

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

July 14, 2014

Tracy Corr opened the meeting on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City/County/Building, in Lincoln, NE.

Attendance

Fifteen citizens and four staff attended:

Tracy Corr – 40th & A NA	Jeff Schwebke – Arnold Heights NA
Russ Irwin – Clinton NA	Pat Anderson-Sifuentez – Everett NA
Paula Rhian – Everett NA	Myrna Coleman – Highlands NA
Scott Richert – Indian Village NA	Amy Karabel -- Irvingdale NA
Dennis Hecht – Meadowlane Area RA	Mike DeKalb – University Place CO
Bill Vocasek – West A NA	Lin Quenzer – Mayor's Office
Jon Carlson – Mayor's Office	Adam Rhoads – Health Department
Sheree Goertzen – Neighbor@Works-Lincoln	Mike Renken -- Neighbor@Works-Lincoln
Shawn Ryba -- Neighbor@Works-Lincoln	Russell Miller – Lincoln Neigh. Alliance
Wynn Hjermsstad – Urban Development Dept.	

Welcome & Introductions, Volunteer to Take Notes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairwoman Corr. Everyone introduced themselves. Paula Rhian agreed to take notes. Mayor Beutler was not able to attend.

Proposed Zoning Amendment – Veterinary Facilities (Paul Barnes, Planning Department)

A proposed zoning amendment memo was distributed by Paul Barnes from the planning department. (See attached) The amendment will allow R-T districts to have veterinary facilities. This was brought about by the All Feline Veterinary Hospital wishing to relocate. Neighborhood representatives were supportive of the change. **See Attachment 1**

City Budget Review (Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff for Mayor Beutler)

A presentation on the proposed City budget was given by Rick Hoppe, Chief of Staff for Mayor Beutler. The public hearings start July 15th with the last hearing being held on August 11th. The City Council will vote on the budget August 13th. If you have any comments to send to your City Council members, please send them prior to August 13th. Neighborhood representatives were supportive of the staff increases and appreciative of the increased funding to sidewalk repair/replacement and to playground equipment repair/capital investments. **See Attachment 2**

Announcements and Handouts

- Jon Carlson reported that the **Neglected Property Ordinance** will be on the City Council agenda on August 4th. If you want to make recommendations to your City Council members, now is the time to do so.
- There will be a scrap tire collection on October 11th. **See Attachment 3**
- It was announced that the **Stream Adoption** program has restarted. Information is available at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/watrshed/volunteer/>.

Next Month

It was recommended that the **Capital Improvement Budget** be presented at the August meeting.

Submitted by Paula Rhian

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable

FROM: Paul Barnes, Planner

SUBJECT: Proposed Zoning Text Amendment for Veterinary Facilities

DATE: July 14, 2014

CC:

The Planning Department has received a request to amend the zoning ordinance to allow veterinary facilities as a permitted conditional use in the R-T zoning district. The All Feline Hospital would like to relocate to a location that is zoned R-T where the use is currently not permitted. Since this is a text amendment to the zoning code, the proposed change would have an impact on veterinary facilities across the City.

The Planning Department is proposing additional changes with this amendment to allow veterinary facilities as a conditional use in the O-1, O-2 and O-3 zoning districts. The Planning Department also proposes an amendment to clarify several complicated sections of the zoning code having to do with veterinary facilities and kennels. This amendment does not propose kennels as a permitted conditional use in the R-T, O-1, O-2 or O-3 districts.

Veterinary facilities and kennels are defined separately in the zoning code. A veterinary facility is essentially a medical clinic for animals that may include boarding of animals as an accessory use. A kennel is a facility that has a primary use of boarding animals.

Currently, veterinary facilities are a conditional use in the B1, B-2, B-3, H-2, H-3 and H-4 zoning districts. A veterinary facility can be located in these districts as long as they comply with the stated conditions which only apply to the outdoor area for a veterinary facility or kennel. The conditions are:

(1) Any associated outdoor area must be located no closer than 200 feet from any residential district.

(2) No more than 3 animals are permitted in the outdoor area at any one time.

If the two conditions above cannot be met, the applicant may apply for a special permit to have an outdoor area less than 200 feet from any residential district or to allow more than 3 animals in the outdoor area at any one time. Under the proposed amendment, veterinary facilities not meeting these conditions in the R-T, O-1, O-2 or O-3 districts would be able to apply for a special permit as well.

