

BUILDING COMMUNITY BUDGET PRIORITIES

2023 DotteTalk

Report on 2023 Community Input

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JUNE 16, 2022



REPORT ON COMMUNITY INPUT

UG Budget 2023

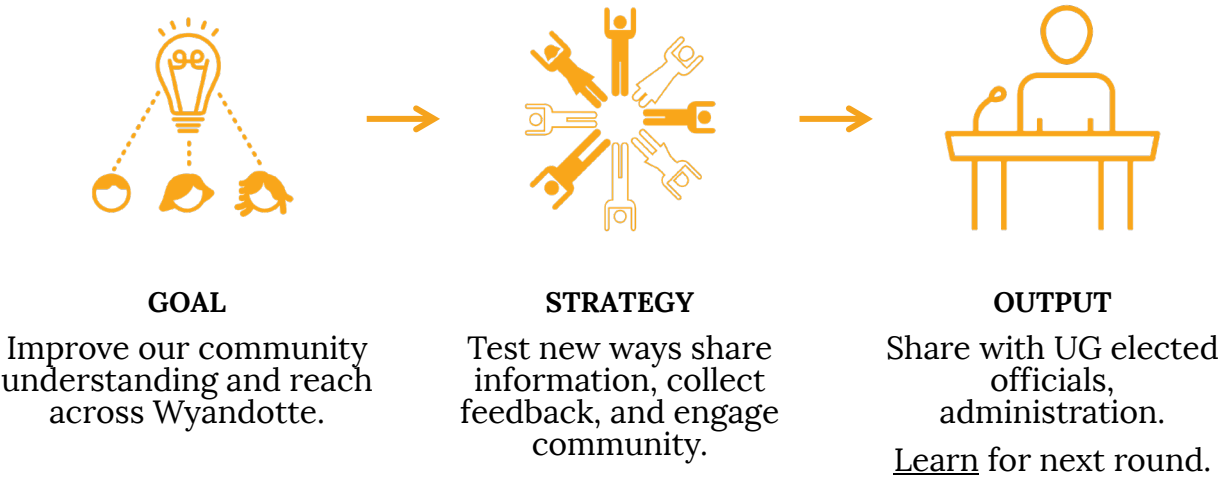
This is an overview of the input received throughout the 2023 budget planning process with key insights and recommendations from Wyandotte County community members.

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



DISCOVER + FOCUS

Engaging differently.

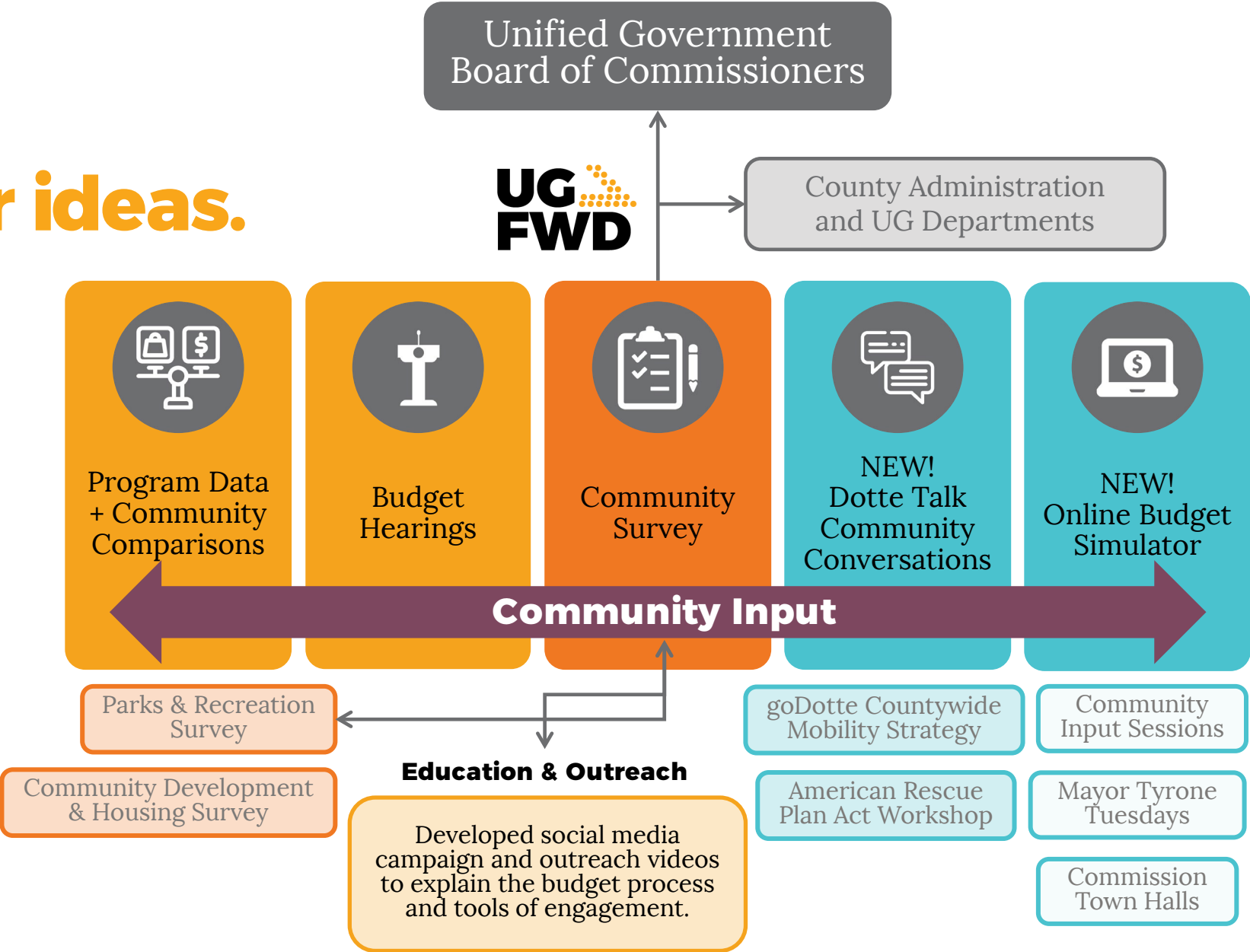


ABOVE: Mayor Tyrone A. Garner (right) with Assistant County Administrator Emerick Cross (left) and Tayler Wash (center) at the Parkwood Park Earth Day Clean-Up, April 22, 2022, hosted by the Unified Government.



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.

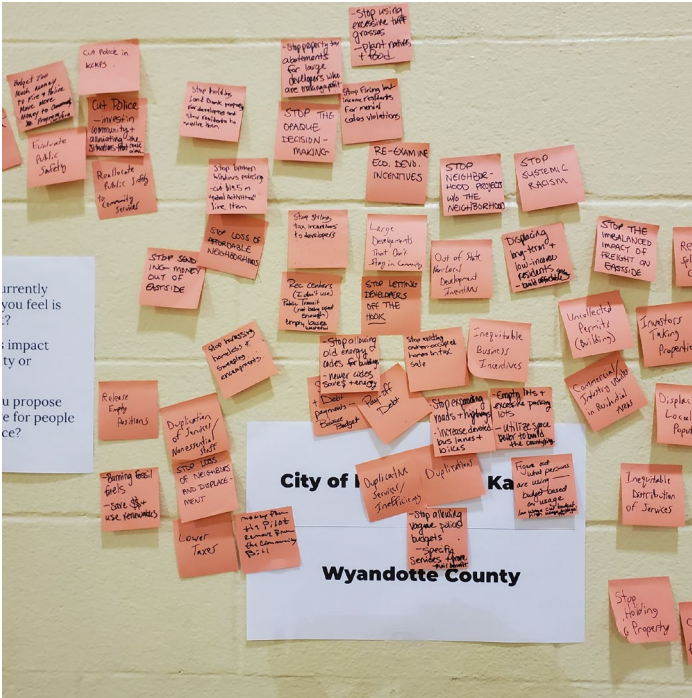


PRIORITIZING YOUR BUDGET

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 66102

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

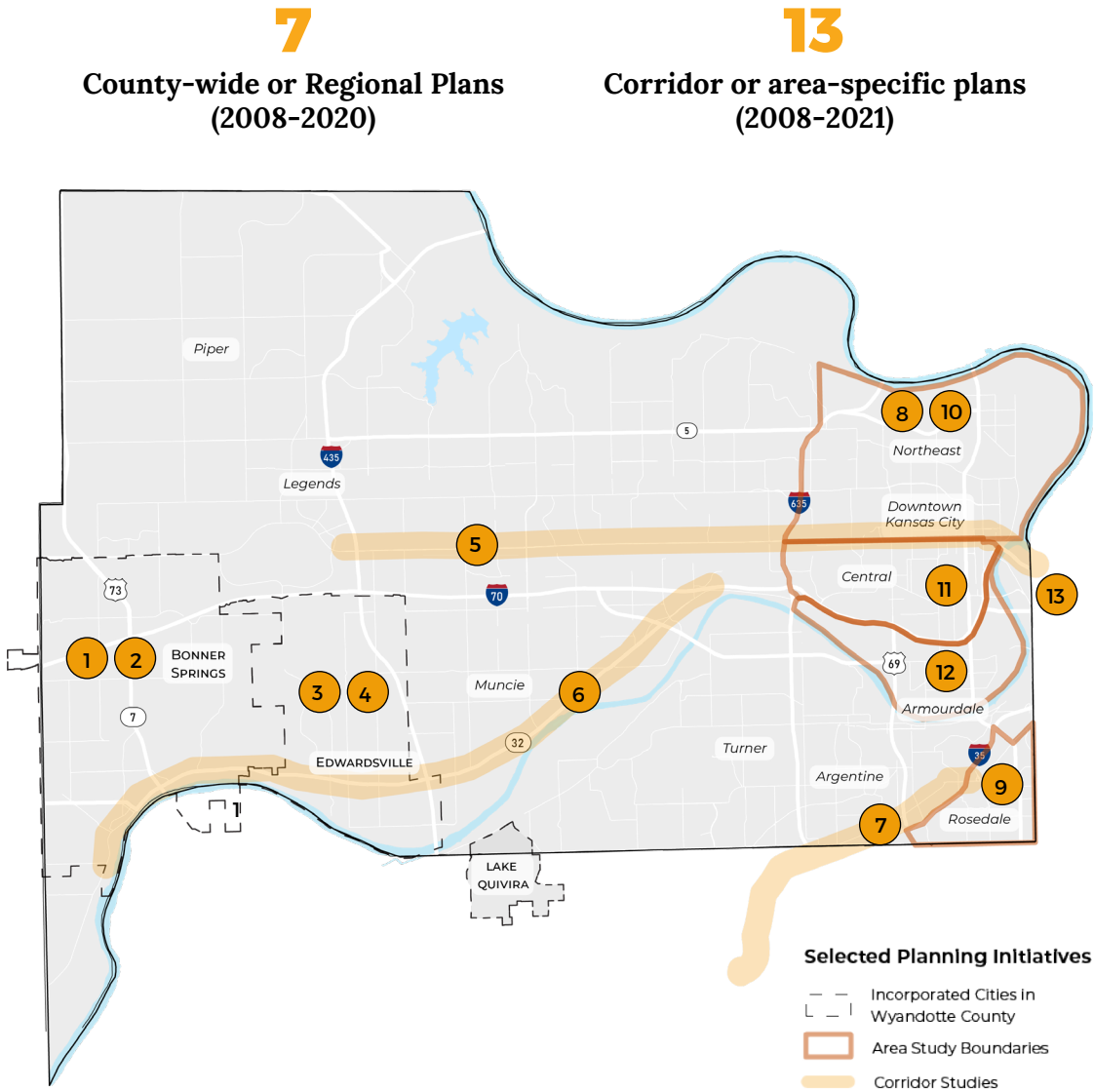
Tested a new format for community engagement and launched multi-channel outreach effort.



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.



GRAPHIC FROM GODOTTE FOUNDATIONS REPORT. Sources: Local and Regional Planning Documents from 1979-2020

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?

DISCOVER + FOCUS

Improving access.

- 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.

✓ You have balanced the budget.

Overspend \$0.00m
On Budget 0.0%

Total Expenses \$360.00m

-50% -20% -10% -5% 0% 5% Consequences

Public Safety >

Judicial Services >

Community Services >

Public Works >

Capital Investment / Infrastructure >

Revenue Streams >

i Community Corrections
Struggle to maintain existing service levels, due to inflationary cost increases

i Emergency Management
The service could be maintained at its current level

i Police Department
The service could be maintained at its current level.

i Fire Department
The service could be maintained at its current level.

i Sheriff
The service could be maintained at its current level.

Your comments on Public Safety (Optional)

« Back

Review and Finish »

2022 UG Budget Simulator

The Budget Office created a budget simulator, using the Delib tool, to encourage community members to balance their own budget.

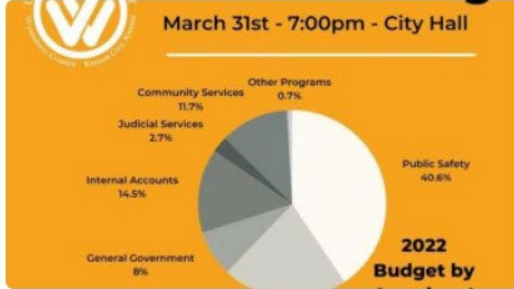


DISCOVER + FOCUS

Fostering dialogue.

- 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.

Wyandotte County Administrator's Office
Public Information Officer Unified Government • 31 Mar



March 31st - 7:00pm - City Hall

2022 Budget by

Budget Public Hearing Tonight! Friendly reminder that tonight is the first public hearing on our Unified Government budget. Join us and weigh in on your budget priorities during our 7PM Commission meeting. Learn more here: [https://www.wycokck.org/Engage-With-Us/Calendar-of-Events/Full-Commission-See more...](https://www.wycokck.org/Engage-With-Us/Calendar-of-Events/Full-Commission-See-more...)

Full Commission Meeting
wycokck.org

Posted to Subscribers of Wyandotte County Administrator's Office

1 • 2,070 Impressions • Like • 7 Comments • Share

Hallie S. • Delaware Ridge
Police, EMS, Fire with public works comprise 60% of the budget. Wow. (edited)
6w • Like • Reply • Share • 2

Mike J. • Prairie-Piper
Hallie that's interesting considering the BPU supposedly provides utilities to the UG. I'd love to see transparency in this area. (edited)
6w • Like • Reply • Share • 2

Public Information Officer Unified Government • Wyandotte County Administrator's Office • Author
To clarify, public works (21.5%) is not BPU -- that's streets, bridges and other infrastructure.
31 Mar • Like • Reply • Share • 2

Mike J. • Prairie-Piper
Public thank you. This is how rumors get started. Thank you for addressing it.
31 Mar • Like • Reply • Share • 1

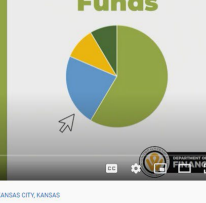
Public Information Officer Unified Government • Wyandotte County Administrator's Office • Author
Much appreciated! We do what we can! :)
31 Mar • Like • Reply • Share • 1

Hallie S. • Delaware Ridge
Public Information Officer Unified Government Thank you for the clarification. I was told differently. I'll make sure to amend my post.
1 Apr • Like • Reply • Share • 1

Add a reply...

Lynzie C. • Delaware Highlands
Community Services and Other Programs 7% ... I'm not shocked, that needs to change
21 Apr • Like • Reply • Share

Open Budget Data Tutorial
Budget Office



Budget

Open Budget Data Tutorial: Funds
Unified Government

Open Budget Data Tutorial: Expenses
Unified Government

Open Budget Data Tutorial: Consolidated General Fund Revenues
Unified Government

Open Budget Data Tutorial: How to use OpenGov
Unified Government

SPECIAL SESSION
February 24, 2022, Special Session: 19th Intersector Presentation
Unified Government

Recently uploaded • Watched


May 12, 2022 Full Commission meeting
Unified Government
423 views • Streamed 5 days ago

Analytics • Edit Video

Clockwise from Top: (1) Budget Playlist on YouTube. (2) Video Tutorials on Community Survey and Other Tools on Facebook. (3) Nextdoor engagement with community.

