appearance and maintenance</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.3695</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police visibility in residential neighborhoods</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.2736</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal control in neighborhoods</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.2083</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community policing</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.1864</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic law enforcement</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.1474</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police visibility in commercial areas</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.1274</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response time for police emergencies</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1178</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response time for medical emergency calls</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0389</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response time for fire emergencies</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0280</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The UG spends a significant and inordinate portion of our budget on public safety. Need to look for efficiencies in the public safety departments, can we reduce size of fire apparatus or consolidate public safety departments and streamline services?

Rebuild trust.

Hold public safety to demonstrating benefits of funding.

I would like to see a decrease in police spending where other services could be more effective – mental health, food supplements, robust community centers for youth.

Rescue service for stray animals.

Homeless services.
BUDGET SIMULATOR

Changing Income and Expenditures

• Public safety overall saw the largest spending reduction in the Budget Simulator.
• Fire Department saw the greatest reduction in funding based on the 2022 simulator. Aligns with highest levels of satisfaction on Community Survey.
• Reductions were used to offset increases in other areas or revenue reductions.
PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Prevention

• Multiple initiatives are currently funded for violence prevention.

• Many of these funds are grants which means they are time-limited and specific in their purpose.

• Community was clear that this was not about eliminating public safety spending but to seek more opportunity to invest in prevention.
PUBLIC SAFETY

Law Enforcement

- Unified Government is the higher tier of per capita funding committed to Police and Sheriff services.
  - Large geography and low population density makes it difficult to fund and provide service.
  - Greatest community impact is a top concern and priority.
- Animal Services and Community Policing and residential visibility were priorities on the Community Survey.

### POLICE AND SHERIFF FUNDING BY POPULATION
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Per Capita Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savannah and Chatham County, GA</td>
<td>$721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topeka and Shawnee County, KS</td>
<td>$612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified Government</td>
<td>$548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield and Hampden County, MA</td>
<td>$523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita and Sedgwick County, KS</td>
<td>$441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overland Park and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksville and Montgomery County, TN</td>
<td>$376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta-Richmond, GA</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan and Riley County, KS</td>
<td>$305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield and Greene County, MO</td>
<td>$288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia and Boone County, MO</td>
<td>$221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### POLICE AND SHERIFF FUNDING BY LAND AREA
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Per Capita Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savannah and Chatham County, GA</td>
<td>$1,742,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topeka and Shawnee County, KS</td>
<td>$808,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$756,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overland Park and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$748,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita and Sedgwick County, KS</td>
<td>$720,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$673,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unified Government</td>
<td>$657,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee and Johnson County, KS</td>
<td>$622,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence and Jackson County, MO</td>
<td>$498,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springfield and Greene County, MO</td>
<td>$496,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksville and Montgomery County, TN</td>
<td>$392,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta-Richmond, GA</td>
<td>$354,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia and Boone County, MO</td>
<td>$263,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan and Riley County, KS</td>
<td>$231,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$35,421</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire & EMS Services

• Unified Government dedicates nearly 2x funding per capita than other communities on Fire/EMS.

• Challenge of addressing and funding a geographic service across a community with low population density
  - Note Springfield, MA, one of the lowest per capita spending levels but the highest for the geographic area

• FIRE/EMS Services received high satisfaction rankings on the Community Survey.
**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Workforce**

- KCK personnel counts overall are above average.
- KCK counts for “all other departments” is comparable to other communities.
- Regionally, KCK has among highest FTE counts for Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS.

**COMPARISON OF FTES PER 1,000 POPULATION BY JURISDICTION**

MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>FTEs (Fire, including EMS)</th>
<th>FTEs (Law Enforcement)</th>
<th>FTEs (All Other Departments)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KCK</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCMO</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>3.97</td>
<td>6.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>3.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee's Summit</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>1.56</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roeland Park</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Village</td>
<td>2.61</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>2.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansing</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOP INSIGHT
Explore public safety budget to identify funding for various community services, programs, and infrastructure.

PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS
Public Safety

COMMUNITY IDEAS
Invest in Prevention
UG Diversity Officer
Measures of Success
SNAPSHOT

Revenue + Growth

Examine the trade-offs between growing our population to sustain our county and cutting programs and infrastructure to create a more manageable portfolio.

DATA + COMPARISONS
Generally, UG taxes are lower by comparison. With less density, we have fewer taxpayers but still considerable area to cover which will impact response time, service access, and infrastructure. We levy more revenue per square mile than other counties due to our relative urban density (as compared to other counties across KS).

BUDGET HEARINGS
Lower taxes.
Don’t add special taxes – just take care of our parks.
Look at overtime in particular as a way to find savings.
Reduce incentives to outside developers.

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY
Satisfaction is lowest with property tax administration – need to dive into what this means. Motor vehicles another key opportunity.
Highest satisfaction is with county parks and elections.
Residents strongly support several workforce priorities, including competitive pay; more recent graduate opportunities; more incentives for new hires and retention.

DOTTE TALK
Find revenue streams outside of taxes through development, permits, beautification of neighborhoods.
Change tax structure, lower BPU PILOT for residential.
Stop subsidizing big businesses. Support smaller, local businesses.
Find efficiencies.
Work with other taxing jurisdictions to lower taxes.

BUDGET SIMULATOR
Find efficiencies to save money.
Increase the tax base through infill housing.
Tax the AirBnBs.
Reduce regressive sales/franchise taxes, not property taxes, which will be better for renters.

#DotteTalk
wycokck.org/budget
Enforce the fines and fees at the codes and building inspection departments.

Make Wyandotte more affordable for renters (e.g., reduce PILOT not property taxes).

We need more affordable housing.

You should leave property tax and cut sales tax, not raise it.

Lower property taxes.

Invest in KCK small businesses.

Reduce BPU PILOT fees for residential customers, not commercial.

Discontinue tax abatement program for commercial property.

Rebuild Quindaro.

Lower property taxes.

Invest in KCK small businesses.