Some veterinary facilities are indoor only and do not include an outdoor area. The All Feline Hospital is an example of a veterinary facility that does not have an outdoor area. If a veterinary facility does not have an outdoor area then the conditions stated above do not apply. The veterinary facility use would otherwise be in compliance with the zoning code.

A veterinary facility functions similarly to an office for doctors or dentists. Most business in a veterinary facility is conducted inside an office setting and during normal business hours. The main difference between a veterinary facility and a medical office is that a veterinary facility may have an outdoor area for animals. A veterinary facility is a conditional use in order to regulate the outdoor areas, since the outdoor area has the potential to be a nuisance to adjacent properties. If the veterinary facility has no outdoor area or it can meet the conditions per the code, then the use should be compatible with adjacent properties.

Screening and landscaping may be a consideration for veterinary facilities located in the R-T, O-1, O-2 and O-3 districts. The R-T and O-3 districts require approval of a use permit prior to construction. Although not specifically prescribed, the use permit may recommend additional landscaping be provided to buffer the development along adjacent properties. The O-2 district is required to have landscaping between adjacent land uses and zoning districts of substantially different character, per the Screening and Landscaping Design Standards. The O-1 district is located near the County-City Building and the Capitol and abuts high-density residential near H Street and near J Street. Any exterior changes to the properties in this vicinity require additional review since they are located within the Capitol Environs District.

All districts where a veterinary facility and/or a kennel is a conditional use may apply for a special permit if they cannot meet the conditions per the code. The change to this section provides consistency to all districts where veterinary facilities and/or kennels are conditional uses. The same guidelines will apply to all districts in the special permits section of the code. Currently the guidelines apply only to outdoor exercise areas in the H-3 and H-4 zoning districts. Since it is likely that an outdoor area may be associated with a veterinary facility or kennel in any of the permitted conditional or permitted special districts, the guidelines should be applied consistently to all districts.

The guidelines in the special permit section are not mandatory requirements. The Planning

Commission will still have the authority to increase or decrease the requirements based on the location of the facility and the effect on adjacent land uses. This approach is consistent with other sections of the code including the use permits chapter and the community unit plan chapter.

This text amendment is scheduled for a public hearing at the Planning Commission on July 23rd.