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas
City KS • Published by Mariah Smith • May 12 at 4:54 PM •

Have you checked out our 2022 community survey data? This video helps walk you through the ETC Institute dashboard. Check it out and then dive in! We'll be using this survey as input for our 2023 #UGBudget. #DotteTalk Learn more about the survey here: <https://www.wycokck.org/Depar.../Finance/Research/Results...>



Mike Grimm, Research Manager
Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City KS

See Insights • Boost post

2 • 2 Comments 2 Shares

Like • Comment • Share



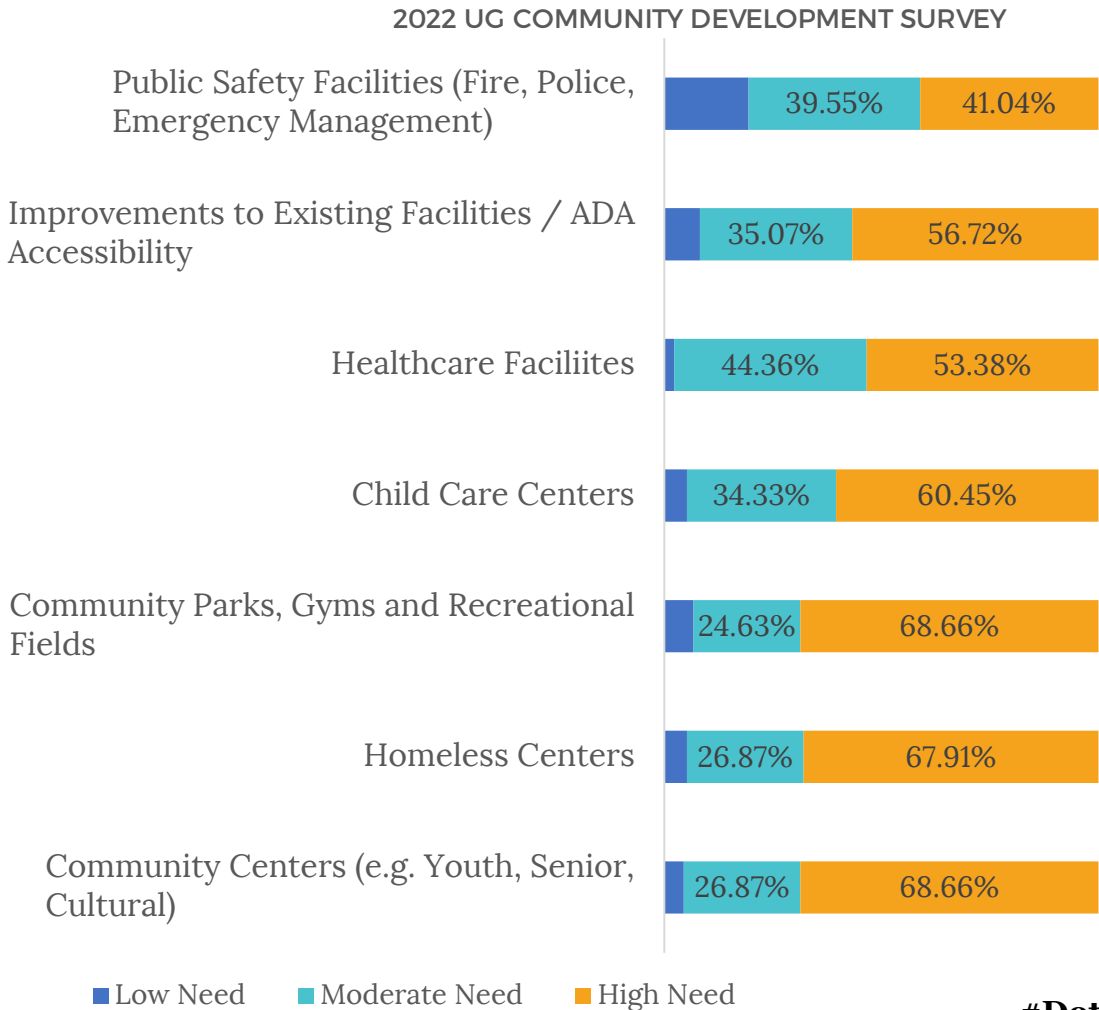
DISCOVER + FOCUS

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.

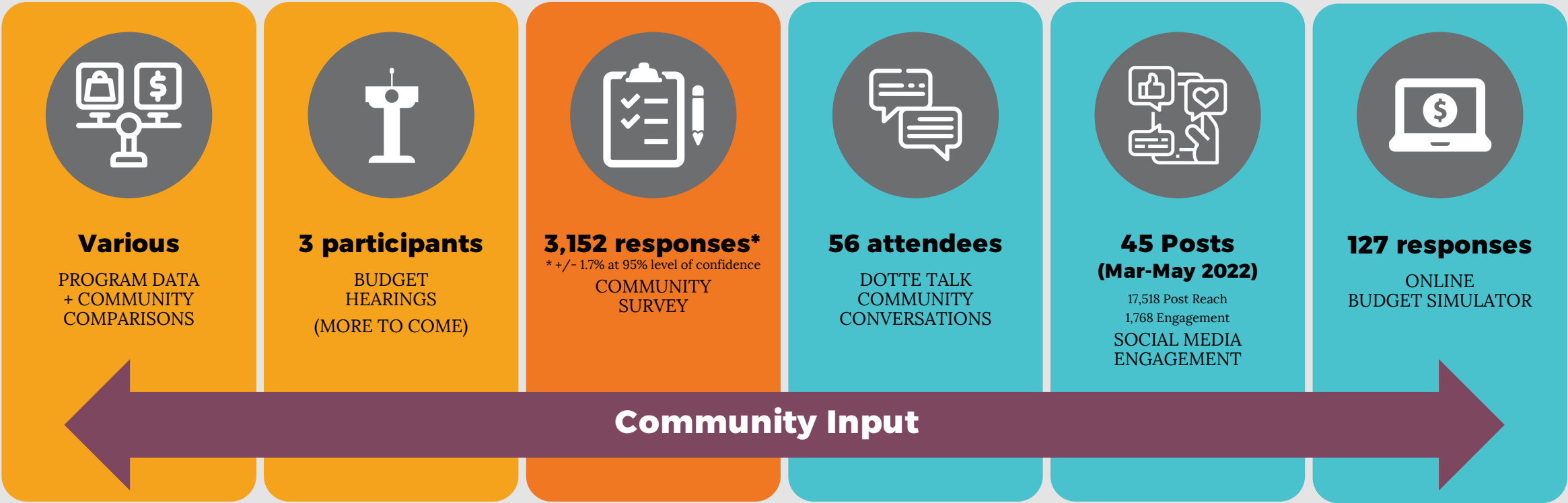


Rank the following **public facility needs** in Wyandotte County/KCK on a scale ranging from low to high need.



EVALUATE

Total Participation



SNAPSHOT
Community Services

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.



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

Community Services Importance & Satisfaction

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY, ETC INSTITUTE

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Overall Importance and Satisfaction

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

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



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.

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

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

More parks and rec programming.

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

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

We need much more public transit.

More funding for social services is badly needed.

More mental health treatment and services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Simulator

DotteTalk



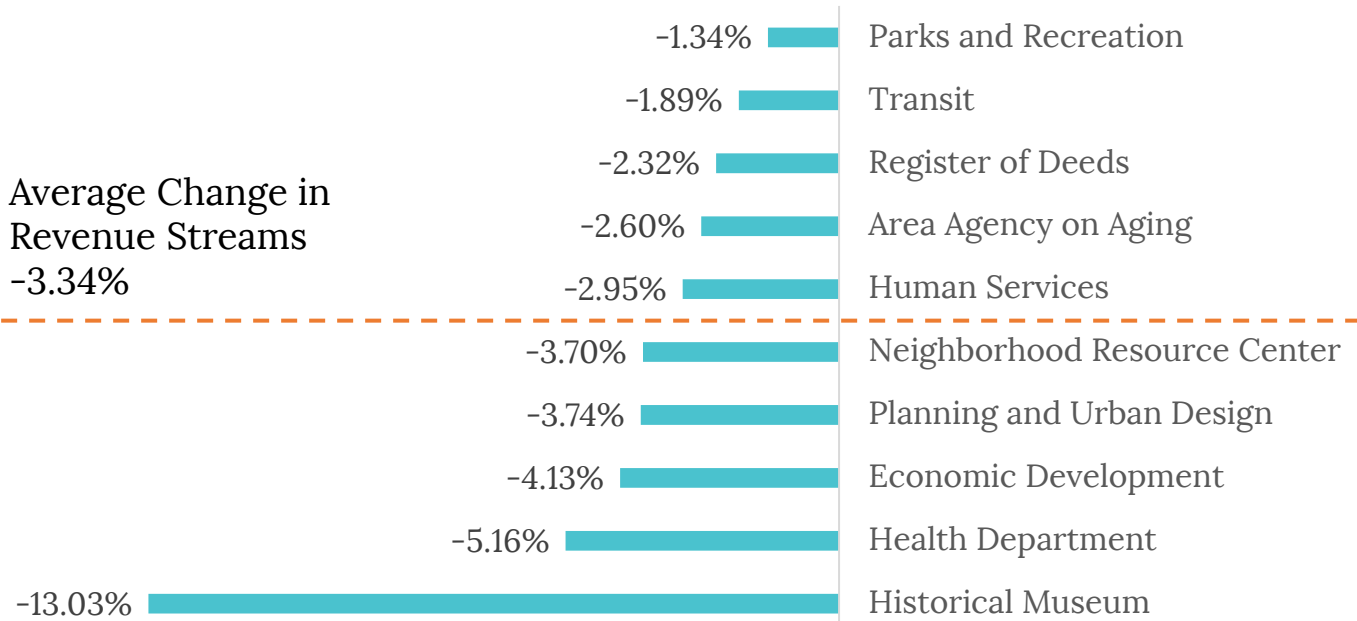
BUDGET SIMULATOR

Changing Income and Expenditures

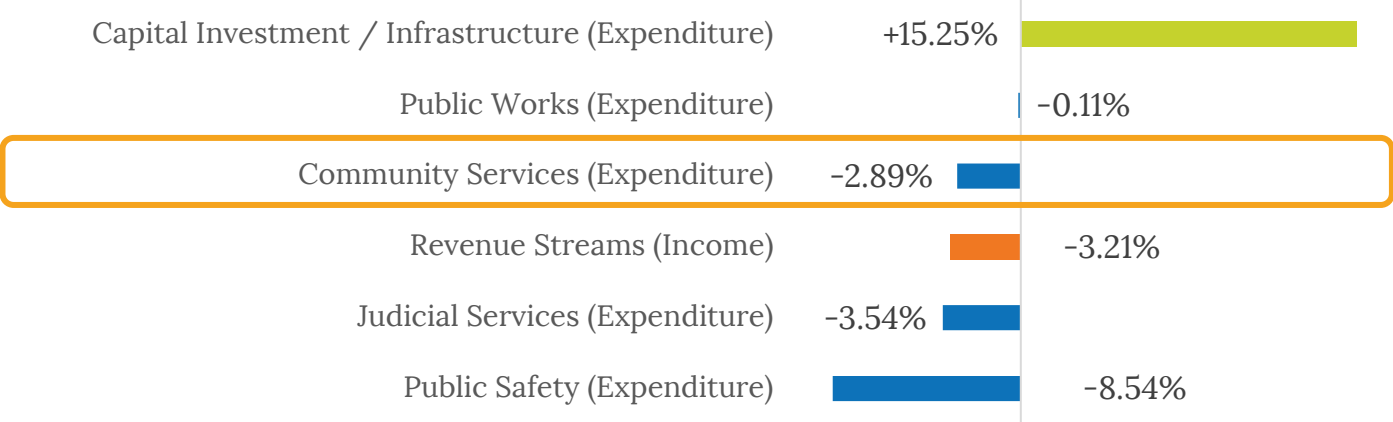
- Changes to proposed Community Services funding were roughly equal to the average revenue reduction seen across the simulator.
 - Lower funding priority given to services with higher satisfaction levels (Community Survey).
 - Historical Museum aligns with priority-based budgeting (PBB) low strategic 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.



UG BUDGET SIMULATOR - AVERAGE %CHANGE



UG BUDGET SIMULATOR - AVERAGE %CHANGE



ARPA WORKSHOP

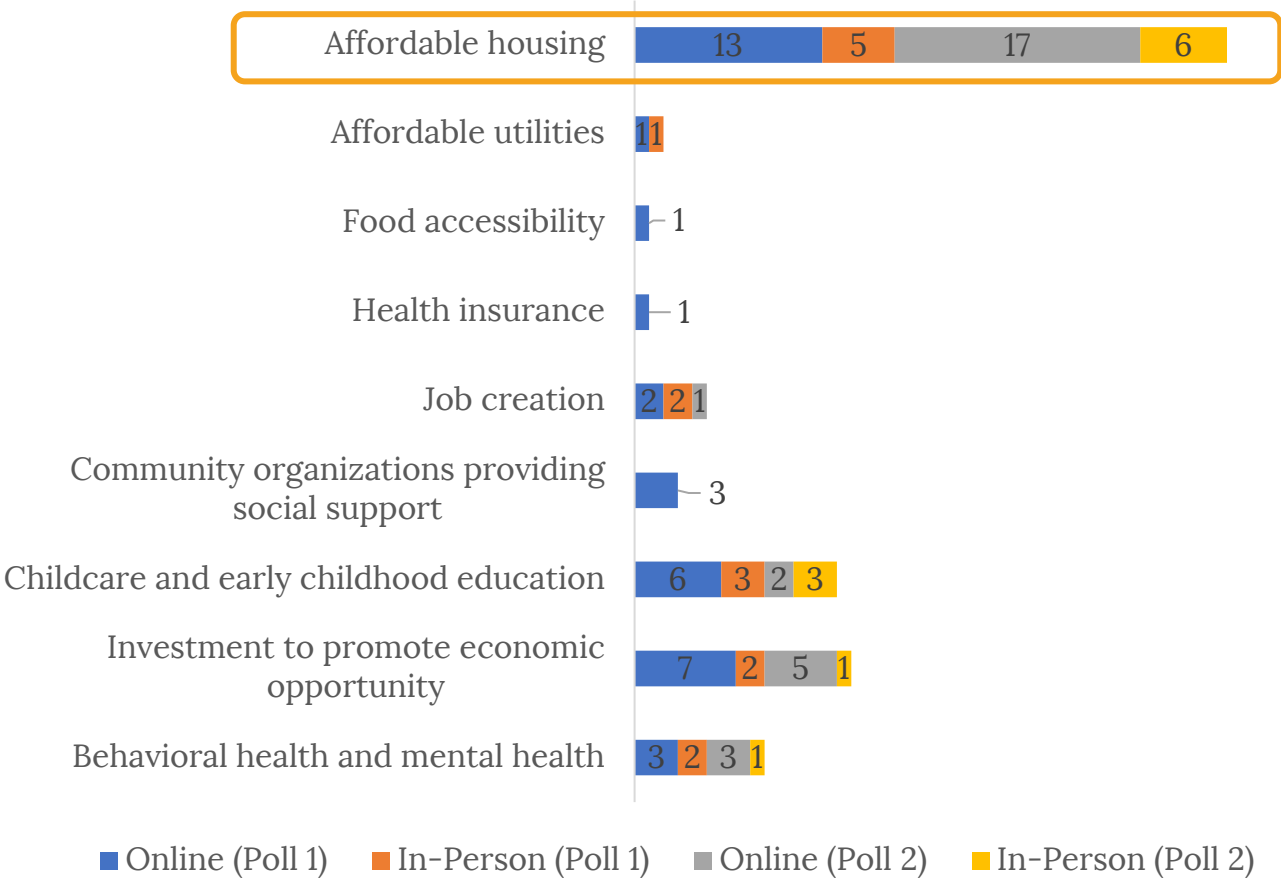
Affordable Housing & COVID Recovery

- 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.