Reduce BPU PILOT fees for residential customers, not commercial.

We need more affordable housing.

You should leave property tax and cut sales tax, not raise it.

Lower property taxes.

Invest in KCK small businesses.

Reduce BPU PILOT fees for residential customers, not commercial.

We need more affordable housing.

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Lower property taxes.

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Lower property taxes.

Invest in KCK small businesses.

Reduce BPU PILOT fees for residential customers, not commercial.

We need more affordable housing.
BUDGET SIMULATOR

Changing Income and Expenditures

• Overall adjustment to PILOT and Property Taxes averaged a -3.21% reduction in anticipated revenue projections.

• PILOT fees were prioritized by the community for reduction over property taxes – this is in part because of the impact on renters.
COMMUNITY SURVEY

Tax Administration

- Further investigation is required to understand opportunities to improve property tax administration.
- Motor vehicle registration is the second priority for improvement of county services.
PROPERTY TAX BURDEN

Awareness and Understanding

- Difficult to compare mill rates with other communities due to the value per mill, services provided, population and geographic area of a city.
- Generally, UG taxes are in line with or lower than other Kansas communities by comparison.
- UG levies less than half of the overall annual property tax bill on the community.

EXAMPLE OF PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION FOR USD 500 RESIDENT. More than half of every tax dollar collected by the Unified Government goes to other taxing jurisdictions.
PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: CITY
Awareness and Understanding

• Normal comparisons are done using the Mill Levy rates, only half of the tax revenue equation.
• Higher Assessed Values align with lower Mill Rates being levied.
• It is possible with the equation to have a lower mill rate but generate higher or equal tax revenue.
• Difficulty in comparison with differences in services provided and population/geographic priorities.

Real Estate Property Tax Equation

\[ \text{Value Per Mill} \times \text{Mill Rate} = \text{Collected Tax Revenue} \]

*Value Per Mill = Assessed Value / 1,000
PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: CITY

Awareness and Understanding

- Kansas City, KS levies among the low end of property taxes per land area to support the services that are provided to the community.
  - Large geography and low population density make it difficult to fund and provide services that are geography based with lower funding levels available for urban services.
  - Street Preservation on more lane miles
  - Public Safety response times
  - Community Services accessibility
- Kansas City, KS is aligned with or lower than other Kansas cities on the amount of taxes that are levied per population to support the services that are provided to the community.
PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: COUNTY

Awareness and Understanding

• Normal comparisons are done using the Mill Levy Rates, only half of the tax revenue equation.

• Higher Assessed Values align with lower Mill Rates levied.

• It is possible with the equation to have a lower mill rate but generate higher or equal tax revenue.

• Difficult to compare communities with differences in services provided, population, and geographic priorities.

Real Estate Property Tax Equation

\[ \text{Value Per Mill} \times \text{Mill Rate} = \text{Collected Tax Revenue} \]

\*Value Per Mill = Assessed Value / 1,000
PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: COUNTY

Awareness and Understanding

• With one of the lowest Mill Rates in the state Wyandotte County collects more revenue for its land area than other Kansas counties to better provide and support county services
  • With a larger urban composition than other counties in Kansas and higher population density additional resources are available at a lower rate to support county level services.

• Higher assessed valuation and property density allow the county to maintain a lower burden across the population than other counties for county services.

COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES
BY LAND AREA
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Tax Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson County</td>
<td>$613,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandotte County</td>
<td>$364,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee County</td>
<td>$156,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedgwick County</td>
<td>$156,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>$155,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leavenworth County</td>
<td>$60,966</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riley County</td>
<td>$46,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geary County</td>
<td>$44,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline County</td>
<td>$34,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>$25,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey County</td>
<td>$25,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon County</td>
<td>$23,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchison County</td>
<td>$22,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno County</td>
<td>$20,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seward County</td>
<td>$18,555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finney County</td>
<td>$17,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford County</td>
<td>$13,587</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labette County</td>
<td>$13,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bourbon County</td>
<td>$11,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford County</td>
<td>$7,032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES
PER CAPITA
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Tax Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finney County</td>
<td>$793,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reno County</td>
<td>$523,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon County</td>
<td>$520,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford County</td>
<td>$479,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seward County</td>
<td>$348,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>$340,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline County</td>
<td>$315,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourbon County</td>
<td>$296,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedgwick County</td>
<td>$285,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labette County</td>
<td>$269,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>$260,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee County</td>
<td>$257,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchison County</td>
<td>$238,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reno County</td>
<td>$235,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey County</td>
<td>$216,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geary County</td>
<td>$184,639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leavenworth County</td>
<td>$158,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandotte County</td>
<td>$53,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WYCO Population for Comparison ~ 164,300 people
WYCO Land Area for Comparison ~ 152 square miles
Funding challenges exist in meeting demands for geography-based services.

- Street and Sidewalk Infrastructure
- Sewer and Storm Infrastructure
- Public Safety Response Times
- Equitable Access to Community Services

With less density, we have fewer taxpayers but still considerable area to cover which will impact response time, service access, and infrastructure.

Source: US 2020 Census Data – Census Block Population / Census Block Land Area
Funding challenges exist in meeting demands for geography-based services.

- Street and Sidewalk Infrastructure
- Sewer and Storm Infrastructure
- Public Safety Response Times
- Equitable Access to Community Services

With less density, we have fewer taxpayers but still considerable area to cover which will impact response time, service access, and infrastructure.

Source: WYCO Appraiser 2018 value per acre
Esri Map Gallery | Wyandotte County, Kansas: Tax Productivity
TOP INSIGHT
Build local opportunity by supporting small businesses and secure clear community benefits from all development.

PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS
Revenue & Growth

COMMUNITY IDEAS
Streamline Services  Volunteer Programs  Satellite Services
DATA + COMPARISONS
We spend relatively less on parks as compared to other communities.
We have greater built out infrastructure levels than other regional communities.
We have fewer staff dedicated to supporting our infrastructure maintenance.