City of Lincoln

Mayor's Recommended Biennial Budget 2014 - 2016



Lincoln is a national leader

LINCOLN'S NATIONAL RATINGS

Best Run Cities in America – 24/7 Wall Street 2013 - #4

Best Places for Business and Careers – Forbes 2013 - #4

Top 10 for 3 years – Gallup Healthways Well-Being Index

Best Small City in Which to Start Business – CreditDonkey 2013 - #3

Best Cities for Professional Women – Movato.com 2014 - #4

Safest and Most Secure Places to Live – Farmers Insurance 2013 - #8

New growth creates new opportunities



**\$750 million in private-sector development city-wide
2007 - 2013**

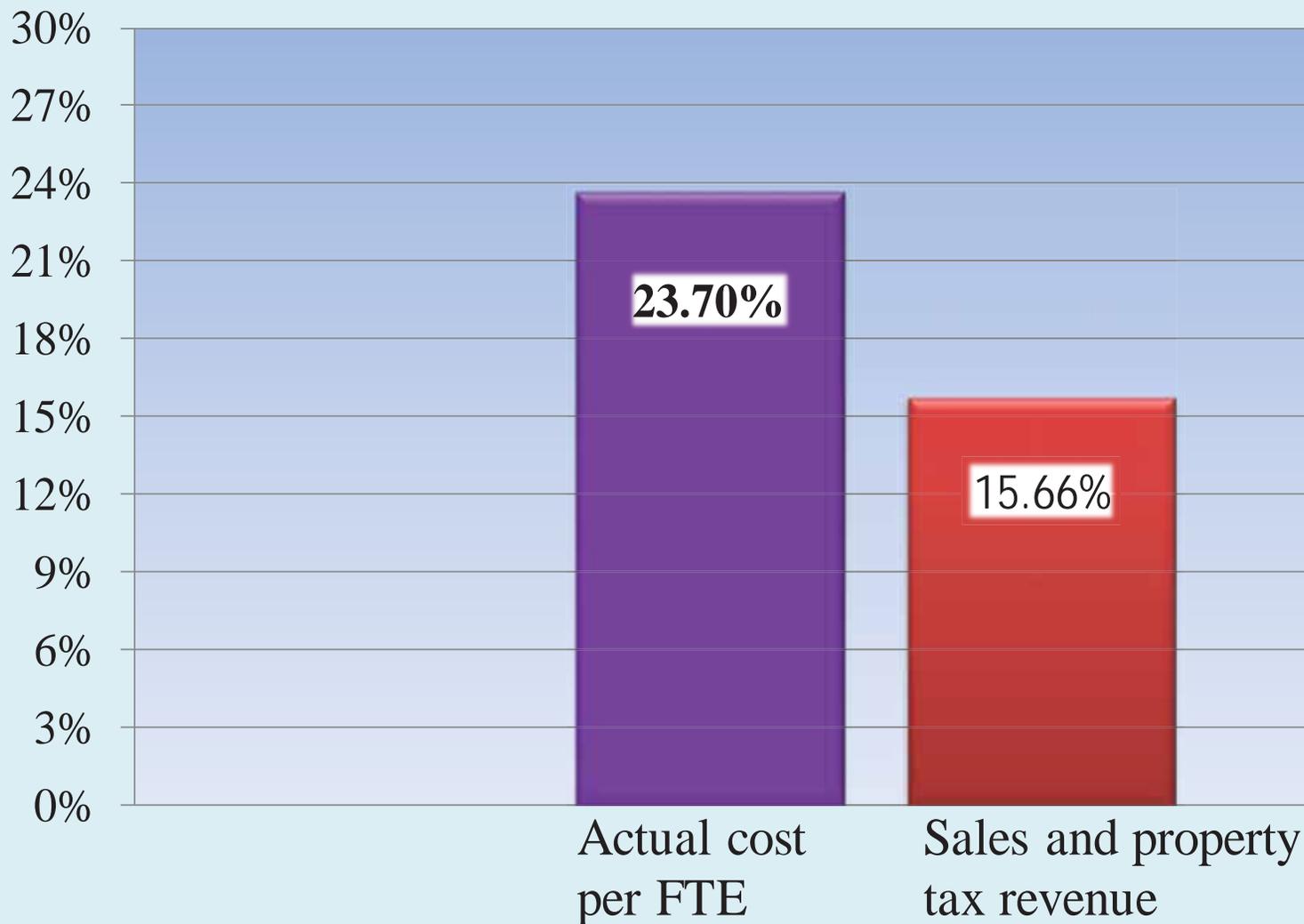
Where we've been

Structurally unbalanced budget with dependence on one-time revenues

Great Recession resulted in:

- **Decreasing revenues**
- **Employee and program cuts**
- **Less investment in Capital Improvement Program**
- **Sudden pension losses**

Where we've been: cost of service



Six-year change (2007-2013)