Most Important Way to Invest ARPA Funds

MARCH 29, 2022 WORKSHOP



COMMUNITY COMPARISON

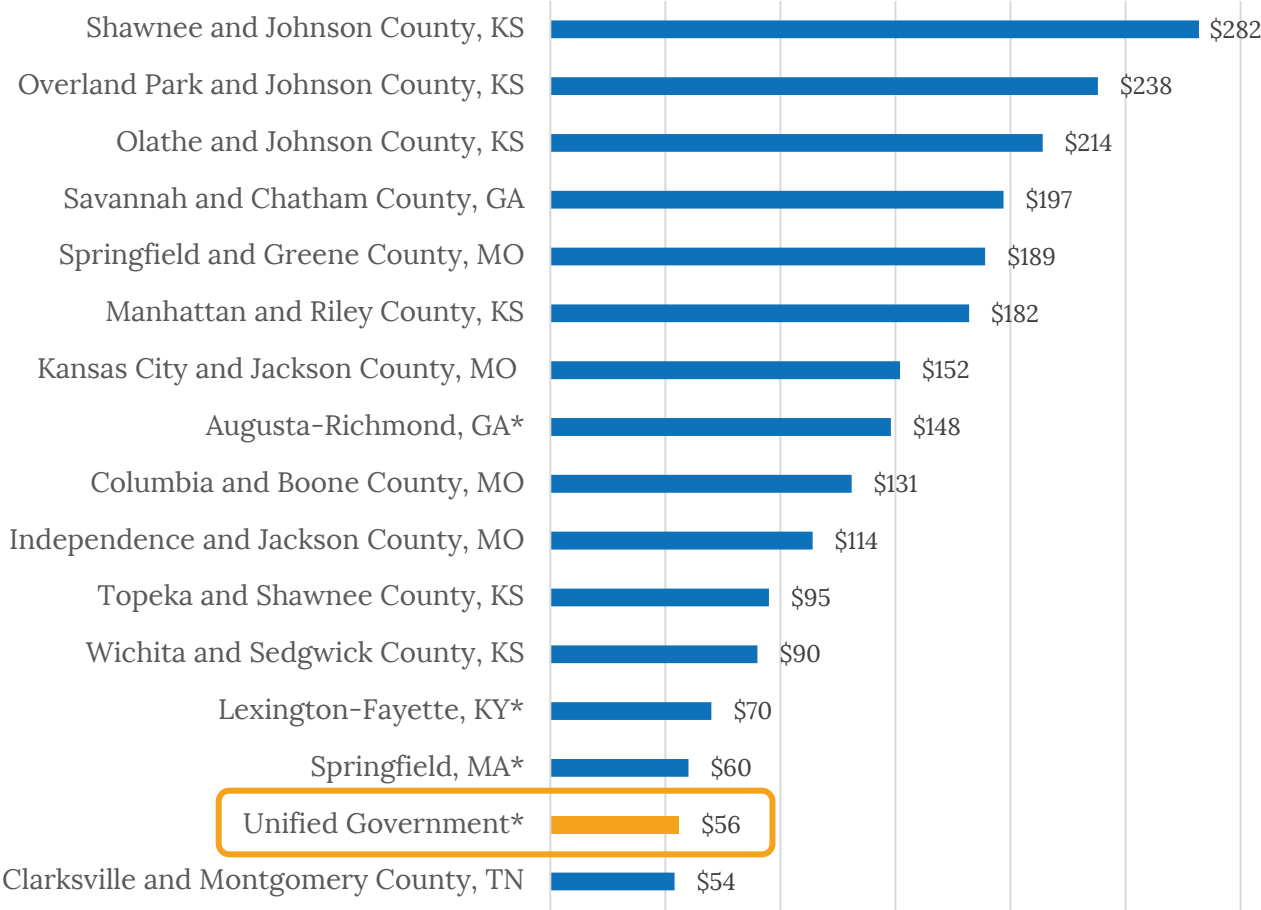
Parks & Recreation

- 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.



City & County - Parks per Capita

COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



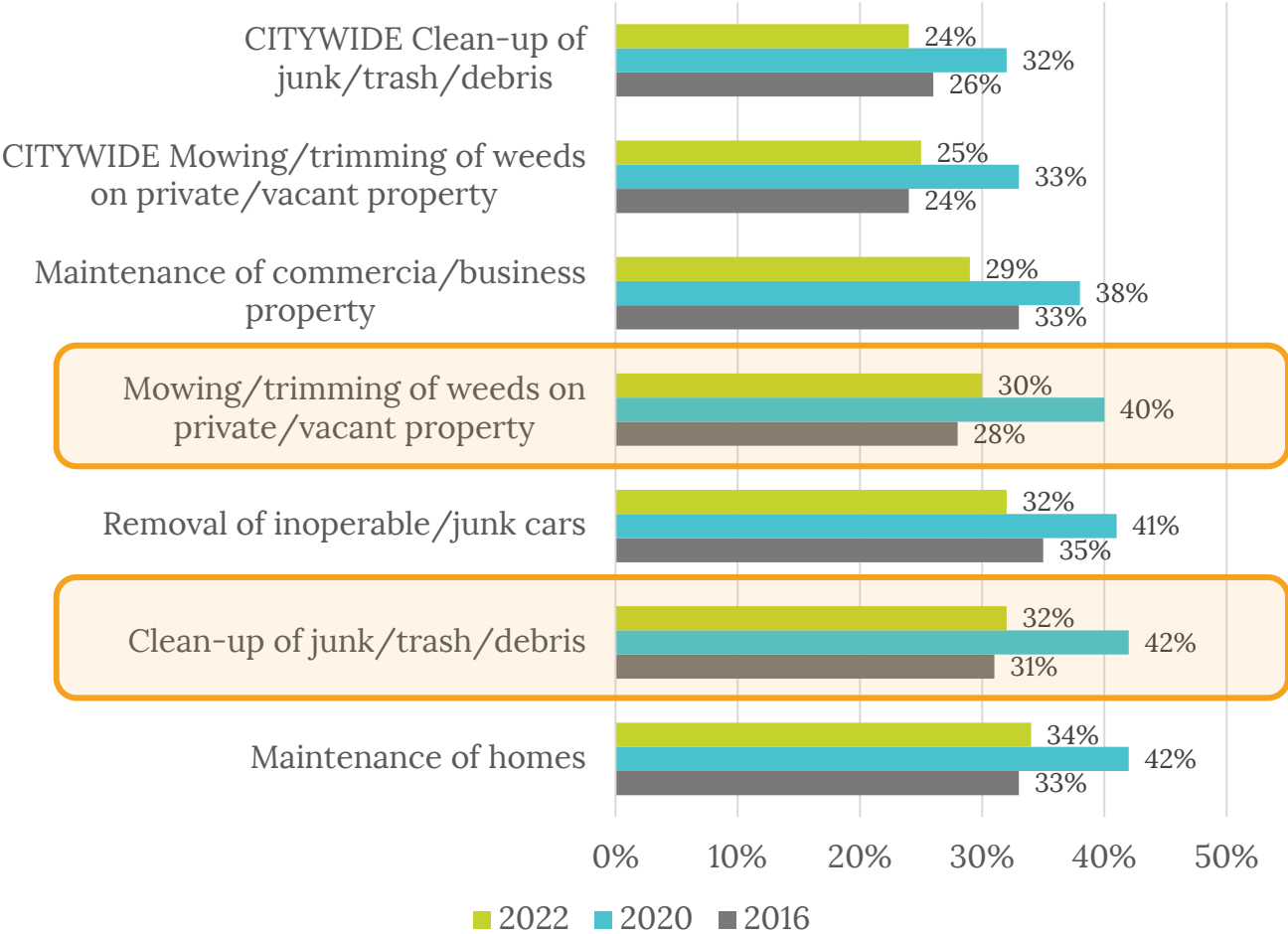
KCK Population for Comparison ~ 156,600

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).

Satisfaction with Enforcement of Codes and Ordinances



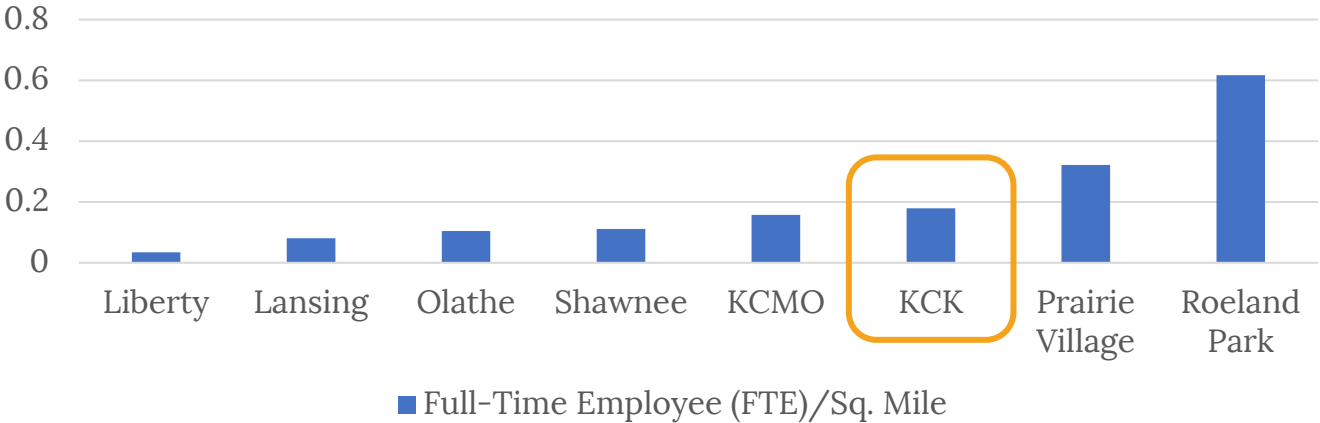
COMMUNITY COMPARISON

Code Enforcement

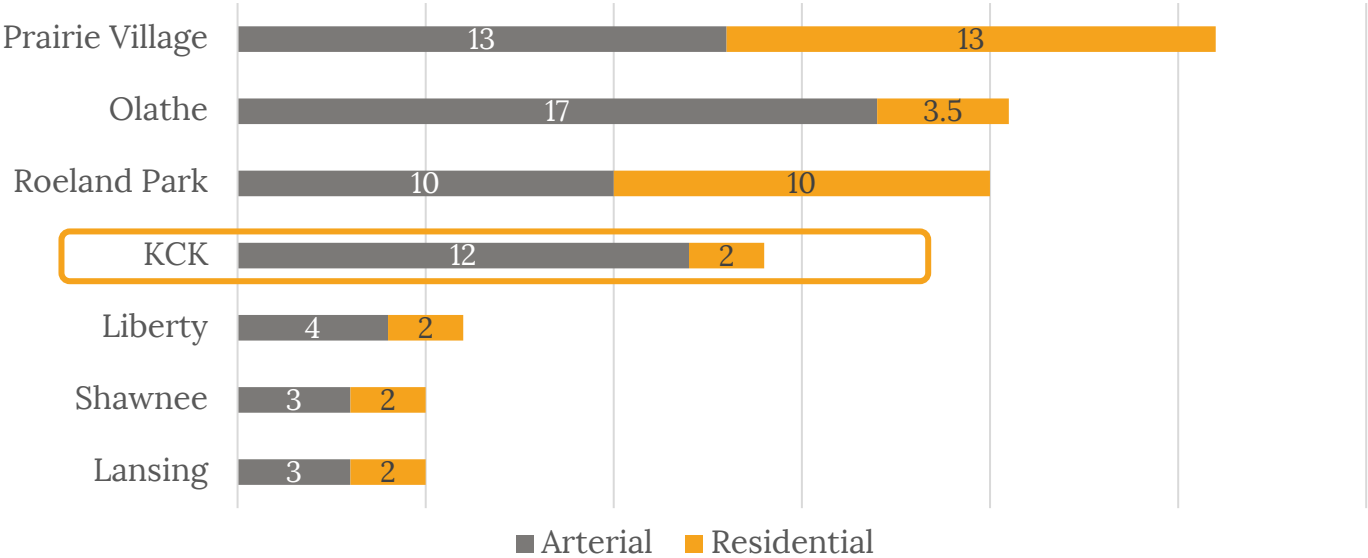
- Cleanliness and appearance across our community was a top priority and opportunity for improvement.
 - Digging deeper it will be important to understand where and how this varies across the city/county.
 - Important to understand the source and nature of issue: e.g. vacant lots, public right-of-way, illegal dumping, code violations, etc.



Code Enforcement Inspectors (FTEs) by Land Area
MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021



Number of Street Sweepings per Year, 2021
MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021



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**

SNAPSHOT
Public Safety

Police, Fire, Sheriff, Emergency Management, EMS, Dispatch, Community Corrections, etc.



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.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Public Safety

- 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.

Public Safety Importance & Satisfaction

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY, ETC INSTITUTE

Category of Service	Most Important (%)	Most Important Rank	Satisfaction (%)	Satisfaction Rank	Importance-Satisfaction Ranking	I-S Rating Rank
Community appearance and maintenance	48%	2	24%	9	0.3695	1
Police visibility in residential neighborhoods	49%	1	44%	5	0.2736	2
Animal control in neighborhoods	30%	3	31%	8	0.2083	3
Community policing	29%	4	37%	7	0.1864	4
Traffic law enforcement	24%	5	38%	6	0.1474	5
Police visibility in commercial areas	24%	6	46%	3	0.1274	6
Response time for police emergencies	22%	7	45%	4	0.1178	7
Response time for medical emergency calls	13%	8	69%	2	0.0389	8
Response time for fire emergencies	9%	9	69%	1	0.0280	9



Rebuild trust.

Hold public safety to demonstrating
benefits of funding.

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?

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.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Simulator

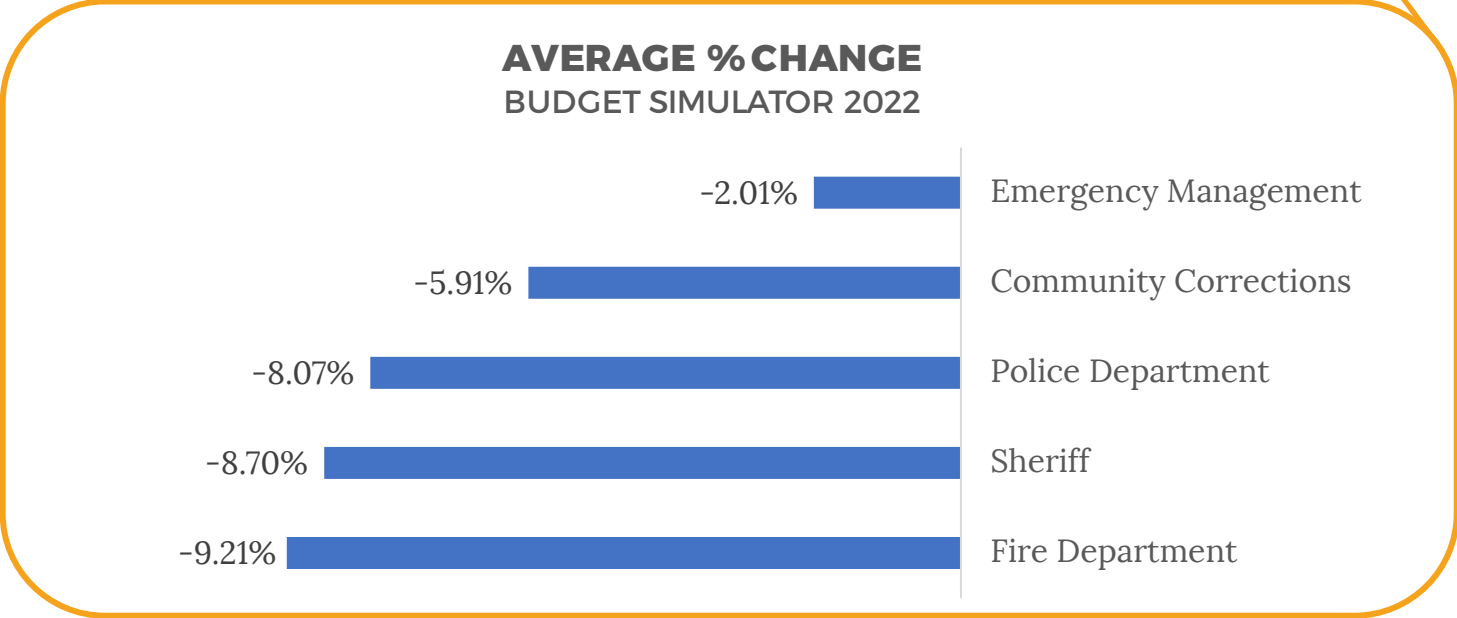
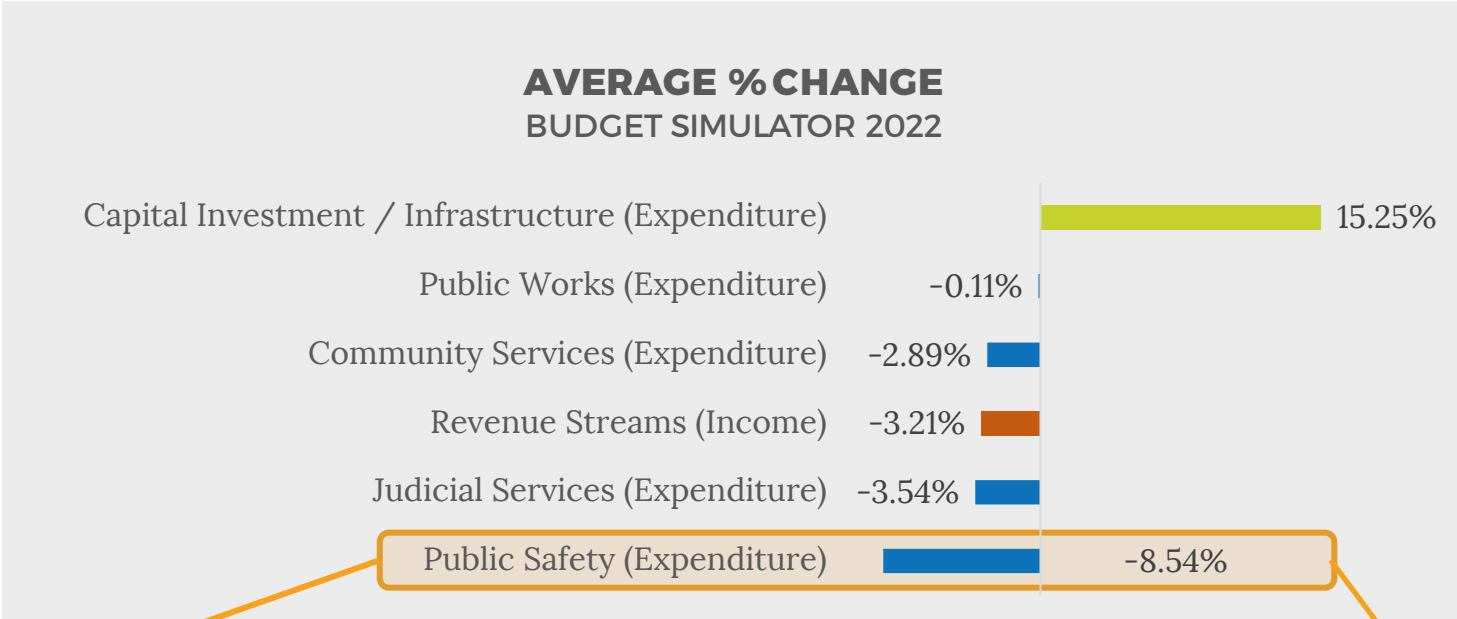
DotteTalk