BUDGET HEARINGS
All Park and Recreation facilities should be accessible.
Boston Daniels and Clem Parks need to be cleaned and updated.

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY
Top priorities: Satisfaction with neighborhood streets; maintenance of major city streets; overall cleanliness of streets and other public areas; maintenance of sidewalks. Access to walking and biking trails; park equipment; youth, adult and senior programs are all top priorities for Parks & Recreation.

DOTTE TALK
Invest more in our infrastructure. Fix what we have and grow our tax base.
Improve our parks and recreation services and programs.
Look at the mix of physical amenities across the county. Safe routes to school and sidewalk repair is important. Make UG facilities more sustainable.

DOTTE TALK AND BUDGET SIMULATOR
Invest more in our infrastructure. Safe streets and sidewalks.
Plant more street trees and improve lighting.
Access to and reliance on more renewable energy.
Industrial and commercial composting.
Improve maintenance and reduce assets to sustain.

SNAPSHOT
Public Works & Infrastructure
Roads and bridges, storm and sewer, other infrastructure, buildings and facilities, including Parks & Recreation.
DOTTE TALK: 2022 AMENDED / 2023 BUDGET

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Importance and Satisfaction

- Maintenance of City Streets is the top priority on the Community Survey, with 72% of respondents ranking it the most important community service priority.
- Parks and Recreation Infrastructure ranked 4/12 in level of importance.
- Addressing physical infrastructure is important not only for safety but to ensure we are competitive in attracting new business and residents to Wyandotte County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Service</th>
<th>Most Important (%)</th>
<th>Most Important Rank</th>
<th>Satisfaction (%)</th>
<th>Satisfaction Rank</th>
<th>Importance-Satisfaction Ranking</th>
<th>I-S Rating Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of City Streets</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.5392</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code Enforcement</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.2491</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Services</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.1623</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Rec Facilities</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.1567</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Zoning</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.1559</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater Management Systems</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.1333</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.1327</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Rec Programs</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.1272</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer and Wastewater System</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.1133</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trash Collection and Recycling</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Court</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.0579</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Services</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0298</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Services</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0274</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have a significantly underfunded infrastructure problem.

Need more investment in our parks and streets infrastructure to address aging infrastructure needs and improve community infrastructure for public perception of the community and to improve tax base and economic development.

More facilities for parks and recreation

More youth and senior programs.

Sidewalk repair

Safe sidewalks to school

Another pool, dog park, and spray park.
### BUDGET SIMULATOR

**Changing Income and Expenditures**

- Streets and Parks Infrastructure Maintenance and Investment were the only overall funding increases in the budget simulator.
- Every area of Street investment was a positive increase.
- No area of Public Works or Infrastructure funding was decreased in line with revenue reductions.

### AVERAGE % CHANGE

**BUDGET SIMULATOR 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Average % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Investment / Infrastructure (Expenditure)</td>
<td>15.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Works (Expenditure)</td>
<td>-0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services (Expenditure)</td>
<td>-2.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Streams (Income)</td>
<td>-3.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Services (Expenditure)</td>
<td>-3.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety (Expenditure)</td>
<td>-8.54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AVERAGE % CHANGE

**BUDGET SIMULATOR 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Average % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street &amp; Bridges</td>
<td>17.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>5.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Maintenance</td>
<td>1.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Preservation</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings &amp; Logistics</td>
<td>-1.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Management</td>
<td>-2.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We heard support for investing in training and staff development to help identify efficiencies and improve service delivery.

Community supported work underway to assess the organization for improvement.

**Total Paved Lane Miles**

**MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Paved Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KCK</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCMO</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Village</td>
<td>11.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roeland Park</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total paved lane miles per 1,000 population

**FTEs Dedicated to Street Maintenance**

**Per 1,000 Paved Lane Miles**

**MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>FTEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roeland Park</td>
<td>0.083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>0.079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>0.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Village</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCK</td>
<td>0.018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FTE (Full-Time Employees)/1,000 lane miles
**STREET STATUS**

**Pavement Condition Index**

2028 Pavement Condition Index (ABOVE) as compared to the 2021 Pavement Condition Index (RIGHT) illustrates the magnitude of the rapidly deteriorating infrastructure across the community as streets get worse at the current level of funding.
SEEKING ALIGNMENT

Development + Infrastructure

- Feedback on transit access and economic opportunity point to mobility challenges facing many residents.
- Major job centers within the county are geographically dispersed and are mainly accessible by automobile.
- Addressing land use and infrastructure will help improve health and environment outcomes while potentially reducing transportation and infrastructure costs.


550,000 average daily trips by driving
3.4 average daily trips per capita

#DotteTalk wycokck.org/budget
TOP INSIGHT
Address decades of deferred maintenance, enforce codes, and increase community-wide access to amenities.

PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS
Public Works

COMMUNITY IDEAS
Address Code Enforcement
Expedite Land Bank Processes
Rethink Development Incentives
Next Steps
DOTTE TALK: 2022 AMENDED / 2023 BUDGET

NEXT STEPS

Following Up on Community Input

- We heard support for investing in training and staff development to help identify efficiencies and improve service delivery.
- Community supported work underway to assess the Unified Government for improvement.
- This is UG Forward.
Engagement Center of Excellence

- We will track budget conversations and decisions over the coming months and provide a follow-up on key items that have been addressed.
- Continue with developing our understanding about what channels and messages resonate most within our community.
- Launch even earlier engagement on our budget for the next cycle.