Where we've been: cuts

City budget cuts from 2007 - 2012



Calvert Senior Center



Bennett Martin Library



Police officers in middle schools



Star City Holiday Parade



Recreation Centers



StarTran



Parks forestry staff



Community Learning Centers



Kuklin and Meadow Heights pools

Where we've been: job reductions

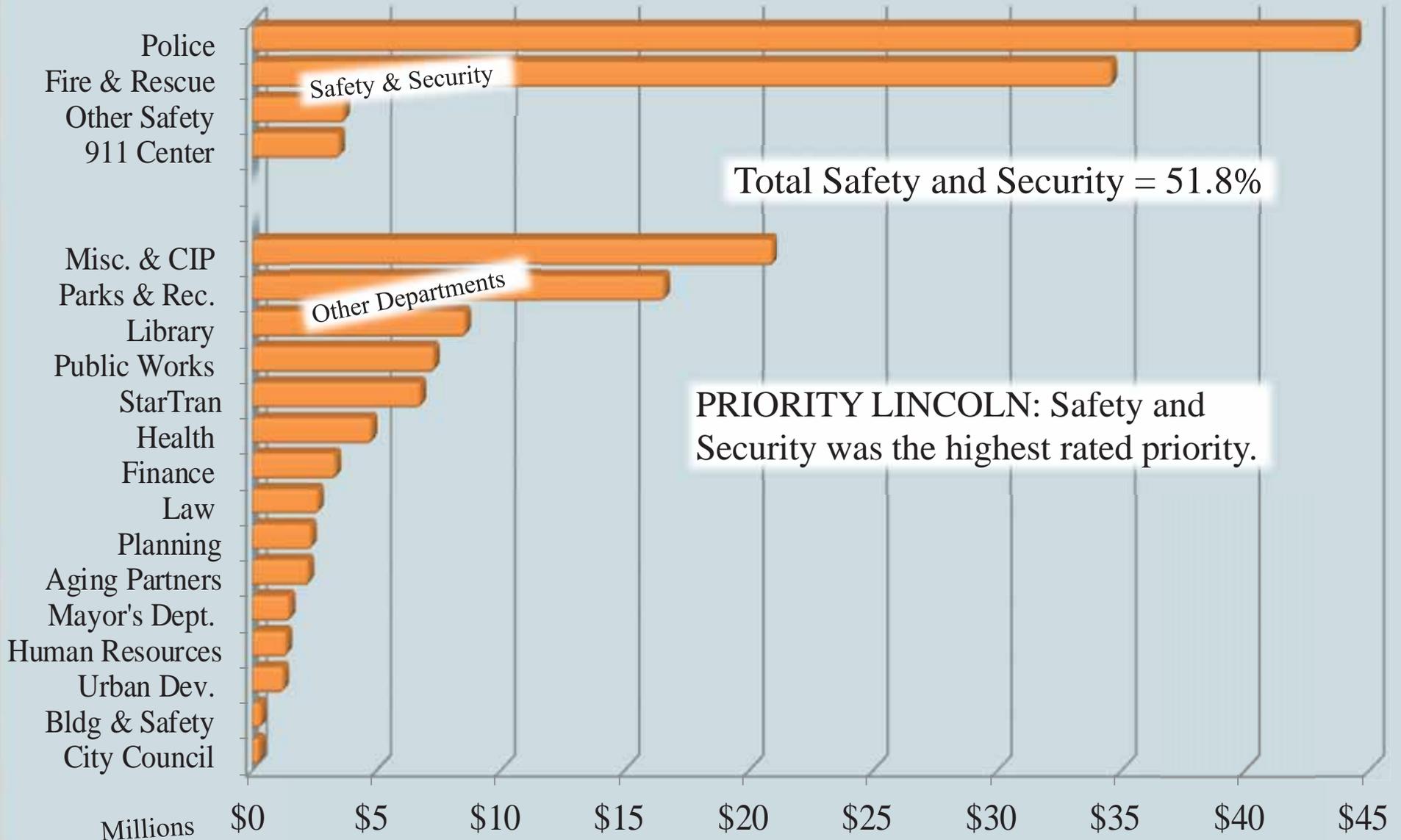


Budgeted full-time equivalents (FTEs)
2006-2007 through 2012-2014 Council Adopted Budget

Fiscal Year	Fire, Police, 911 Employees	Other City Employees	Total Employee Count Change Since 2006-07	Lincoln's Population	Area
1990-1991	589	1,435	--	191,972	63.5 sq. miles
2006-2007	740	1,487	--	239,213	85.3 sq. miles
2011-2012	745	1,350	-132	261,479	90.8 sq. miles
2012-2014	744	1,344	-139	268,738*	91.6 sq. miles*
% change					
since 2006-2007	+0.5%	-9.6%	-6.2%	+12.3%	+7.5%

6.2% of the City workforce had been cut over the last seven budgets.