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.

Violence is a Community Crisis

Outcomes

Protective Factors

Community Risk Factors

Youth Risk Factors

Current Initiatives within Wyandotte County

We all deserve a safe Wyandotte.

Violence is a public health issue. According to the [World Health Organization](#), "health is a state of complete **physical, mental and social well-being** and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Violence directly impacts the physical, mental, and social well-being of entire communities—including ours. The future of Wyandotte County, free of community violence, is stronger, healthier, and more resilient, and we all will benefit. Several groups and departments have made meaningful strides in that direction. To achieve the full promise of that future, Wyandotte will have to work together across sectors to maximize our impact and drive lasting change.

Violence affects the whole population

Violence is a direct barrier to our **physical health**. The actual injuries caused by fights and weapons can be devastating, and **homicide is the number one cause of death among residents aged 15-44 in Wyandotte County**. Additionally, when our communities feel safe from violence, residents are more likely to engage in physical activity like walking in the neighborhood, which reduces the risk for chronic disease and other health issues.

Constantly fearing, experiencing or witnessing violence damages our **mental health**, and unhealthy coping mechanisms such as alcohol or drugs can lead to further violence. *Safe communities make healthy connections to our community, family, and*

Violence Prevention Dashboard (Above) outlines the risk factors and current initiatives in Wyandotte County for violence prevention. First class completes the Spanish-language Police Academy (Top Right). Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) metrics (Middle Right) and several community programs (Below).



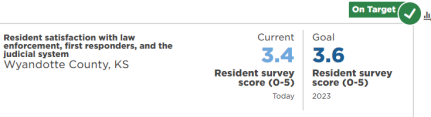
Cultural Norms

Address cultural norms that tolerate or promote violence

Our community can work together to prevent violence.

When residents feel connected to their community, they look out for one another. It becomes normal to take action when someone in your community is experiencing violence, or even when trash accumulates in your neighborhood. We call these helpful actions "bystander intervention" and it usually involves local trust and receptiveness to the community resources and services available to residents in time of need, such as law enforcement, first responders, and the justice system.

Goal: By 2023, increase resident satisfaction with law enforcement, first responders, and the judicial system from 3.4 to 3.6 out of 5.



Sources: UG WYCO-KCK 2020

Enroll today in the

KCKPD CITIZENS ACADEMY

Academy begins June 23rd
Six-week course
Thursday evenings 6-8 PM
at KCKPD Police Academy
7520 State Ave.

This program is designed for residents seeking better understanding of the basics of law enforcement and the policies and procedures of the KCKPD. The hope is that graduates will then share that knowledge with their neighbors in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the community and police.

KCKPD BUILDING COMMUNITY TIES

You will learn about:

- department operations
- criminal investigations
- crime scene investigations
- communications
- traffic enforcement
- firearms training
- use of force, and more

The Citizens Academy is offered free of charge. Applicants must be 18 years old with no criminal record. KCKPD conducts criminal history background checks on all applicants.

To enroll, please contact
PI: Kevin Sullivan at
913-573-6254 or
ksullivan@kckpd.org

KCKPD YOUTH ACADEMY

June 13-17, South Patrol
200 Metropolitan Ave.
*Enrollment Deadline May 27

July 18-22, East Patrol
849 N. 47th
*Enrollment deadline July 8

July 25-29, West Patrol
1011 N. 80th Terrace
*Enrollment Deadline July 15

- 9 AM to 1 PM Daily -

Three sessions to choose from!

This is a one-week summer program for youth ages 12-15, offered in each patrol division, is a fun, interactive learning experience designed to:

- educate youth on the many aspects of police work
- promote greater understanding between youth and law enforcement
- promote safety skills & tools needed to deal with conflict peacefully

Topics covered: patrol procedures, evidence collection, criminal investigations, conflict resolution, interrogations, tactical team &

Applications available at South & East Patrol Stations or by calling/enrolling:
(913) 573-6139/8050@KCKPD.ORG
Para español (913) 573-6277

KCKPD BUILDING COMMUNITY TIES

TACKLING CONFLICT TOGETHER

JUNE 25, 2022 - BISHOP WARD HIGH SCHOOL
16 N. ARMSTRONG KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

KCK YOUTH, AGES 8-18, ARE INVITED TO JOIN KCKPD CHIEF "COACH" KARL OAKMAN FOR A FREE ONE-DAY FOOTBALL CAMP THAT WILL IMPROVE THEIR PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

KCKPD BUILDING COMMUNITY TIES

Check-in - 7:30 AM
CAMP START - 8:45 AM
CAMP SHIRTS & LUNCH INCLUDED
REGISTER ON-LINE AT PALKCK.COM

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



PUBLIC SAFETY

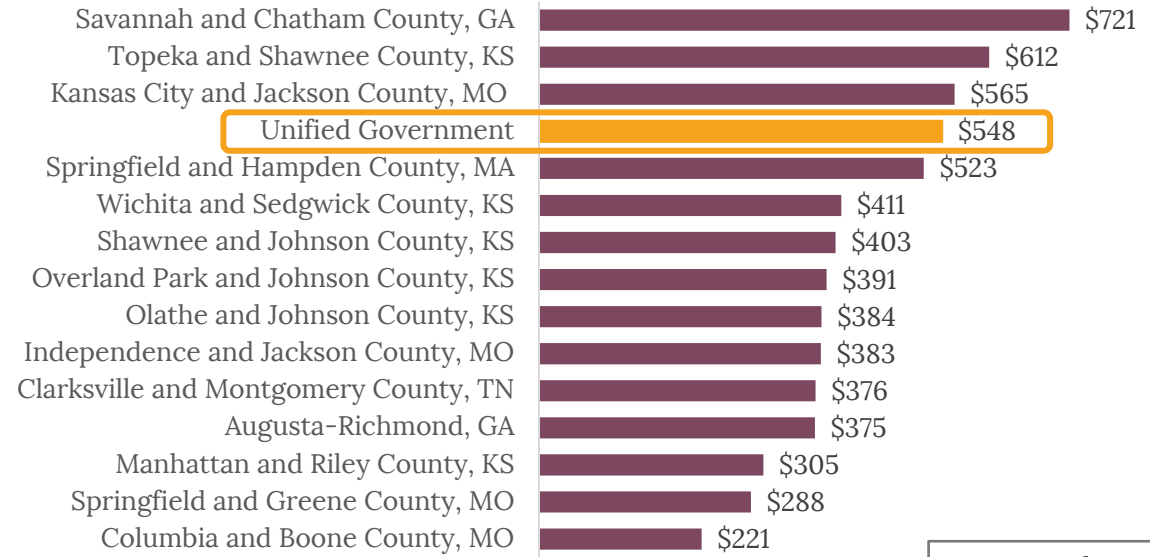
Law Enforcement

- 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

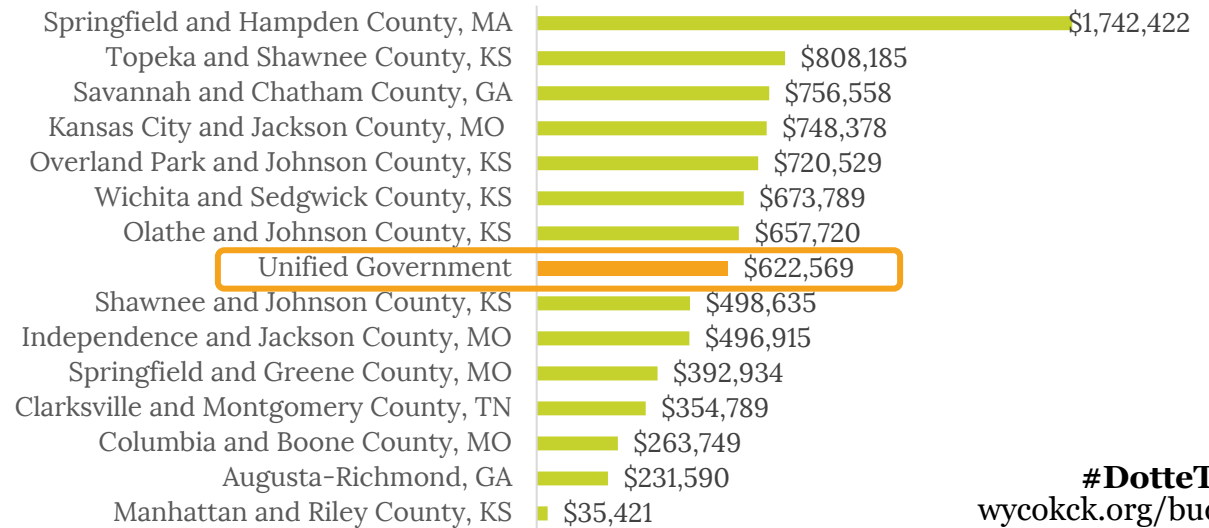
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



KCK Population ~ 156,600 people
KCK Land Area ~ 134 square miles

POLICE AND SHERIFF FUNDING BY LAND AREA

COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



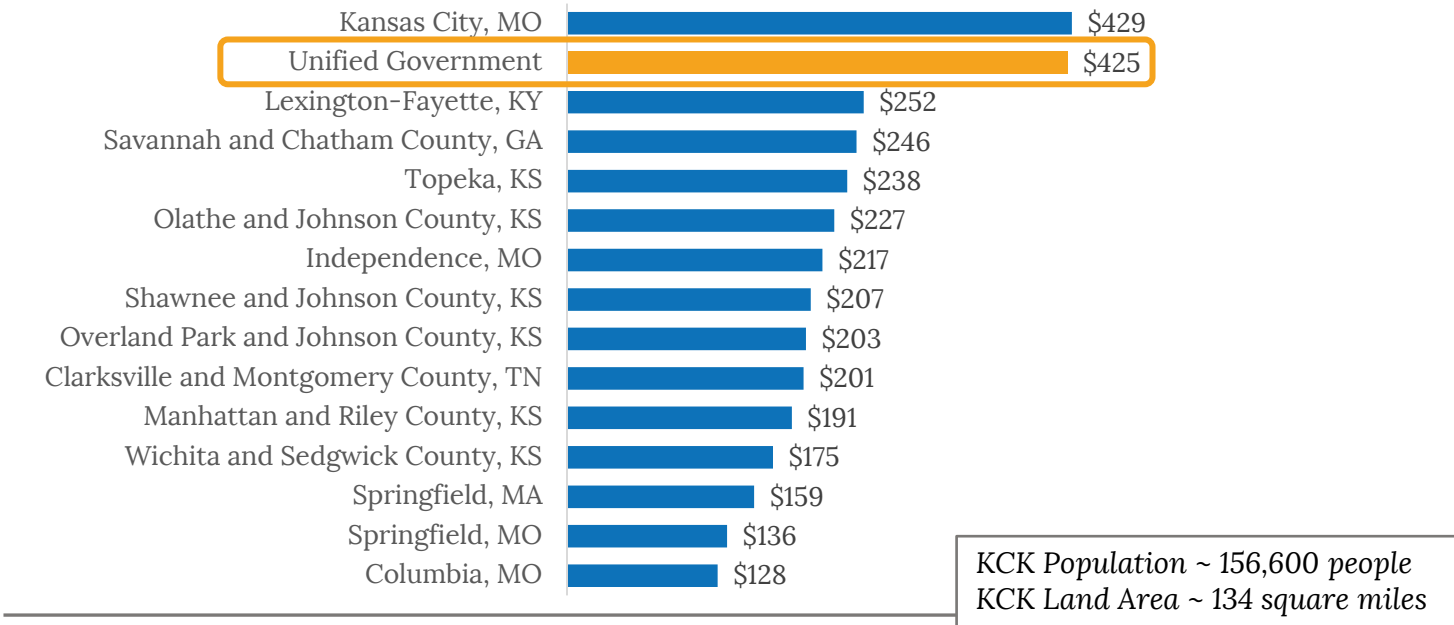
PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire & EMS Services

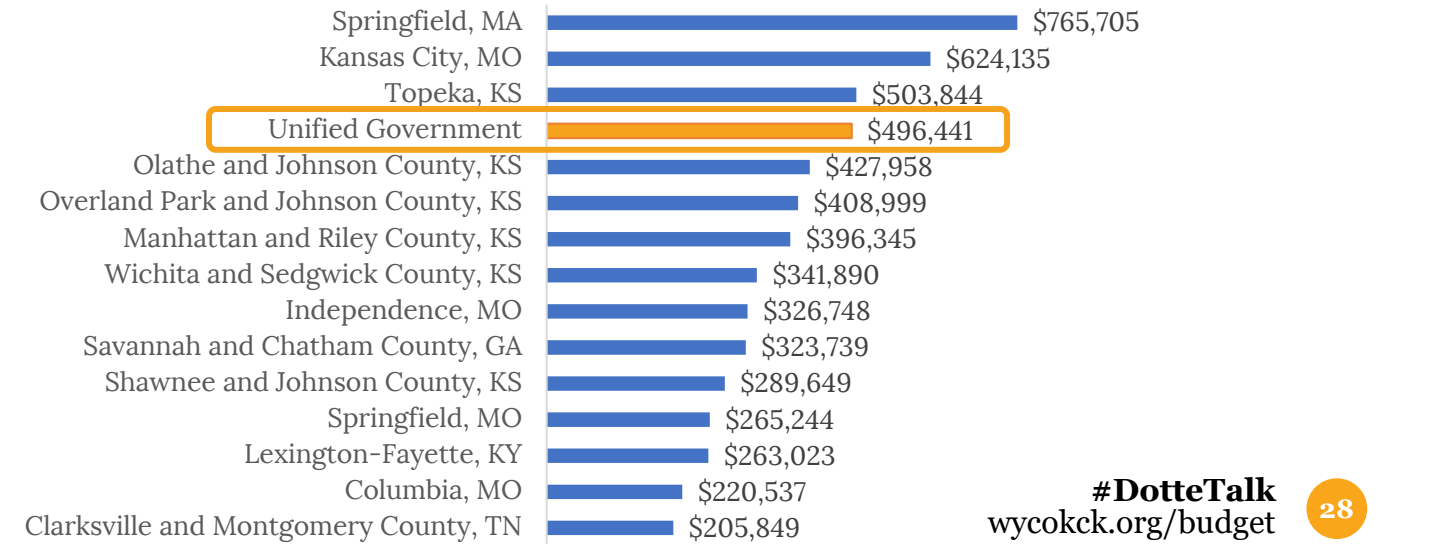
- Unified Government dedicates nearly 2x funding per capita than other communities on Fire/EMS.
- Challenge of addressing and funding a geographic service across a community with low population density
 - Note Springfield, MA, one of the lowest per capita spending levels but the highest for the geographic area
- FIRE/EMS Services received high satisfaction rankings on the Community Survey.