UG FORWARD MILESTONE SCHEDULE. More information about UG Forward is available online at wycokck.org/UGForward
DOTTE TALK: 2022 AMENDED / 2023 BUDGET

ALL-STAFF MEETING + EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

EVALUATE
ALL-STAFF UPDATE + PROGRESS REPORT

IDENTIFY
ECO DEVO PLAN

DISCOVER
DEPARTMENT VISITS

FOCUS
LAUNCH APPLICATIONS

UG 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FOCUS
ANNOUNCE
DOTTE LEADS INAUGURAL CLASS

ALL-STAFF MEETING

May 2022
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
BUILDING COMMUNITY BUDGET PRIORITIES

DotteTalk

wycokck.org/budget
Community Services (1 of 2)

The following comments were made about the community services departments of Elections, the County Fair, Law Library, Aging, Museum, Treasurer, NRC, Transit, Urban Planning and Design, Communications, and the Health Department. They have been organized into the following themes: Expand services to the western part of the county; reallocate spending; increase spending; continue providing this service; do a better job of providing this service; other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Number of Mentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expand services to the western part of the county</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reallocate spending</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase spending</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue providing this service</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve this service</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expand Services to the Western Part of the County**
- Services identified needing better access
  - Election ballot box locations
  - Early voting locations
  - Aging services
  - Treasury
  - Transit
  - Health Department
- Coordinate expansion with Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, specifically services for aging and mental health.

**Reallocate Spending**
- Law Library: There are law library applications available online, make these available through the KCK Public Libraries, again, decreasing the need to maintain a space. And again, if people need to see the hard copy, they can sign up to come in ahead of time so that people aren't stepping all over each other.
- Cut waste and fraud. Do an audit of these services; reduce hours as reasonable.
- Museum is not a priority
- The government shouldn't be involved in most of these functions. Most could be handled through non-profit organizations or left to the free market.
- Discontinue the Community Survey

**Increase Spending**
- Aging: I would like to see aging services expanded, especially after COVID hit WyCo so hard
- We need more centers for arts and culture
- NRC/Urban Planning and Design: Need more building inspectors
- Transit:
  - We need to expand public transit. LOTS of people rely on it – disability, aging, or can't afford a car
  - We need much more public transit.
- We seem to have next to no public transit, and certainly no vision for what it SHOULD be. We should invest MORE than a 5% increase in public transit. And we could afford to do this and more if our corrupt police weren't taking up so much of the budget.
- We need a more drastic increase to public transit investment. If we want to be a first-class city, we need first class transit.
- More affordable housing investment! More public transit!
- Streetcar

**Health Department:**
- Would love to see reduction in fire staff/operations offset by increased Public Health staffing for folks who call upon EMS. Was told by two FD members that a high percentage of fire calls are for medical emergencies that could be resolved with preventative health care and basic needs like food or onsite nursing in high density apartment complexes.
- We need much more public transit. We're also in a public health crisis, and should allocate much more to the health department.
- More mental health treatment and services
- We need more childcare options
- We need a resource center for the unhoused and those in need, with a location that makes sense. Also have all the wrap-around service
- More funding for social services is badly needed
- Renovation of existing homes
- Place for teenagers to hang out east of 635
- Another grocery store
- We need a Diversity Officer
- Digital connectivity, also for kids, make digital access more equitable
- Reparations program
- Reopen Gates BBQ
- Homeless services for veterans
- Homeless shelter
- Safe routes to school program

#DotteTalk
wycokck.org/budget
Community Services (2 of 2)

Continue Providing this Service

• Museum: I like the museum – it’s the only center for the history of our city and county, and it tends to be left out of budget conversations.
• Urban Planning and Design: I like the bike share services
• Health Department: I appreciate the Health Dept’s response to COVID, especially the KMART services
• Communications: Continue communicating with the public and expand upon these services

Improve this Service

• NRC/Urban Planning and Design:
  • NRC doesn’t work.
  • If you are going to fund these services, then you need to have these employees do their jobs. Enforce the actions, fines and fees associated with the day to day duties of these departments. If you are going to have codes officers, they need to have teeth in the game to enforce the codes on the books. Same with building inspections and such. If you adopt building codes, then they need to be enforced. Quit turning a blind eye on these issues, it’s only going to cost the UG down the road. If you aren’t going to enforce them, then why staff these departments? That would save you plenty! Many of these services could be combined together to save on building costs.
• Community meeting to learn more about resources for community organizations
• Maintain vacant lots more
• Mobile grocer expansion

Other

• Fair: The County Fair is too far West – we need a centralized location
The following comments were made about the Public Safety Departments at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Reallocate Spending; Corruption; Consolidate Public Safety; Consequences are Inaccurate; and Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

### Reallocate Spending
- If I understand correctly, you are already having difficulties hiring for police and sheriff departments. Don’t eliminate the community policing, do a study and find what units are overall not useful, or, worse yet, leading to people saying, no I don’t want to be a cop. I would be willing to be a (community police/crisis response team) instead. Why put money and effort into hiring something that people don’t want to be/do.
- Defund the Fire Department by half and you can raise all other department budgets by 5%, cut property taxes and PILOT 10%, and still save money.
- Community Corrections adult and juvenile both are grant funded positions. Juvenile typically has plenty available funds to operate however more attention needs to go into the adult and house arrest side.
- Cutting funds to fire and sheriff would open up funding for dire needs throughout the rest of the budget. The additional million+ surplus I have in budget I would devote back to EMS since there wasn’t much wiggle room on the simulator. I would have cut slightly less for that.

### Corruption
- Cut waste and fraud
- Most of these departments are corrupt. Cut their budgets. In no way should we be adding more.
- Our law enforcement is corrupt.
- Many branches of public safety have lost the public’s trust
- A large portion of the budget goes to the police and sheriff departments despite low community satisfaction and trust.
- Our law enforcement is corrupt and cannot be fixed without completely being torn down first. Defund them.
- Corrupt! Defund!

### Consolidate Public Safety
- The UG funds a significant and inordinate portion of our budget on public safety departments. Need to look for efficiencies in the public safety departments, can we reduce size of fire apparatus or consolidate public safety departments and streamline services?
- We shouldn’t maintain multiple law enforcement agencies with a Unified Government. We should merge all Wyandotte County law enforcement agencies into one large agency. You would reduce costs by not having three Police Chiefs and just utilize the Sheriff position that is already accounted for. We can reduce take home vehicles for everyone on the Police Department that is not on call. Majors, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and Detectives that are not on duty and not on-call do not need take home cars. They can drive their personal vehicles to and from their stations. By making the above listed changes, you would save at least one million dollars in vehicles and salaries.