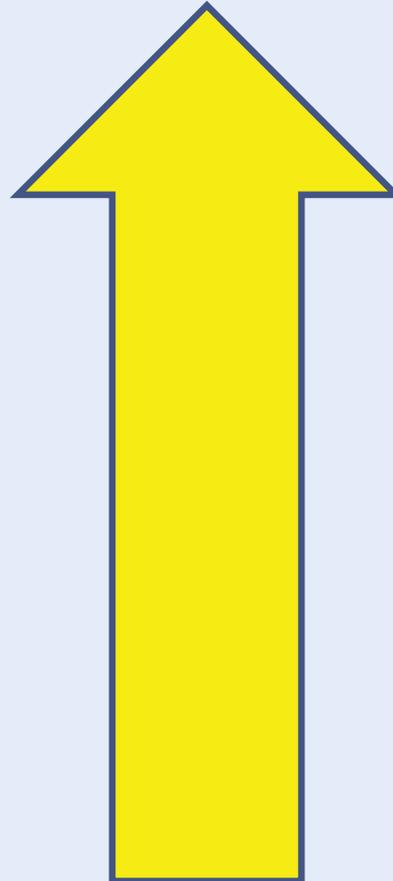
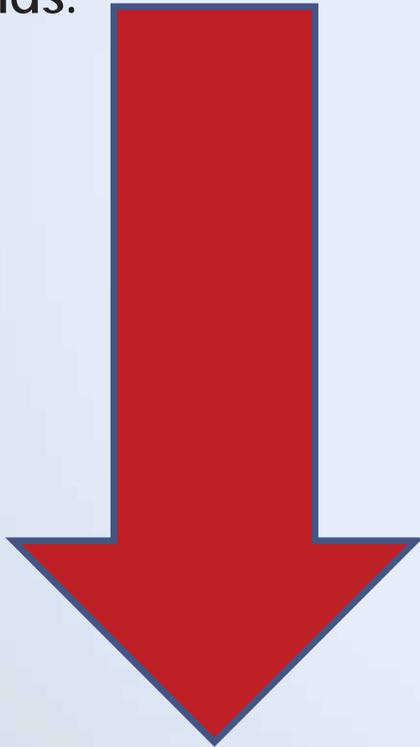
Over 50% of budget is public safety



Where we've been: Health Dept.

2007 to the present

Fewer employees:
33 employees cut and 26
positions re-classified to
save funds.



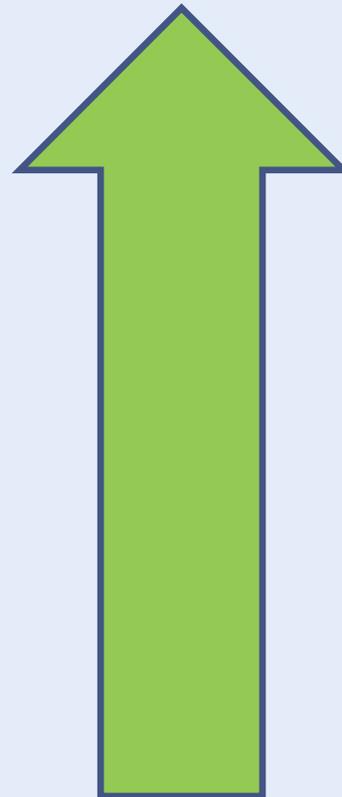
More responsibilities:

- Pets licenses up 12%.
- Dental patient visits up 67%.
- Food permits up 30%.
- Responsible Beverage Server Program added and 13,014 permits issued.
- Mandatory garbage service enforcement added.
- City and County Employee Wellness Programs added.

Where we've been: Parks & Rec

2007 to the present

**Fewer employees:
Employees down 17% from
311 to 258.**



More responsibilities:

- **9.2 miles of new trail**
- **9 new neighborhood parks**
- **New 62-acre Burns Park**



Where we are going: sales tax

Fiscal year ending August 31st of each year



Growth in receipts has rebounded since the recession.



Where we are going: percentage changes in property tax base





2014-2016

City of Lincoln Budget



Restoring Parks and Recreation

Seasonal labor

2.9 FTEs

Community Learning Centers

2.0 FTEs

Forestry, public gardens

3.4 FTEs

Maintenance, administrative needs

2.9 FTEs

Playground equipment repair,
capital investment

\$1.5 million capital

Improving health outcomes and environment

➤ Increase dental services for families, kids .50 FTE

➤ Increase restaurant inspections .25 FTE

➤ Add Landfill Environmental Engineer (PWU) 1.0 FTE

Increasing sidewalk funding



*The public spoke,
and we listened:*

We issued \$4 million of bonds to fix nearly all of the worst sidewalk sections in 2014 and 2015.

Gang issues and public safety

City applied for COPS grant funding for two police officers to help focus on gang activity.