CITY AND COUNTY FIRE AND EMS FUNDING PER CAPITA
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



CITY AND COUNTY FIRE AND EMS FUNDING PER SQUARE MILE
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022

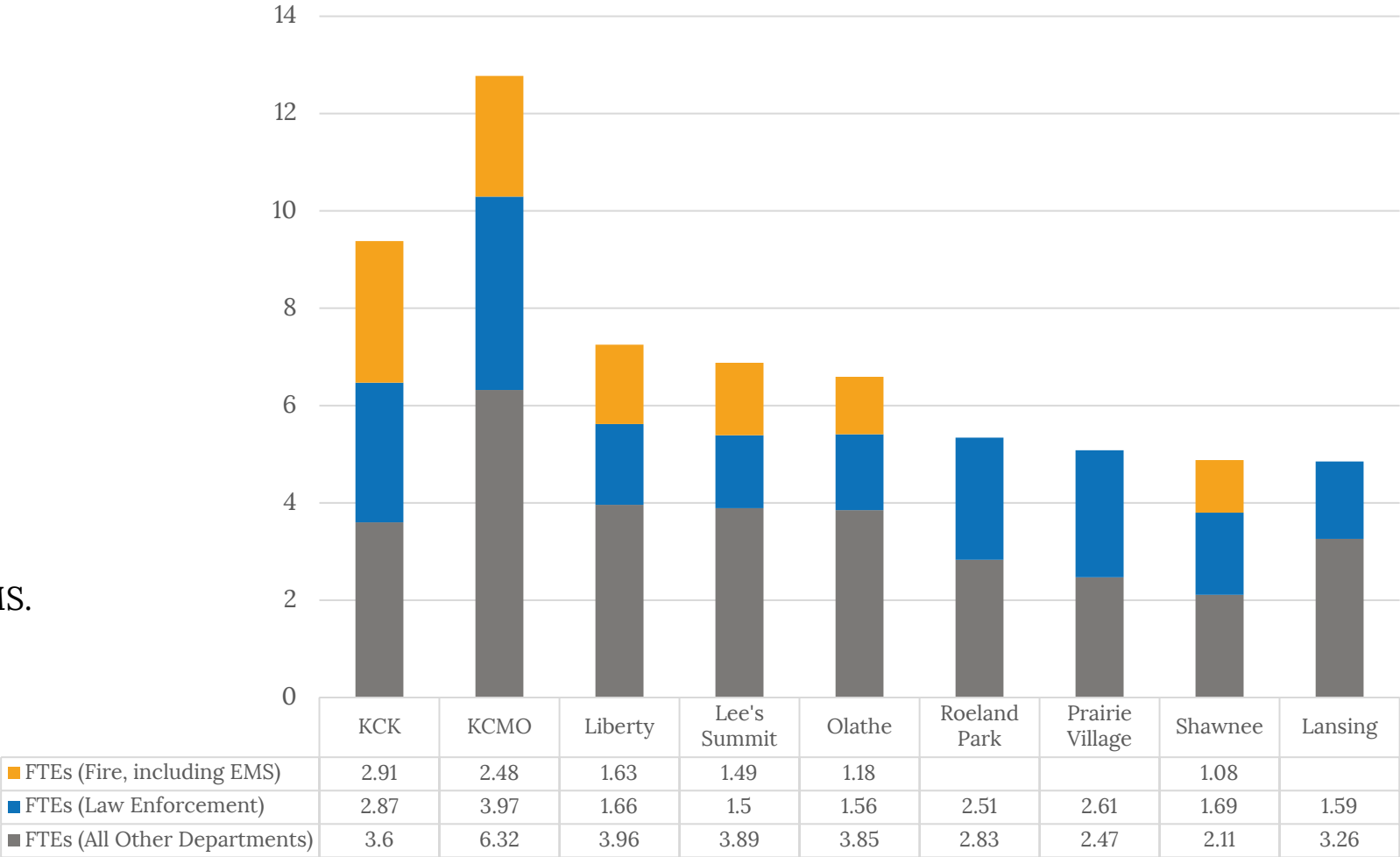


PUBLIC SAFETY
Workforce

- 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



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.

Lower property taxes.

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

Invest in KCK small businesses.

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

Enforce the fines and fees at the codes and building inspection departments.

Reduce BPU PILOT fees for residential customers, not commercial.

Rebuild Quindaro.

Discontinue tax abatement program for commercial property

We need more affordable housing.

REVENUE/GROWTH

Simulator

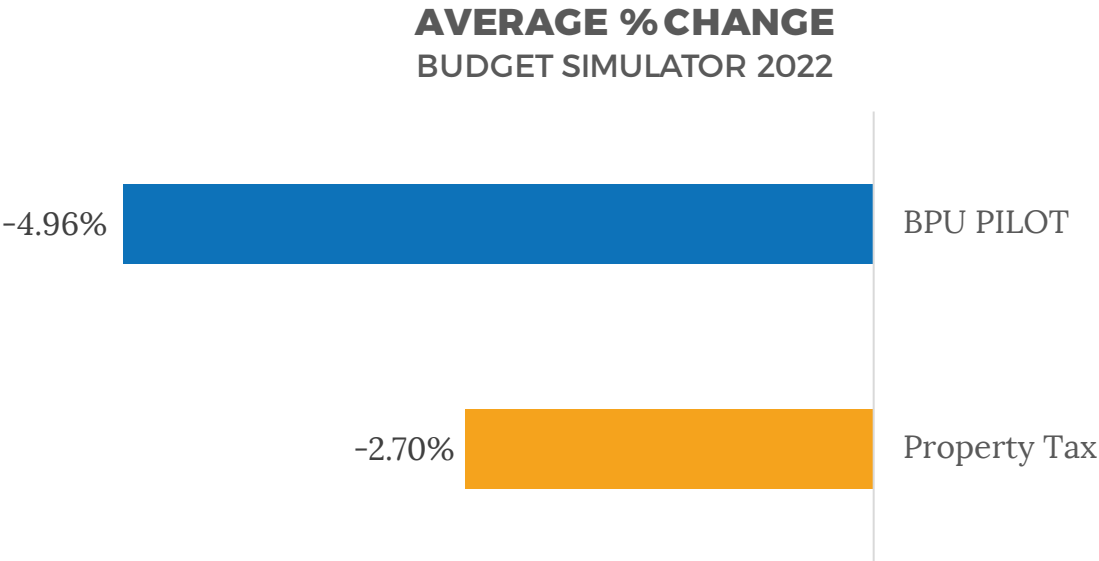
DotteTalk



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

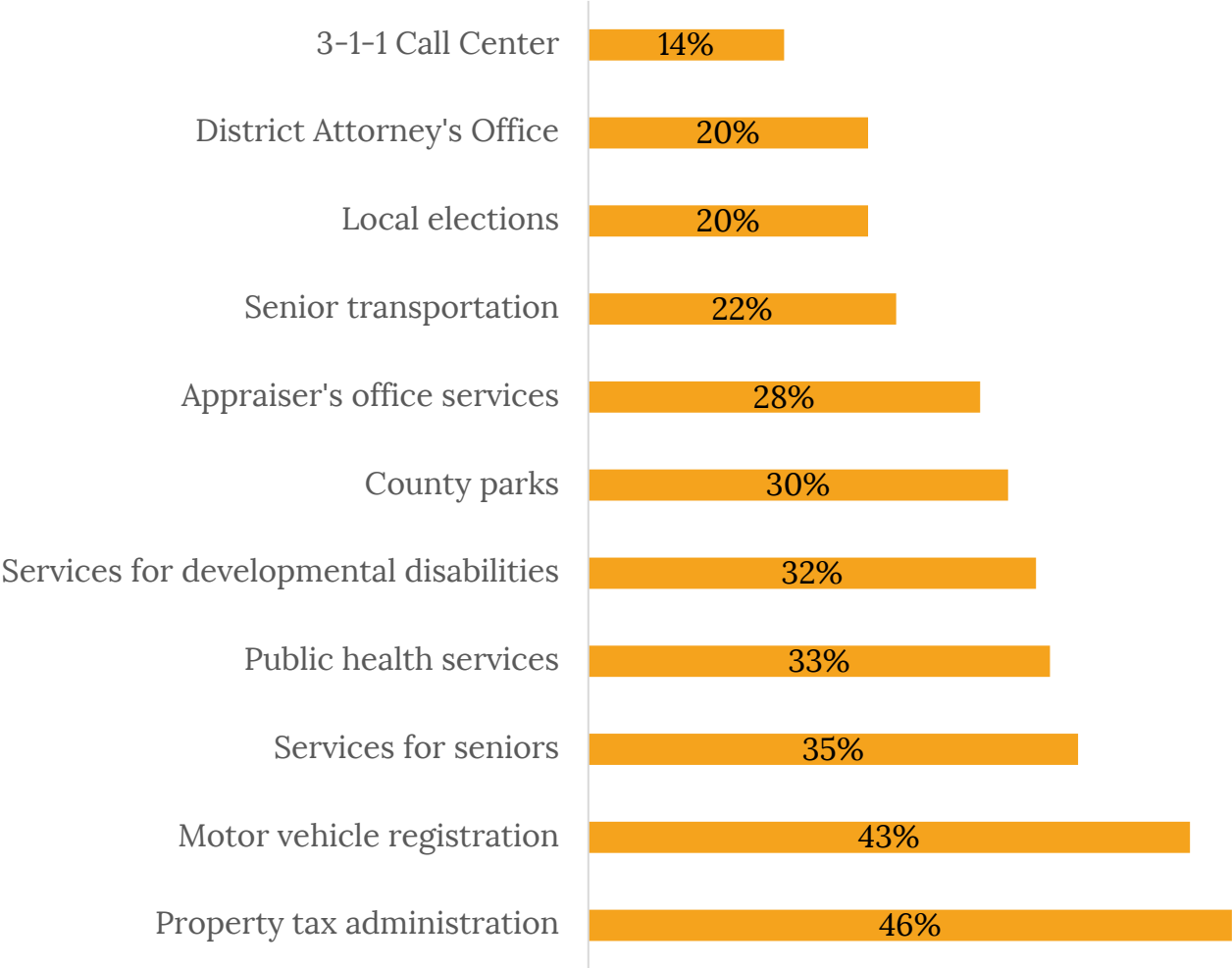
Tax Administration

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



County Services That Should Receive the Most Emphasis for Improvement Over Next Two (2) Years

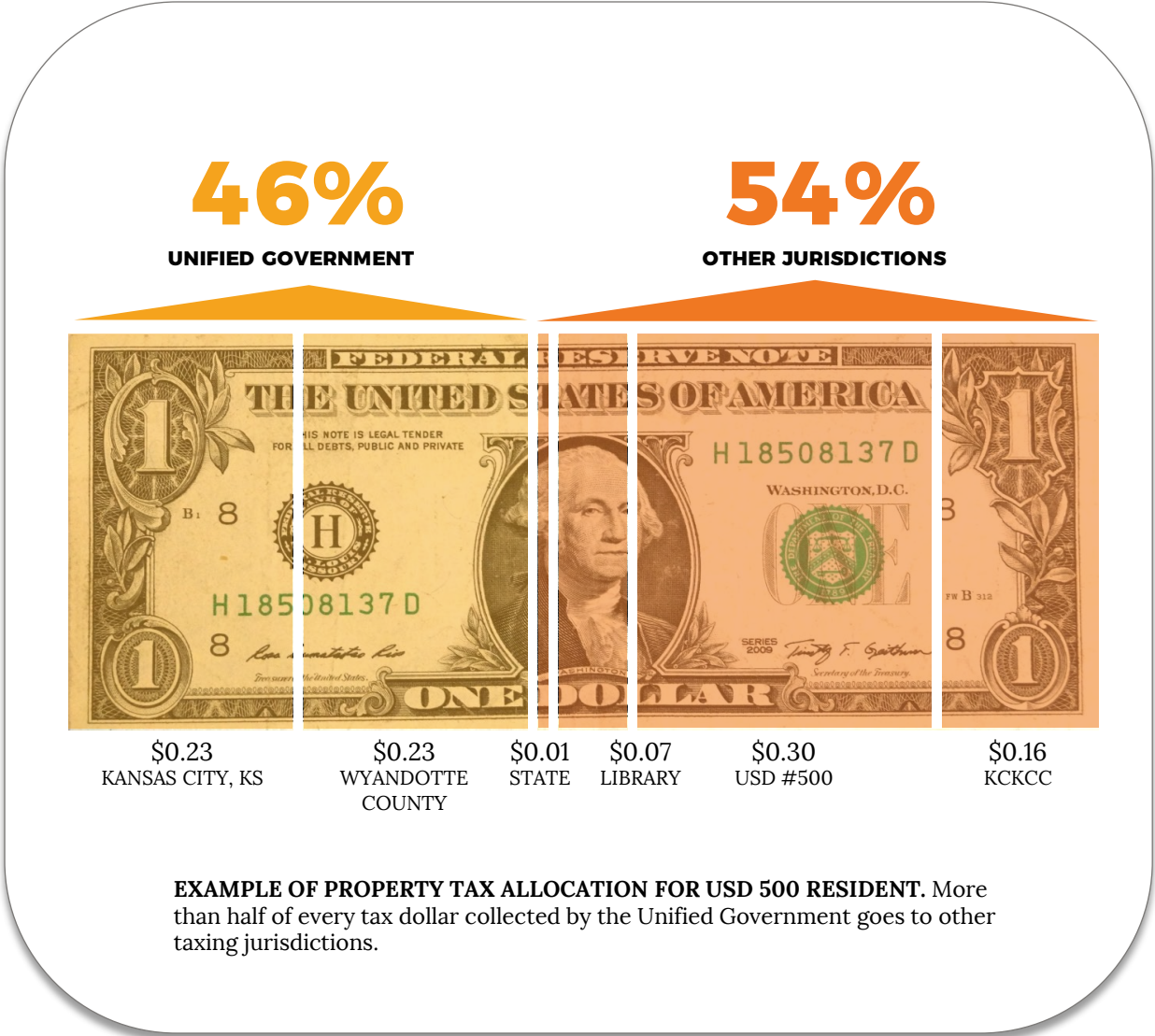
COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022



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.