### Theme Number of Mentions

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Corruption</td>
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<td>Consolidate Public Safety</td>
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<td>Consequences are Inaccurate</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

### Consolidate Public Safety
- You should consolidate all of the Fire Departments in the county into one large Fire Department. This would also save tax dollars. We need to stop buying Chevy Tahoes for all of the Fire Chiefs. The Fire Department has on-duty Chiefs that can respond in emergency situations. The off-duty Chiefs can travel to and from their fire houses in their personal vehicles. We can reduce take home vehicles for everyone on the Police Department that is not on call. Majors, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and Detectives that are not on duty and not on-call do not need take home cars. They can drive their personal vehicles to and from their stations. By making the above listed changes, you would save at least one million dollars in vehicles and salaries.
Public Safety Comments (2 of 2)

**Consequences are Inaccurate**

- I firmly believe that there are other places in the police and sheriff's budget to cut besides officers...
- I feel like some of the consequences are disingenuous. There are ways to give less funding to the Police Department and give more funding to local agencies to address the actual social determinants that lead to crime such as income inequality, lack of education and job opportunities, etc. If you target the actual causes of crime, you need less beat-cops and tactical gear... it is a testament to how BLOATED the Police and Sheriff budgets are, that decreasing these two funds allowed for all of the other increases that I made... AND raising taxes wasn’t even necessary.
- These descriptions are biased, not taking into account the increase in funding to other areas when decreasing funding to certain areas. By defunding police, sheriff, and community corrections we have enough money to fully spend on all other categories.
- With the Sheriff’s department, nonlethal equipment and body/car cameras should be a higher priority than the first thing to get cut.
- Would require re-prioritizing the public safety response directly. The “consequences” here present a false narrative of choices. Rather than spending money on criminalizing activities, put funding into social and health services to actually prevent crime. This includes auditing police and fire for wasteful spending, reducing crews, reducing focus on service based upon geography rather than population density, and better regulating shift-trading practices that lead to bloated budgets.

**Other**

- Decriminalize the possession of all drugs and release anyone currently incarcerated for a non-violent drug offense.
- Can’t get rid of the jail – have to have one.
- High taxes and high crime are not acceptable.
Revenue + Growth (1 of 2)

The following comments were made about property taxes and the BPU PILOT at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Progressive Property Tax; Find other Revenue Streams; Do not increase Sales Tax; Lower residential BPU PILOT, not Commercial; Gentrification; Waste; Other Taxing Entities; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<td>Find other Revenue Streams</td>
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<td>Do not increase Sales Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower residential BPU PILOT, not Commercial</td>
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<td>Gentrification</td>
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<td>Waste</td>
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<td>Cut taxes</td>
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<td>Other Taxing Entities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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**Progressive Property Tax**

- Property taxes for the Fortune 500 companies that are interested in moving to Wyandotte Co. i.e. Amazon, Google, should have an escalator clause to pay more taxes up front and decreased incentives before stabilizing the amount. This could possibly eventually elevate taxes that are imposed on residents.
- The PILOT and property taxes are necessary, but there are ways to make the UG's revenue streams more equitable. Switch to progressive tax structures that shift the burden from the most vulnerable to the folks who can afford it like Amazon and other companies who do the most damage to our roads and public assets.

**Find other Revenue Streams**

- Find other revenue streams. Don't put all the government spending on the backs of the citizens of Wyandotte County. You need to quit giving away tax breaks for these large companies as well. Enforce the fines and fees at the codes and building inspection departments, as I'm sure this will help. Or eliminate those areas, if they are not going to be beneficial to our community.
- Invest in finding efficiencies in the gov so we don't have to pay more in property taxes
- Do asset mapping to see what services can be expanded throughout the county
- This is also disingenuous. There are other ways to raise revenue. Start with increasing the tax base through in-fill housing and development incentives. Smart, strategic moves that may not scratch an immediate itch, but pay in spades later.
- Additionally, there are so many grant opportunities that can be leveraged and I am encouraged to see an effort to pursue grant funding. Partnering with local non-profits to build their fundraising capacity is also important, as non-profits can apply for grant sources that governments aren't eligible for but citizens can benefit from.
- Tax the Air Bnbs! Abolish PILOT!
- Increase revenues with permits

**Do not increase Sales Tax**

- A sales tax is regressive garbage that will only hurt those in our community who are already struggling to make ends meet. AND FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, PLEASE ADEQUATELY FUND THE STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND. Just do it already. I am tired of seeing washed-out roads and curbs. Putting this off for now is just costing us more later.
- You should leave property tax and cut sales, not raise it. More than 40% of WyCo residents are renters, and our rent will not go down with property tax relief, but we all pay sales tax. Thus, lowering property taxes and paying for it with sales tax increases is robbing the poor to pay the rich.
- Lower PILOT for residents, don't raise sales taxes.

**Lower residential BPU PILOT, not Commercial**

- BPU PILOT fees should be reduced for residential, not commercial. Combining the two is part of why we have such high taxes.
- The mayor's push for tax relief mostly benefits rich people. Abolish the PILOT for residents, not businesses.
- Cut PILOT even further for residential. But don't cut it for industrial. Smaller cut for commercial. Cutting residential PILOT seems better than cutting property taxes because it helps renters too.
Gentrification

- Leave property taxes where they are, as changes only benefit those who own property. Better yet, create more affordable housing with these savings. The development being attracted is only going to further gentrify, benefiting rich white people and pushing the rest of us out.
- Property taxes are not the problem...gentrification driving up values are the problem. We need to invest in affordable housing and bring down both mortgages and rents (and a real consequence = lower property taxes). The current attitudes towards housing policy (or complete lack of housing policy) are racist, replacing residents of color with white residents.

Waste

- How much does it cost to create these RIDICULOUS multi-colored BPU bills? This rainbow of colors is completely unnecessary and a waste of money!!! This is just one example of waste; I'm sure there are many more
- Eliminate waste and fraud!

Cut Taxes

- Cut taxes for veterans
- Cut property taxes

Other Taxing Entities

- Reduce school salaries
- Reduce school taxes
- Re-do KCKCC tax structure

Other

- We get poor services for our rates
- Raise sales tax
- More venture capital for entrepreneurs
- Reparations program
- Registration paid monthly

- There are many “increased” budget consequences that are missing, and would require more visionary leadership to consider what could be done with savings elsewhere in the budget. The scope provided here is too limited in possibilities.
The following comments were made about Public Works at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: More Infrastructure Investment; Street Maintenance; Trash Services; Reduce Number of UG Buildings; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<tr>
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<td>More Infrastructure Investment</td>
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<td>Sidewalk maintenance and improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Street Maintenance</td>
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<td>Trash Services</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce Number of UG Buildings</td>
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**More Infrastructure Investment**
- Savings should be applied to further increase funding on Parks Programming and Parks and Streets Infrastructure
- We have a significantly underfunded infrastructure problem
- Need more investment in our parks and streets infrastructure to address aging infrastructure needs and improve community infrastructure for public perception of the community and to improve tax base and economic development
- Rosedale needs sidewalks!
- Solar-powered buildings
- Solar panels on government buildings
- Improve streets
- Better paved streets

- More street trees
- Better lighting
- More renewable energy
- Protected and dedicated bike lanes

**Sidewalk Maintenance and Improvement**
- More sidewalks
- Safe sidewalks to school
- Sidewalk repair

**Street Maintenance**
- I like street maintenance services, but we need more
- We need to start doing more street maintenance
- Streets that are in dire need of resurfacing are being put aside to “maintain” streets that are not in need of repair
- Much of the roadway and public infrastructure in eastern WyCo is in very poor repair, imposing additional burdens on the poorest parts of the county and reflecting badly on the city and county. Investing here will yield long-term dividend on economic development and property values.
- Street cleaners
- Road repair

**Trash Services**
- I like our trash pickup services
- Stop providing the recycling program – I don’t think they're actually recycling the materials. Instead, provide recycling locations around the city.
- Let people negotiate their own trash pickup
- Industrial composting
- Campaign to discourage littering

**Reduce Number of UG Buildings**
- Re: B&L – I'd like to see a reduction in assets owned by the UG and increase care of buildings that affect quality of life – for example, the Criminal Justice Complex
- Instead of ceasing maintenance at various buildings, why not expand the work from home option for many employees across the UG. Send people home to work, and get rid of some of the buildings that are being maintained. Oh, people need an office space, not daily. There are programs that will allow for shared office space, where if an employee feels or is directed they need to come in, they can sign up for a space. Otherwise, work from home. You already have Teams.
- Half those facilities are wasteful anyway
- Should probably review how many properties the UG owns

**Other**
- Cut waste and fraud! You have street preservation in a different category already.
The following comments were made about Parks and Recreation at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Increase Funding; Add parks/pools/centers; More programming; Improve existing parks; and Find Efficiencies. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<td>More programming</td>
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<td>Improve existing parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Find efficiencies</td>
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</table>

### Increase Funding

- We have one of the lowest levels of funding for parks and recreation across similar communities and the region and spend a very small portion of our budget on community services
- Savings should be applied to further increase funding on Parks Programming and Parks and Streets Infrastructure
- Need more investment in our parks and streets infrastructure to address aging infrastructure needs and improve community infrastructure for public perception of the community and to improve tax base and economic development

### Add Parks/Pools/Centers

- We need another dog park
- We need more splash parks
- Re: Parks – I’d like to see an increase in investment in community centers and pools and a reduction in the overall parkland owned. For example, reduce microparks in our inventory.

### More Programming

- We need more youth activities
- More parks and rec programming
- Martial arts program for underprivileged youth
- Children recreation
- More youth programs
- Teach kids to swim
- Youth programs at recreation centers
- Senior programs at recreation centers

### Improve Existing Parks

- Parks are a mess and need more maintenance
- Our parks are a shame
- Install cameras outside the bathroom facilities to hold people accountable for damaging/destroying county property
- Open Parkwood Pool
- Community garden volunteer opportunities

### Find Efficiencies

- Do things more efficiently
- Cut waste and fraud. Do an audit of these services; reduce hours as reasonable.
- Make it easier to volunteer for Parks
- Use pools at the high schools
Planning & Development

The following comments were made about the departments of Urban Planning and Design, Economic Development, and Community Development at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Stop Subsidies for Big Business; Economic Development is Important; Affordable Housing; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<td>More Economic Development</td>
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<td>Affordable Housing</td>
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<td>Support Small Local Businesses</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Stop Subsidies for Big Business

- Property Taxes for the Fortune 500 companies that are interested in moving into Wyandotte Co. i.e. Amazon, Google, should have an escalator clause to pay more taxes up front and decreased incentives before stabilizing the amount. This could possibly eventually elevate taxes that are imposed on residents.
- Find other revenue streams. Don’t put all the government spending on the backs of the citizens of Wyandotte County. You need to quit giving away tax breaks for these large companies as well. Enforce the fines and fees at the codes and building inspection departments, as I'm sure this will help. Or eliminate those areas, if they are not going to be beneficial to our community.
- We need to charge people for using the private soccer fields. They bring in no money for the city/county and the people who use them aren't from WyCo.