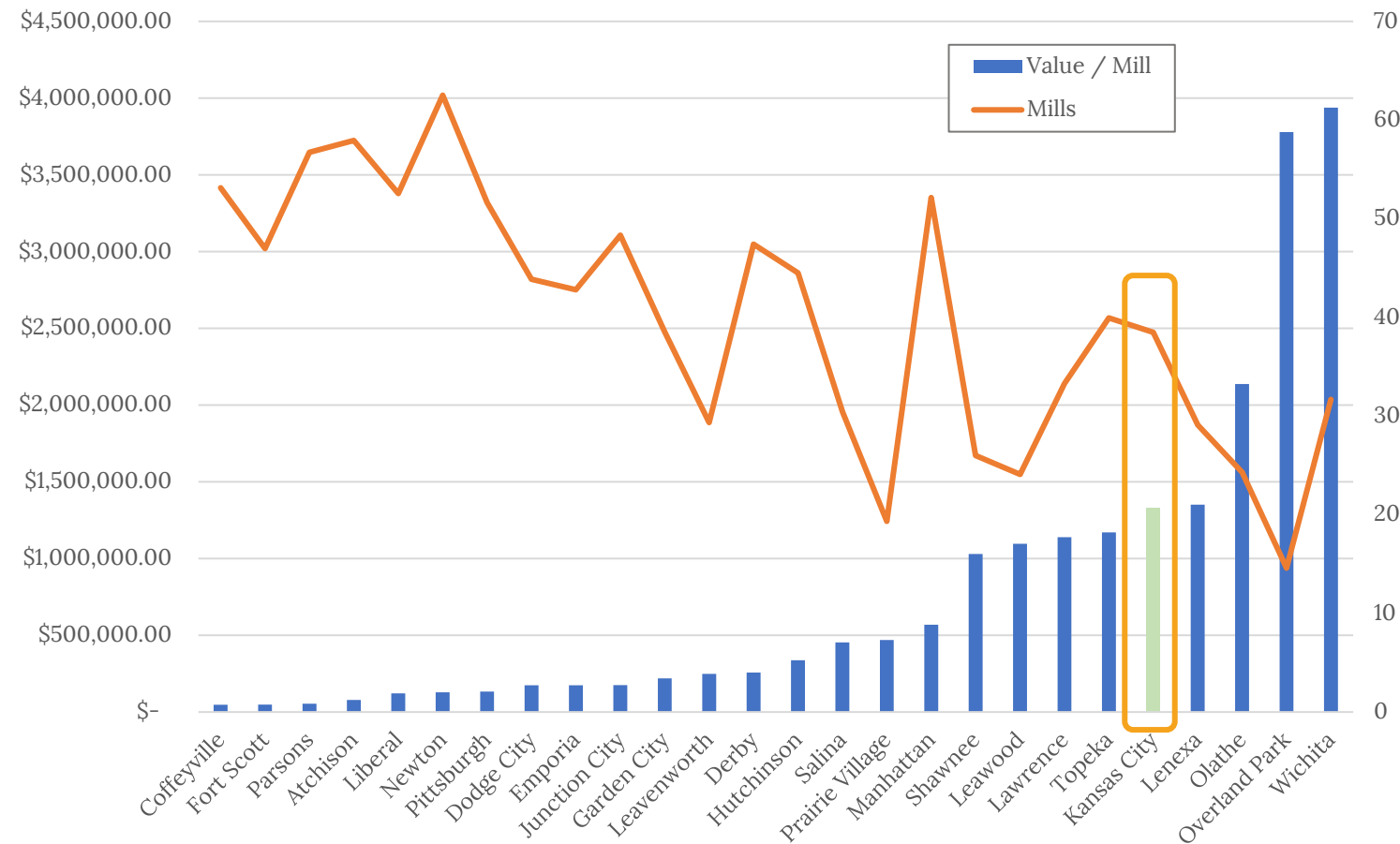


PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: CITY Awareness and Understanding

- 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.



City Mill Levies and Value Per Mill Comparison



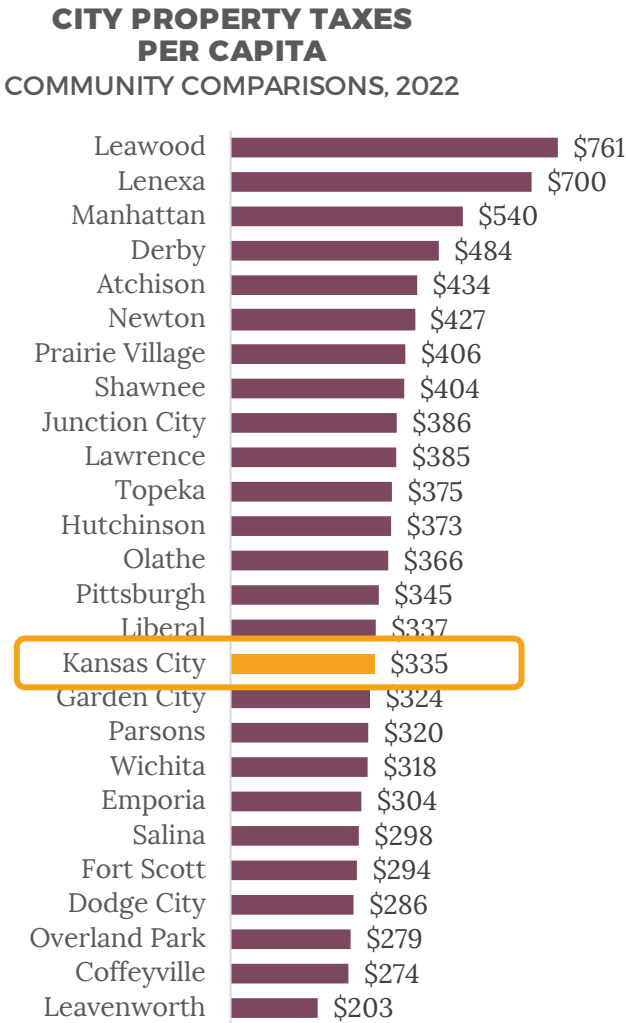
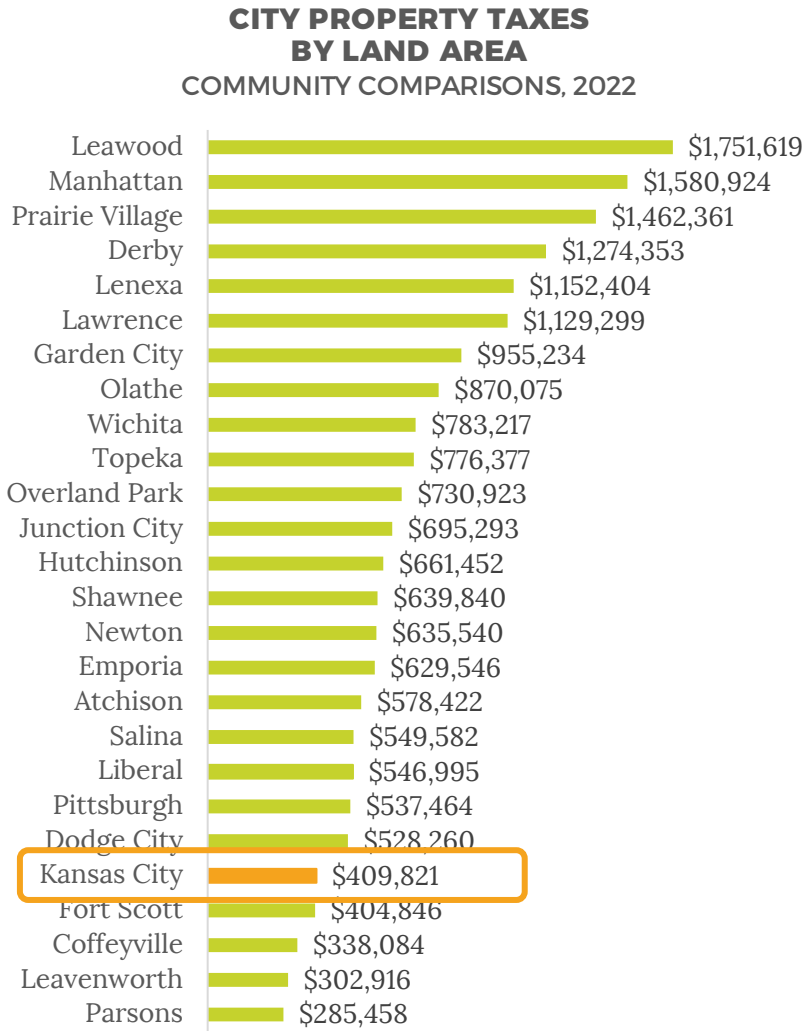
Real Estate Property Tax Equation

Value Per Mill* x Mill Rate = 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.



KCK Population for Comparison ~ 156,600 people
KCK Land Area for Comparison ~ 134 square miles

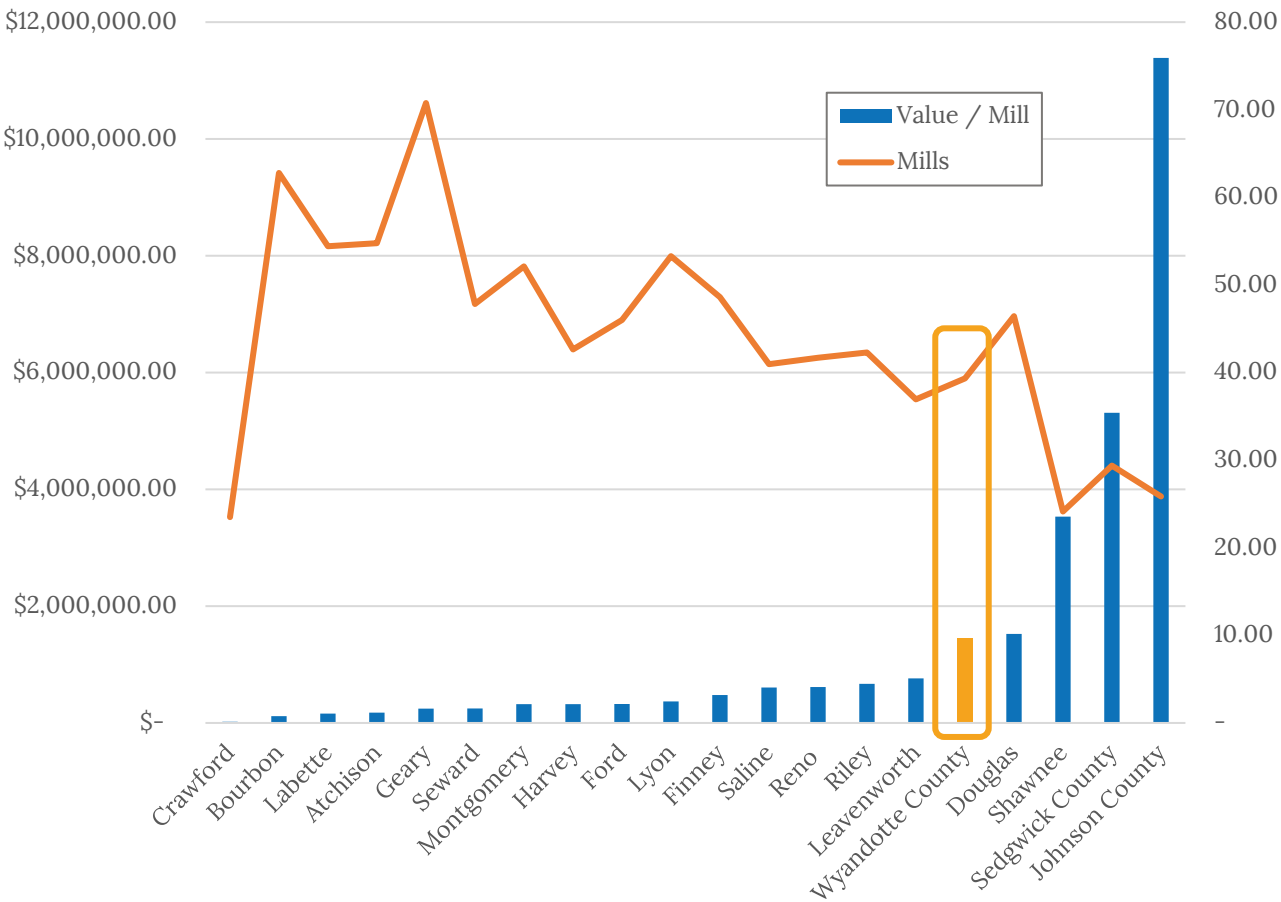


PROPERTY TAX BURDEN: COUNTY Awareness and Understanding

- 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.



County Mill Levies and Value Per Mill Comparison



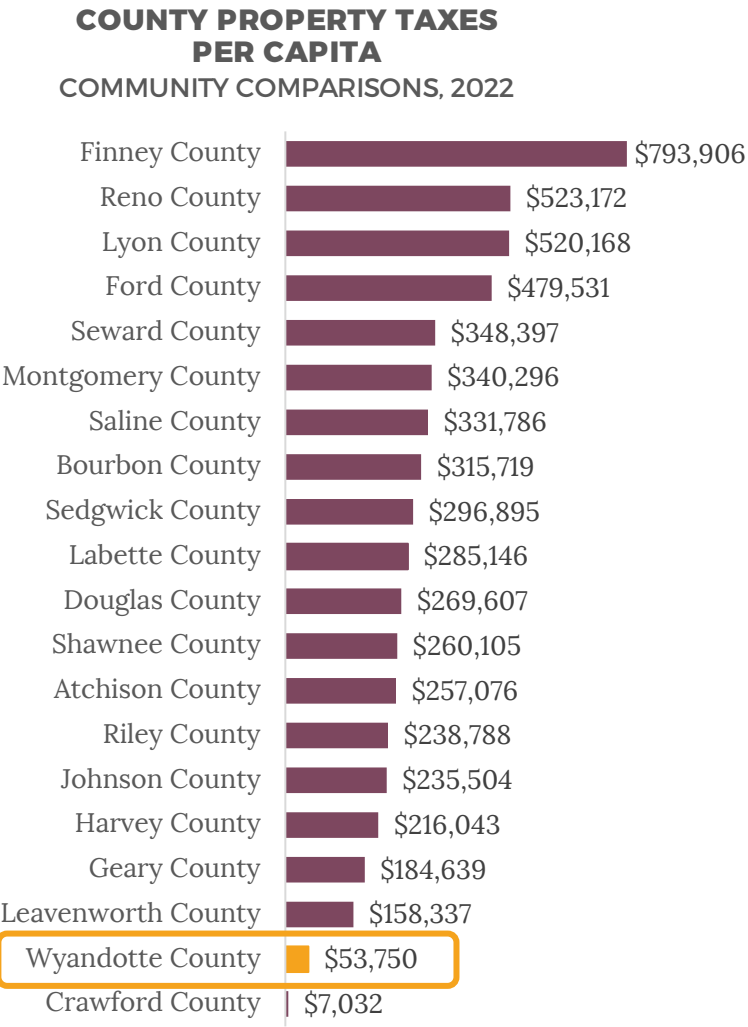
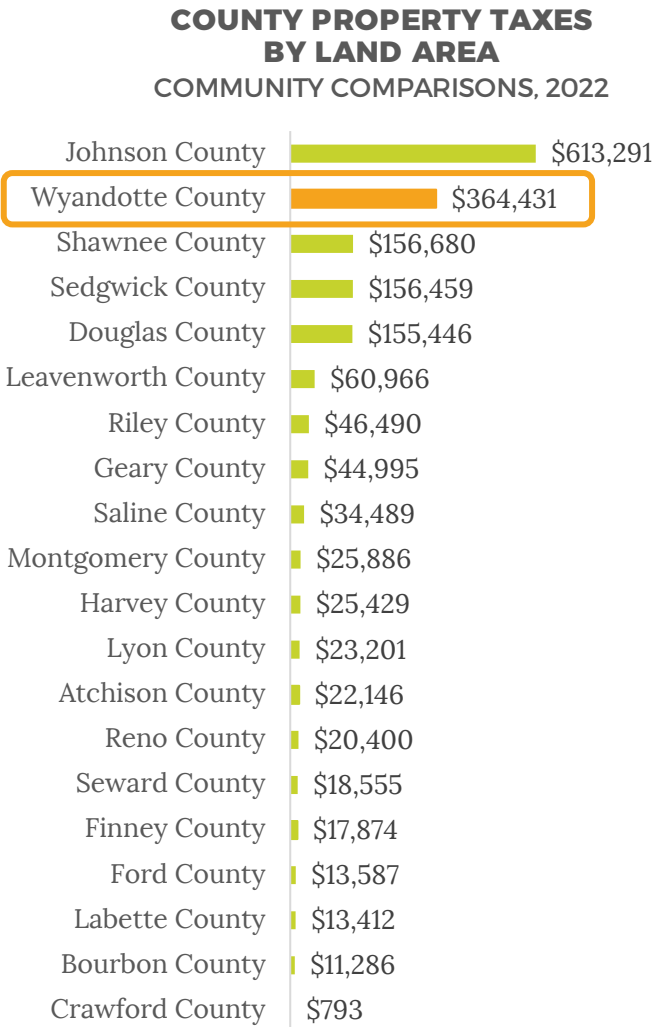
Real Estate Property Tax Equation

Value Per Mill* x **Mill Rate** = 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.