Economic Development is Important

- Economic development is very important to bring in new developments to lower the taxes.
- More development
- More job creation
- More economic development

Affordable Housing

- Stop developing “low income” housing that isn’t truly low income. The housing on 94th and State doesn't look like low income to me.
- We need more affordable housing
- Funding here will do the most to improve the lives of Wyandotte County residents. Also money/incentives for housing development is CRITICAL given the current housing market. Not only is it important for folks who want to move into or stay in WyCo, it is an employee retention issue. Because employees are required to live in the county and there are increasingly fewer homes to buy at reasonable prices, young professionals who are looking to buy a home will be forced to work elsewhere. Either facilitate housing development or end the residency requirement. It is almost cruel at this point.
- More affordable housing investment! More public transit!
- More dense housing
- Affordable housing
- Market rate housing

Support Small Local Businesses

- More grants
- Grants for self-employed

- Affordable co-working spaces
- Invest in KCK businesses
- Rebuild Grants
- Support growth of more small businesses

Other

- Stop selling land for less than it's worth
- Cut waste and fraud. Do an audit of these services; reduce hours as reasonable.
- Rebuild Quindaro
Courts

The following comments were made about Municipal Court and District Court at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Update Technology; Corruption; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<td>Maintain or Increase Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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**Update Technology**
- Municipal Courts use lots of outdated technology. Force adoption of efficient tech.
- Our courts are already violating the constitution. Stop pursuing bogus charges, actually update your use of technology so we’re not acting like it’s 1990 and you’ll save money and better honor constitutional requirements

**Corruption**
- WyCo Courts are corrupt
- The court is a mess and extremely corrupt
- Cut waste and fraud

**Maintain or Increase Funding**
- Well-funded court is crucial for a functional, respectable, competent judicial system which we really need here
- We’ve gotta have judicial services

**Other**
- Reductions in arrests for drug possession would help alleviate the court backlog
The following comments were made about the Fire Department at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Reallocate Spending; Consolidate Public Safety; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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<td>Increase Funding</td>
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**Reallocate Spending**
- We have the best fire department in the area, it’s time to shift some funding.
- Would love to see reduction in fire staff/operations offset by increased Public Health staffing for folks who call upon EMS. Was told by two FD members that a high percentage of fire calls are for medical emergencies that could be resolved with preventative health care and basic needs like food or onsite nursing in high density apartment complexes.
- Would require re-prioritizing the public safety response directly. The “consequences” here present a false narrative of choices. Audit fire for wasteful spending, reduce crews, reduce focus on service based upon geography rather than population density, and better regulate shift-trading practices that lead to bloated budgets.
- Defund the Fire Department by half and you can raise all other department budgets by 5%, cut property taxes and PILOT 10%, and still save money.
- Cut waste and fraud
- Cutting funds to fire and sheriff would open up funding for dire needs throughout the rest of the budget. The additional million+ surplus I have in budget I would devote back to EMS since there wasn’t much wiggle room on the simulator. I would have cut slightly less for that.

**Consolidate Public Safety**
- The UG funds a significant and inordinate portion of our budget on public safety departments. Need to look for efficiencies in the public safety departments, can we reduce size of fire apparatus or consolidate public safety departments and streamline services?
- You should consolidate all of the Fire Departments in the county into one large Fire Department. This would also save tax dollars. We need to stop buying Chevy Tahoes for all of the Fire Chiefs. The Fire Department has on-duty Chiefs that can respond in emergency situations. The off-duty Chiefs can travel to and from their fire houses in their personal vehicles. We can reduce take home vehicles for everyone on the Police Department that is not on call. Majors, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and Detectives that are not on duty and not on-call do not need take home cars. They can drive their personal vehicles to and from their stations. By making the above listed changes, you would save at least one million dollars in vehicles and salaries.

**Corruption**
- Most of these departments are corrupt. Cut their budgets. In no way should we be adding more.
- Many branches of public safety have lost the public’s trust.
- Get rid of the corrupt trumpers. They don’t have the ability to think on their own.

**Increase Funding**
- Give a raise to the fire department!

**Other**
- It would be important to consider how many lethal calls for service the Fire Department receives and the response time for the next closest fire company.
The following comments were made about the Police Department at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Transition to Community Policing or Community Services; Increase Funding; Animal Services; Consolidate Public Safety; Consequences are Inaccurate; Corruption; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided listing the number of times each theme was mentioned.

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**Transition to Community Policing or Community Services**
- I would like to see a decrease in police presence where other services could be more effective – mental health, food supplements, robust community centers for youth.
- If I understand correctly, you are already having difficulties hiring for police and sheriff departments. Don’t eliminate the community policing, do a study and find what units are overall not useful, or, worse yet, leading people to saying, no I don’t want to be a cop. I would be willing to be a (community police/crisis response team) instead. Why put money and effort into hiring something that people don’t want to be/do.
- Why is community policing not a priority? There are surely other areas that could be cut. Cut the same number of positions, but from your regular patrol. Obviously the community policing was implemented to address an issue not being addressed by regular policing, so eliminate the regular policing positions.
- The police force in its current form does not represent good value for money for the county. Diverting funds from a department with questionable performance for stopping or solving crimes, and towards investments in diversion, community development, and economic development (especially if targeted towards low-income communities) would raise the quality of life in the county and be much more effective at reducing criminality. Instead of eliminating the Community Policing unit, focus instead on broad-based staff reduction in patrol units. Stirring the pot a bit, but consider achieving staff reduction targets by attrition, by renegotiating union contracts to push more responsibility for officer misconduct back onto individual officers/the union itself...

**Increase Funding**
- I would impose fees and costs to the offenders here. This may help deter crime and criminals in our area, if they have to face some actual penalties and consequences for their actions. Definitely need to fully staff our law enforcement officers!! This is a no brainer, quit falling into this defund the police movement! We need them!
- More police patrol
- More policing

**Animal Services**
- I would hope that decreases in funding would not impact animal control.
- Many of these services have been underfunded for so long – I would love to see a healthy increase for human and animal focused departments
- We need better animal services
- Rescue service for stray animals

**Consolidate Public Safety**
- The UG funds a significant and inordinate portion of our budget on public safety departments. Need to look for efficiencies in the public safety departments, can we reduce size of fire apparatus or consolidate public safety departments and streamline services?
- We shouldn’t maintain multiple law enforcement agencies with a Unified Government. We should merge all Wyandotte County law enforcement agencies into one large agency. You would reduce costs by not having three Police Chiefs and just utilize the Sheriff position that is already accounted for. We can reduce take home vehicles for everyone on the Police Department that is not on call. Majors, Assistant Chiefs, Captains, and Detectives that are not on duty and not on-call do not need take home cars. They can drive their personal vehicles to and from their stations. By making the above listed changes you would save at least one million dollars in vehicles and salaries.
- Why do we need police and sheriff? Move the sheriff funds to police and do away with sheriff.
Police Department (2 of 2)

Consequences are Inaccurate

• Would require re-prioritizing the public safety response directly. The “consequences” here present a false narrative of choices. Rather than spending money on criminalizing activities, put funding into social and health services to actually prevent crime. This includes auditing police and fire for wasteful spending, reducing crews, reducing focus on service based upon geography rather than population density, and better regulating shift-trading practices that lead to bloated budgets.