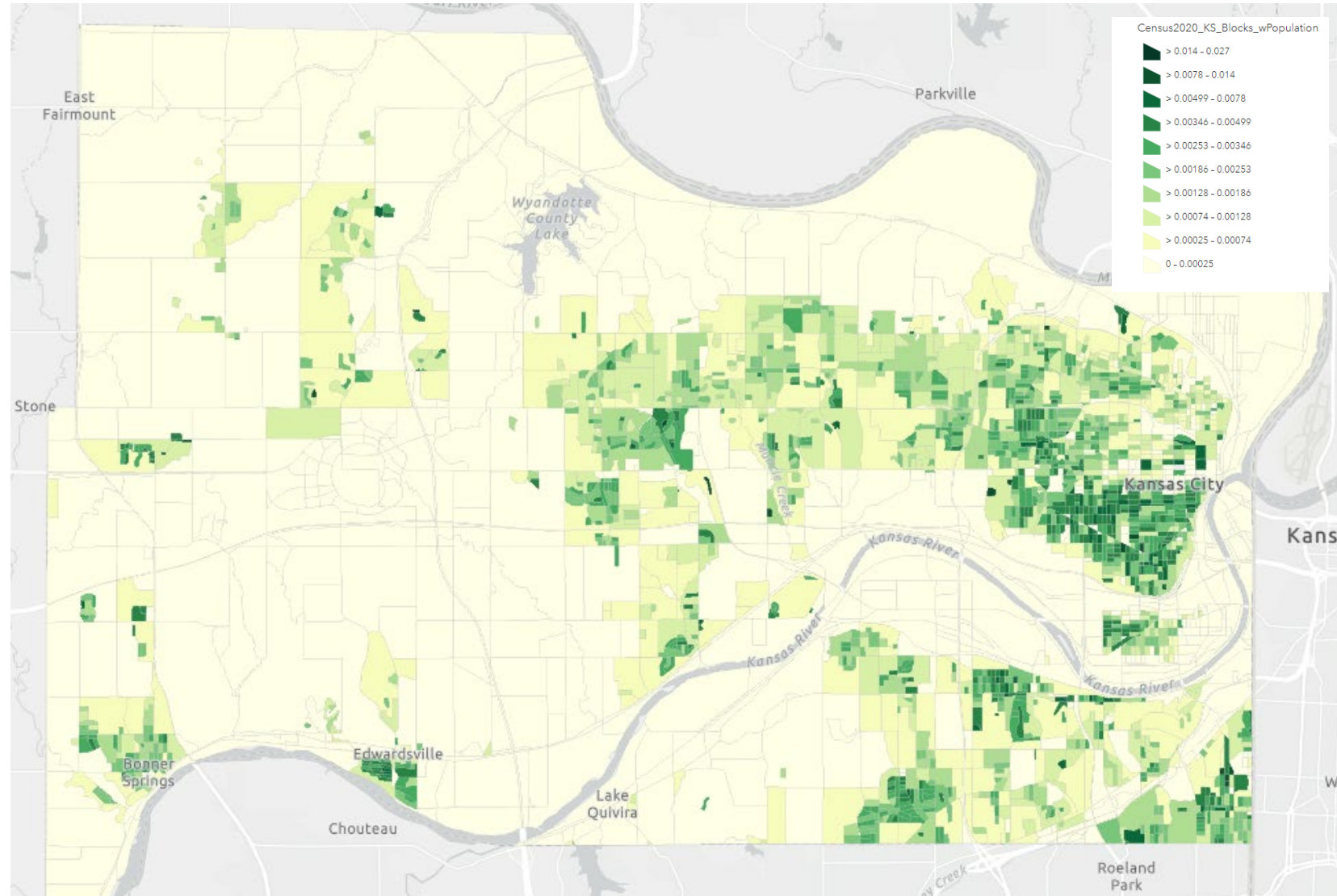
WYCO Population for Comparison ~ 164,300 people
WYCO Land Area for Comparison ~ 152 square miles



POPULATION DENSITY

Distribution of Services

- 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.

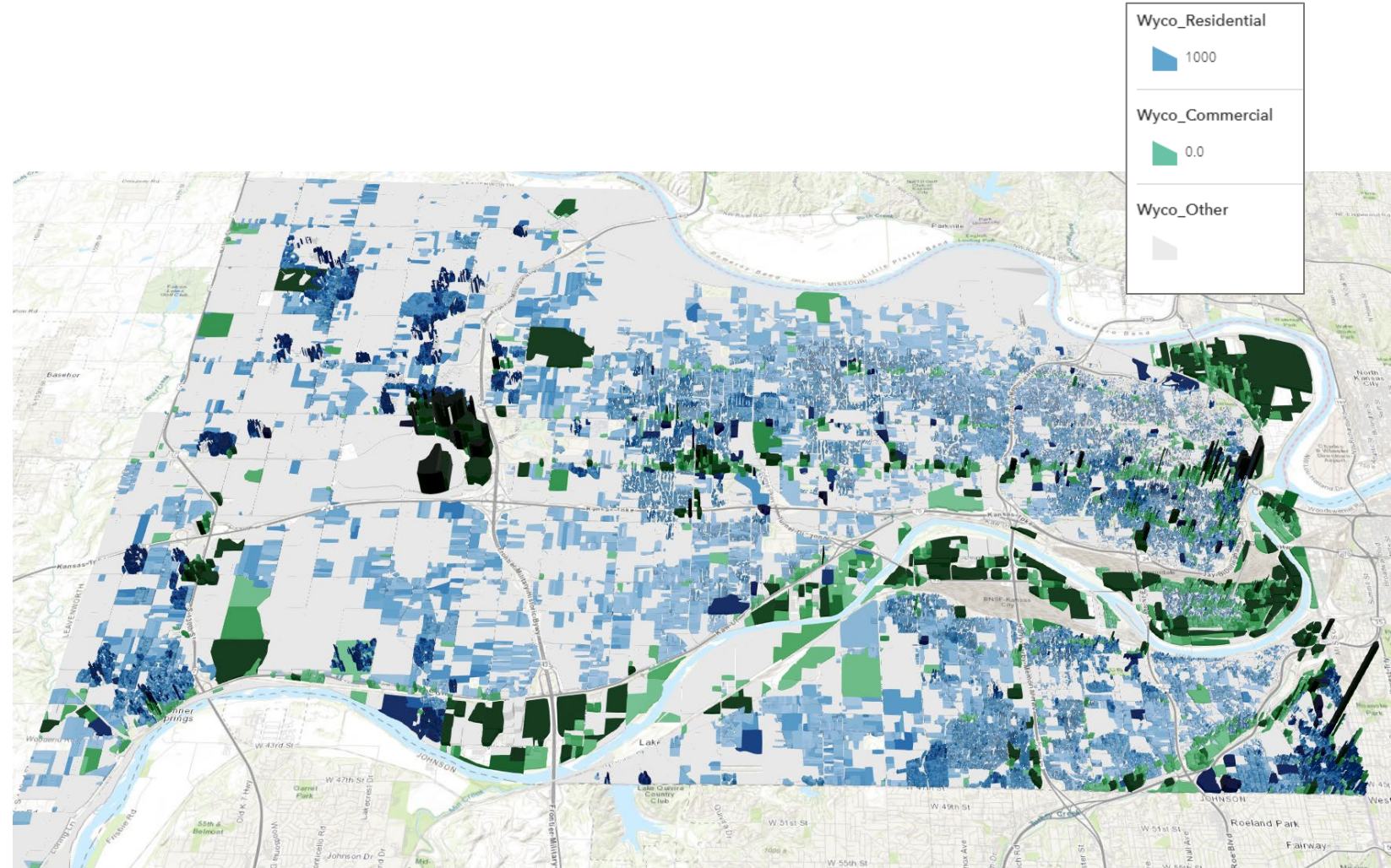


Source: US 2020 Census Data – Census Block Population / Census Block Land Area

VALUE DENSITY

Distribution of Services

- 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



SNAPSHOT

Public Works & Infrastructure

Roads and bridges, storm and sewer, other infrastructure, buildings and facilities, including Parks & Recreation.



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.

Community Services Importance & Satisfaction

2022 COMMUNITY SURVEY, ETC INSTITUTE

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.

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



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.

PUBLIC WORKS & PARKS

Simulator

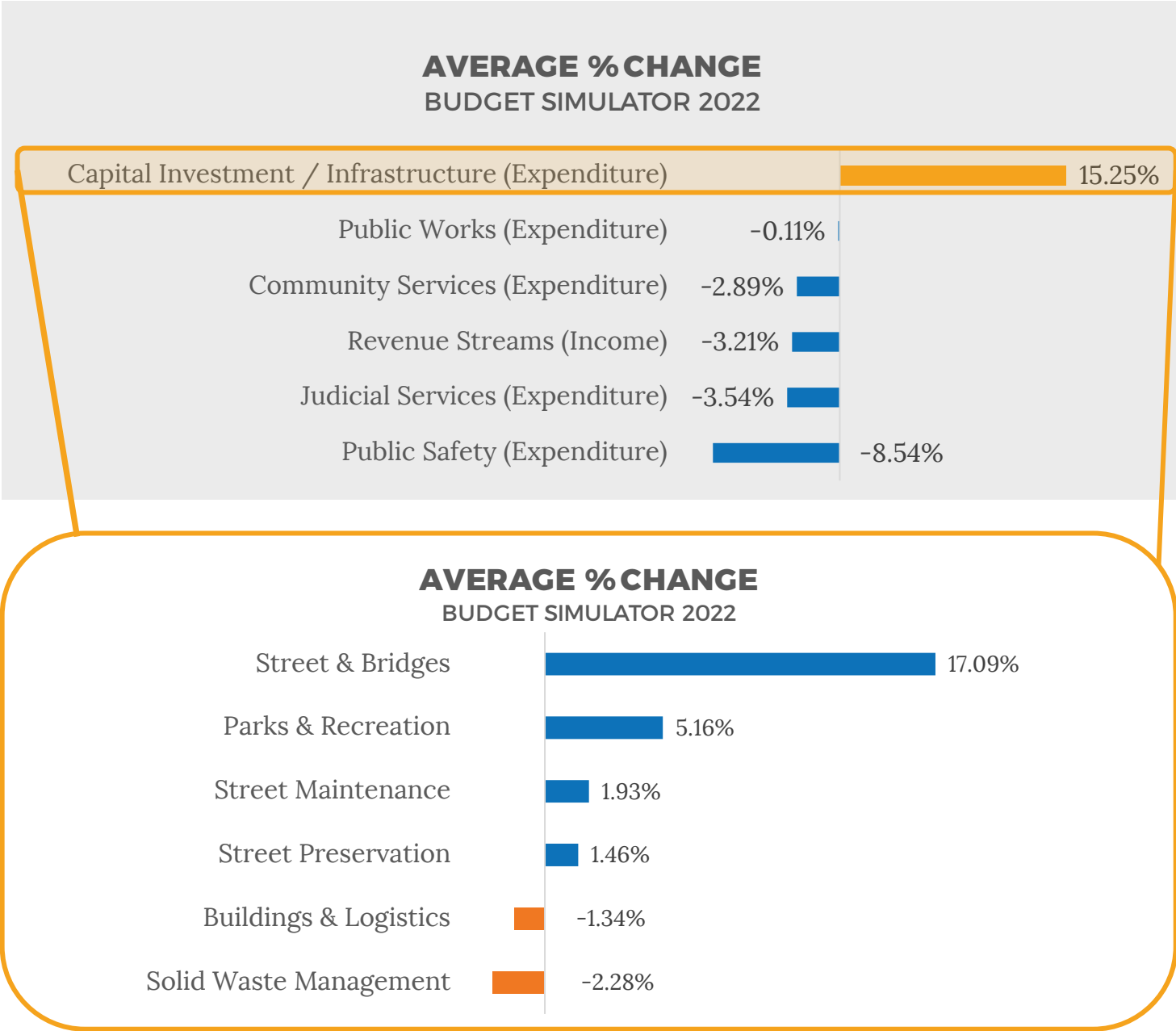
DotteTalk



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



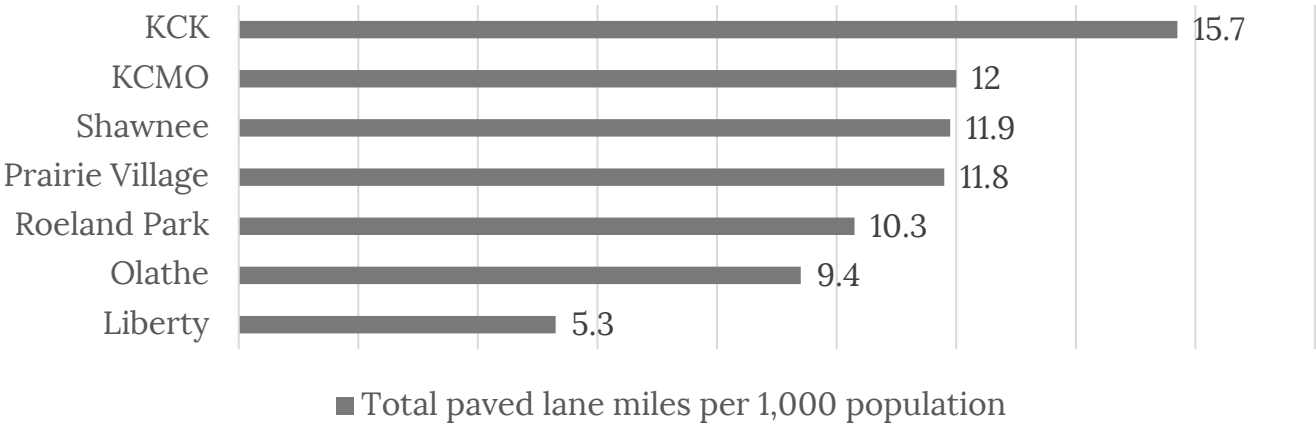
BENCHMARKING

Paved Miles and Dedicated Staff

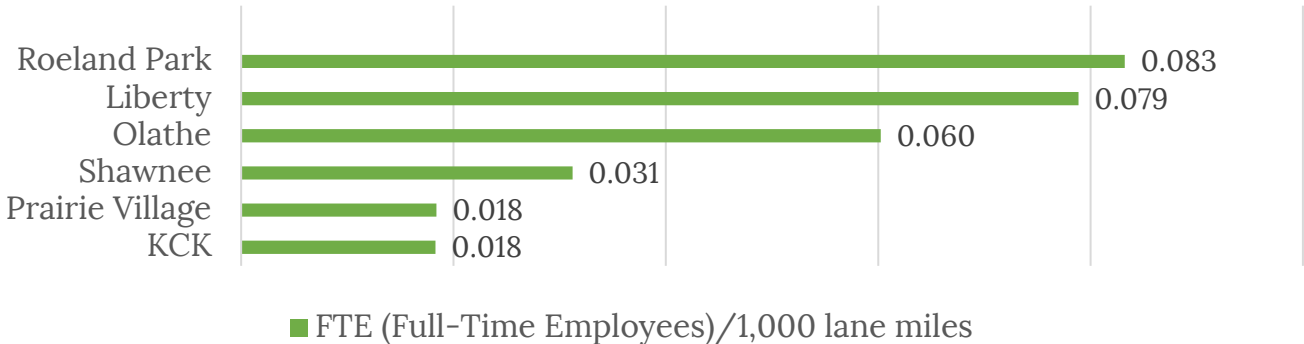
- We heard support for investing in training and staff development to help identify efficiencies and improve service delivery.
- Community supported work underway to assess the organization for improvement.



Total Paved Lane Miles
MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021

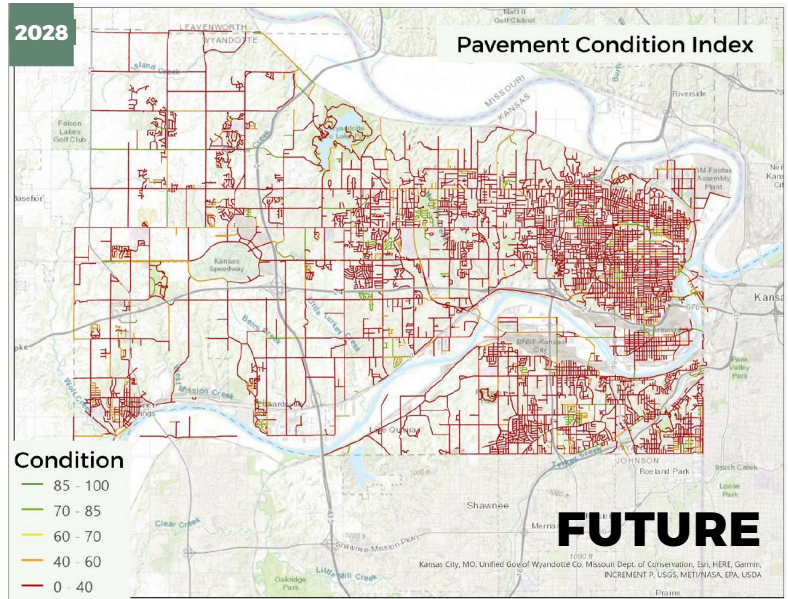


FTEs Dedicated to Street Maintenance
Per 1,000 Paved Lane Miles
MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021

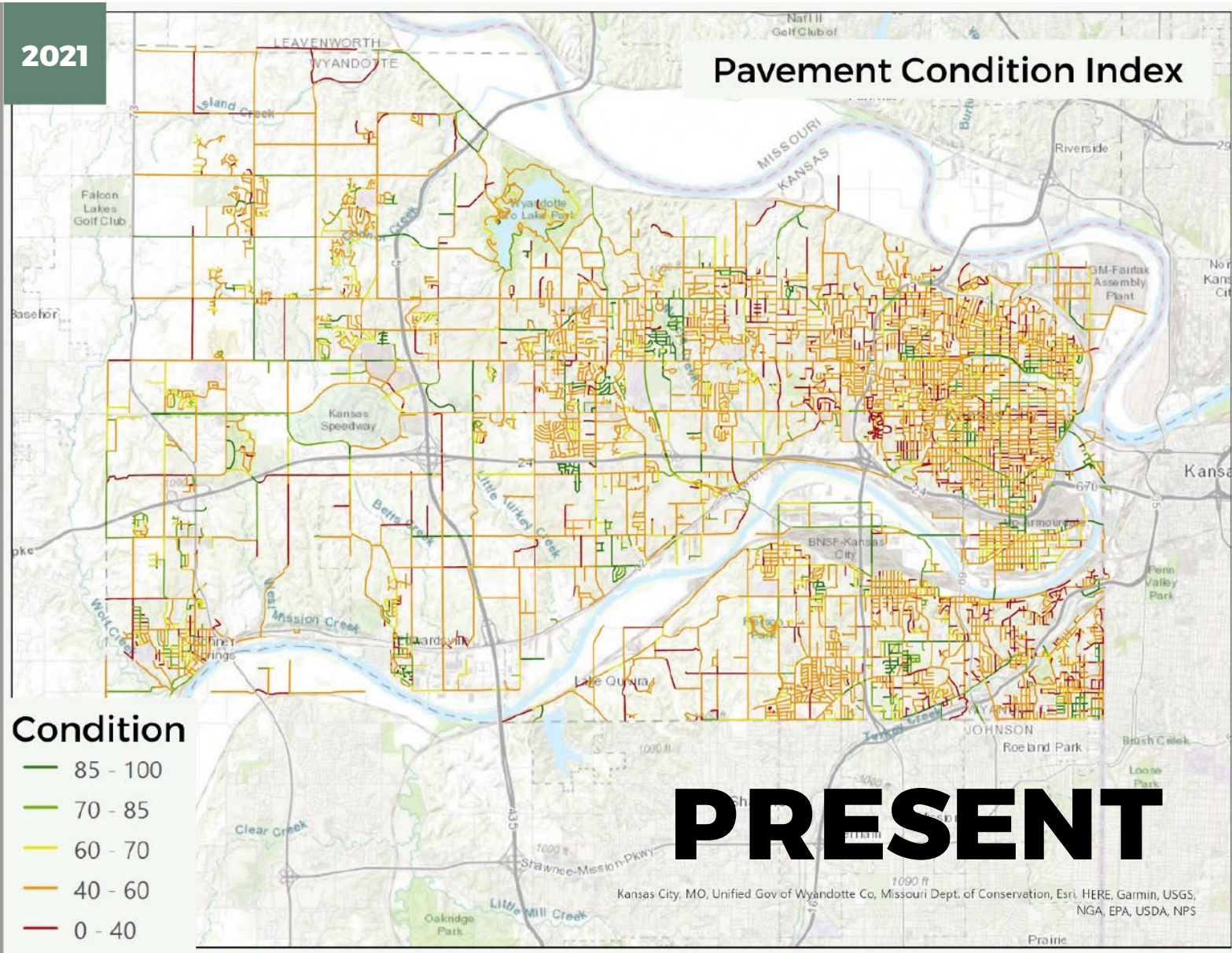


STREET STATUS

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.

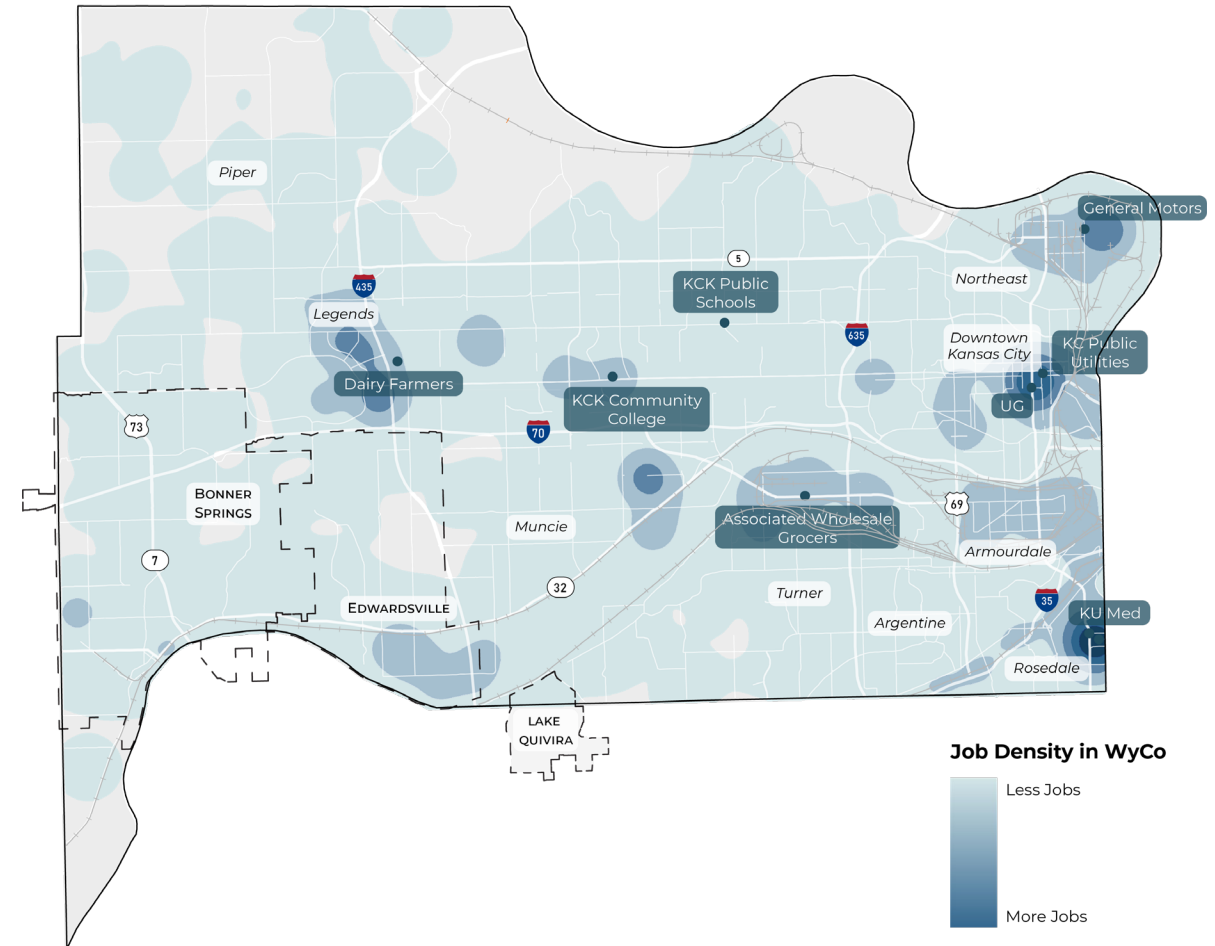


550,000

average daily trips by driving

3.4

average daily trips per capita



GRAPHIC FROM GODOTTE FOUNDATIONS REPORT. Sources: KC Business Journal Major Employers List, US Census Center for Economic Studies – OnTheMap (2018)

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



NEXT STEPS

Following Up on Community Input

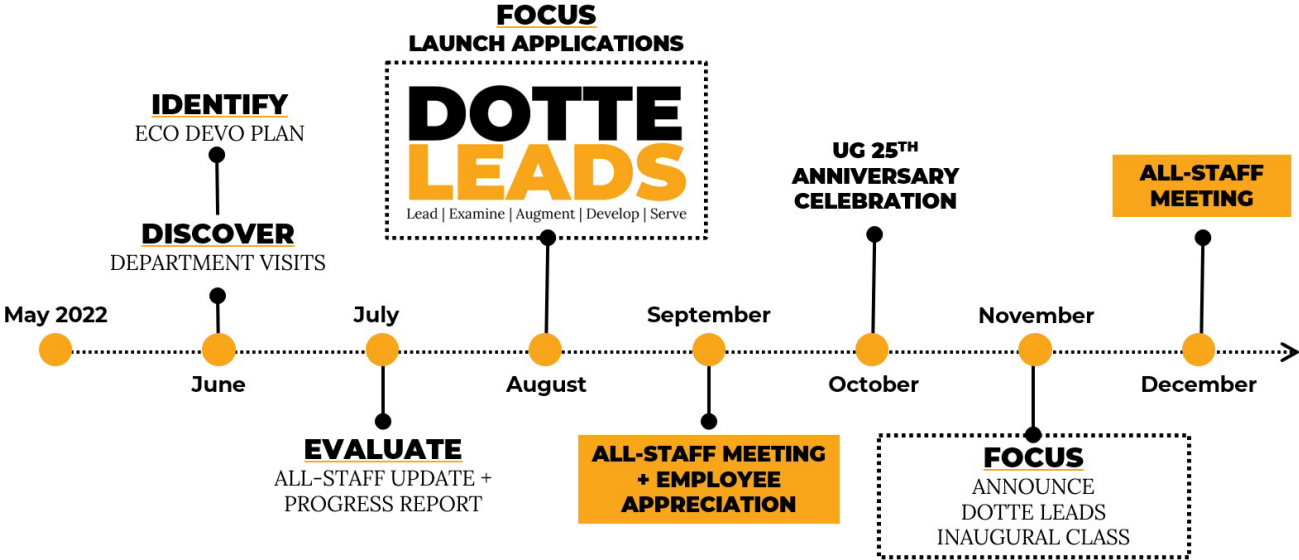
- We heard support for investing in training and staff development to help identify efficiencies and improve service delivery.
- Community supported work underway to assess the Unified Government for improvement.
- This is **UG Forward**.



NEXT STEPS

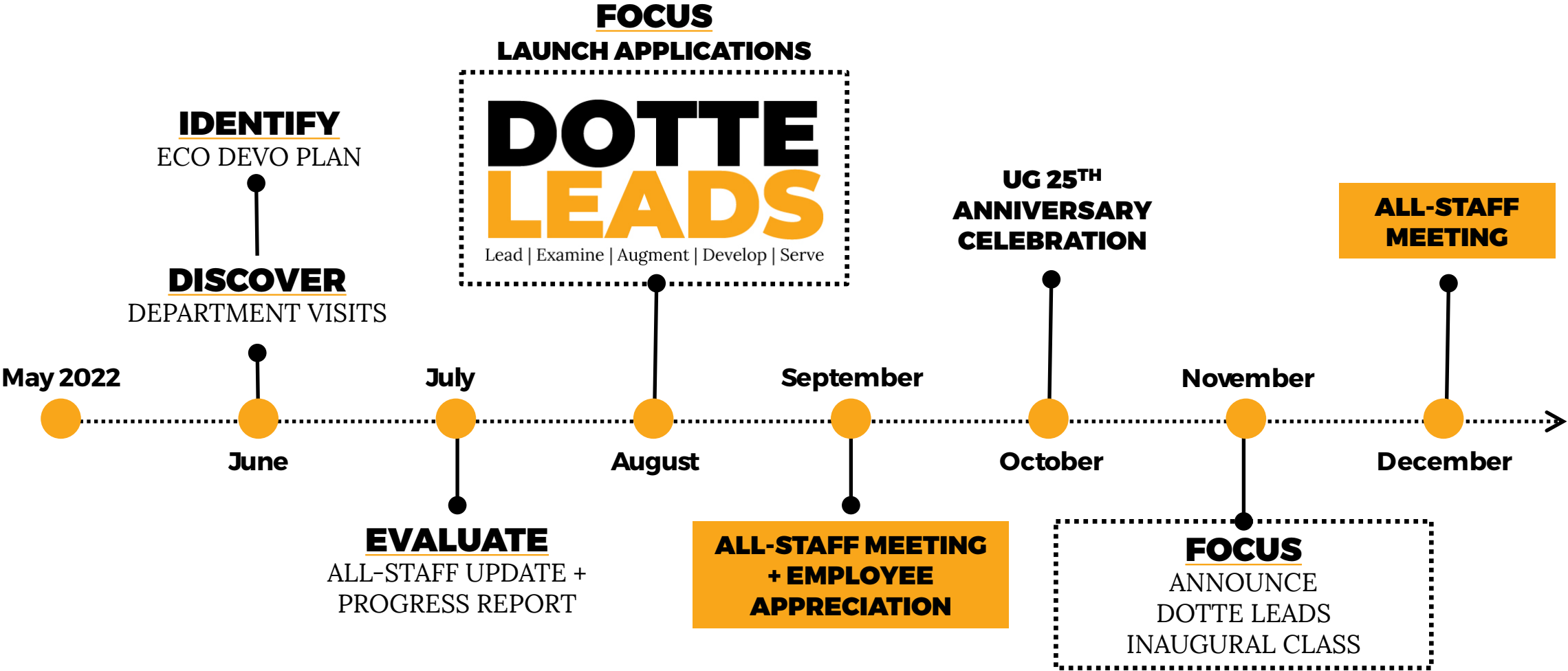
Engagement Center of Excellence

- 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





BUILDING COMMUNITY BUDGET PRIORITIES

2023 DotteTalk

wycokck.org/budget



**UG
FWD**

APPENDIX: DOTTE TALK AND BUDGET SIMULATOR

Community Comments



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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Expand services to the western part of the county	6
Reallocate spending	5
Increase spending	25
Continue providing this service	4
Improve this service	5
Other	1

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

- Safe routes to school program
- **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

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

Public Safety Comments (1 of 2)

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Reallocate Spending	12
Corruption	7
Consolidate Public Safety	4
Consequences are Inaccurate	5
Other	2

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.
- Why do we need police and sheriff? Move the sheriff

funds to police and do away with sheriff.

- 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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Progressive Property Tax	2
Find other Revenue Streams	7
Do not increase Sales Tax	3
Lower residential BPU PILOT, not Commercial	4
Gentrification	2
Waste	2
Cut taxes	2
Other Taxing Entities	3
Other	6

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.

Revenue + Growth (2 of 2)

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

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

- 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.

Public Works & Infrastructure

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
More Infrastructure Investment	9
Sidewalk maintenance and improvement	3
Street Maintenance	5
Trash Services	5
Reduce Number of UG Buildings	4

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.

Parks & Recreation

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Increase funding	20
Add parks/pools/centers	4
More programming	8
Improve existing parks	5
Find efficiencies	4

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.

- We need another swimming pool – use contracted labor or create programs for certifying people who work at the pools through schools and grants

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Stop Subsidies for Big Business	6
More Economic Development	4
Affordable Housing	7
Support Small Local Businesses	6
Other	3

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.

- Stop subsidizing private athletic fields
- Stop prioritizing development over community
- Discontinue the Tax Abatement Program for commercial property.

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Update Technology	2
Corruption	4
Maintain or Increase Funding	2
Other	1

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

Fire Department

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Reallocate Spending	8
Consolidate Public Safety	2
Corruption	3
Increase Funding	1
Other	1

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 trumplers. 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.

Police Department (1 of 2)

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 tallying the number of times each theme was mentioned.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Transition to Community Policing or Community Services	8
Increase Funding	3
Animal Services	4
Consolidate Public Safety	2
Consequences are Inaccurate	6
Corruption	7
Other	4

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.

Sheriff's Department

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.

Theme	Number of Mentions
Reallocate Spending	5
Consolidate Public Safety	3
Consequences are Inaccurate	4
Corruption	4
Other	3

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.