• I firmly believe that there are other places in the police and sheriff's budget to cut besides officers...

• I feel like some of the consequences are disingenuous. There are ways to give less funding to the Police Department and give more funding to local agencies to address the actual social determinants that lead to crime such as income inequality, lack of education and job opportunities, etc. If you target the actual causes of crime, you need less beat-cops and tactical gear... it is a testament to how BLOATED the Police and Sheriff budgets are, that decreasing these two funds allowed for all of the other increases that I made... AND raising taxes wasn’t even necessary.

• These descriptions are biased, not taking into account the increase in funding to other areas when decreasing funding to certain areas. By defunding police, sheriff, and community corrections we have enough money to fully spend on all other categories.

• Let’s simply abolish the corrupt KCKPD. Also, the “consequences” listed here next to each line item are propaganda. It’s a complete lack of leadership and vision on behalf of this administration to simply assume that these would be the specific consequences.

Corruption

• Most of these departments are corrupt. Cut their budgets. In no way should we be adding more.

• Our law enforcement is corrupt.

• Many branches of public safety have lost the public’s trust.

• Our law enforcement is corrupt and cannot be fixed without completely being torn down first. Defund them.

• Get rid of the corrupt Trumpers. They don’t have the ability to think on their own.

• A large portion of the budget goes to the police and sheriff departments despite low community satisfaction and trust.

• Cut waste and fraud

Other

• It would be important to consider how many patrol officers are working at any given time and the number of calls for service that are received, what the average wait time is for calls for service. Would it be feasible to operate fulltime like they did during the height of the pandemic where Felony/Warrants were priority? Maybe consider moving the entire department to a community policing style. Could some things be addressed with more NTA's and citations?

• Decriminalize the possession of all drugs and release anyone currently incarcerated for a non-violent drug offense.

• TAG ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE A PRIORITY. Too many citizens/non citizens are operating vehicles with expired tags, improper tags, or no tags at all.

• High taxes and high crime are not acceptable.
The following comments were made about the Sheriff Department at the Dotte Talks or through the Budget Simulator. They have been organized into the following themes: Reallocate Spending; Consolidate Public Safety; Comments are Inaccurate; Corruption; Other. Some comments mentioned multiple themes but predominantly fell under one theme; thus, a table has been provided tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

### Reallocate Spending
- If I understand correctly, you are already having difficulties hiring for police and sheriff departments. Don't eliminate the community policing, do a study and find what units are overall not useful, or, worse yet, leading to people saying, no I don't want to be a cop. I would be willing to be a (community police/crisis response team) instead. Why put money and effort into hiring something that people don't want to be/do.  
- Cut waste and fraud  
- Cutting funds to fire and sheriff would open up funding for dire needs throughout the rest of the budget. The additional million+ surplus I have in budget I would devote back to EMS since there wasn't much wiggle room on the simulator. I would have cut slightly less for that. Less vehicle expense for sheriff is fine – I don't buy that they would have to cut less lethal weapons. That seems like how the sheriff would try to spin any reduction.

### Consolidate Public Safety
- The UG funds a significant and inordinate portion of our budget on public safety departments. Need to look for efficiencies in the public safety departments, can we reduce size of fire apparatus or consolidate public safety departments and streamline services?  
- We shouldn't maintain multiple law enforcement agencies with a Unified Government. We should merge all Wyandotte County law enforcement agencies into one large agency. You would reduce costs by not having three Police Chiefs and just utilize the Sheriff position that is already accounted for. We can reduce take home vehicles for everyone on the Police Department that is not on call. Majors, Assistant Chiefs, Captains and Detectives that are not on duty and not on-call do not need take home cars. They can drive their personal vehicles to and from their stations. By making the above listed changes, you would save at least one million dollars in vehicles and salaries.  
- Why do we need police and sheriff? Move the sheriff funds to police and do away with sheriff.

### Consequences are Inaccurate
- I firmly believe that there are other places in the police and sheriff's budget to cut besides officers…  
- I feel like some of the consequences are disingenuous. There are ways to give less funding to the Police Department and give more funding to local agencies to address the actual social determinants that lead to crime such as income inequality, lack of education and job opportunities, etc. If you target the actual causes of crime, you need less beat-cops and tactical gear… it is a testament to how BLOATED the Police and Sheriff budgets are, that decreasing these two funds allowed for all of the other increases that I made… AND raising taxes wasn't even necessary.  
- These descriptions are biased, not taking into account the increase in funding to other areas when decreasing funding to certain areas. By defunding police, sheriff, and community corrections we have enough money to fully spend on all other categories.  
- With the Sheriff's department, nonlethal equipment and body/car cameras should be a higher priority than the first thing to get cut.

### Corruption
- Most of these departments are corrupt. Cut their budgets. In no way should we be adding more.  
- Our law enforcement is corrupt.  
- Many branches of public safety have lost the public's trust  
- A large portion of the budget goes to the police and sheriff departments despite low community satisfaction and trust.

### Other
- Can't get rid of the jail – have to have one.  
- High taxes and high crime are not acceptable  
- TAG ENFORCEMENT SHOULD BE A PRIORITY. Too many citizens/non citizens are operating vehicles with expired tags, improper tags, or no tags at all.

### Theme Number of Mentions

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