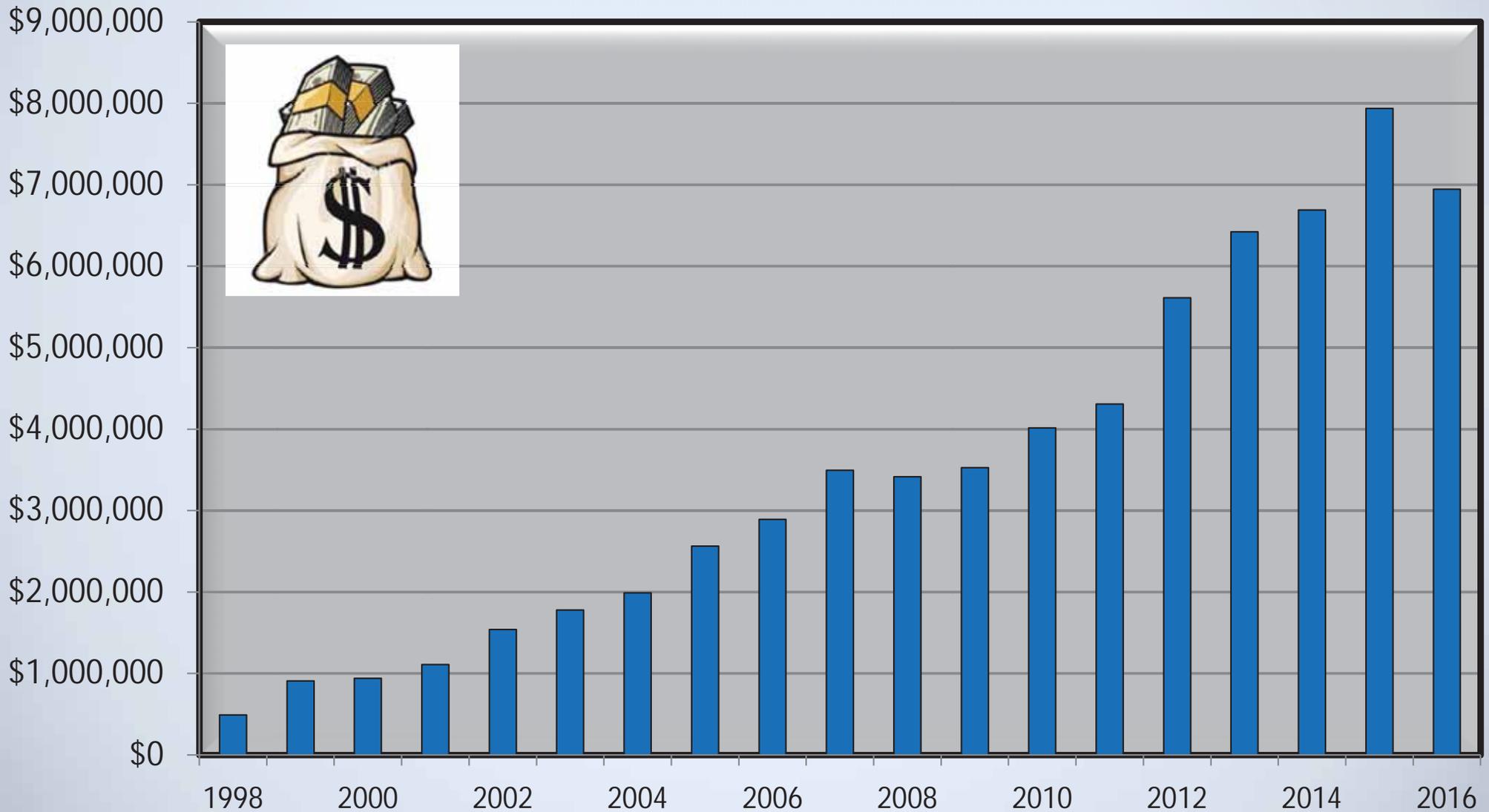


CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



**Budget challenges
remain**

Annual employer contributions to Police and Fire Pension Fund



Retirement match reduced.

All civilian unions agreed to end 2-to-1 match.

We hope to work with the Police and Fire unions to find a solution to the long-term costs of the Police and Fire pension.

Health care increases



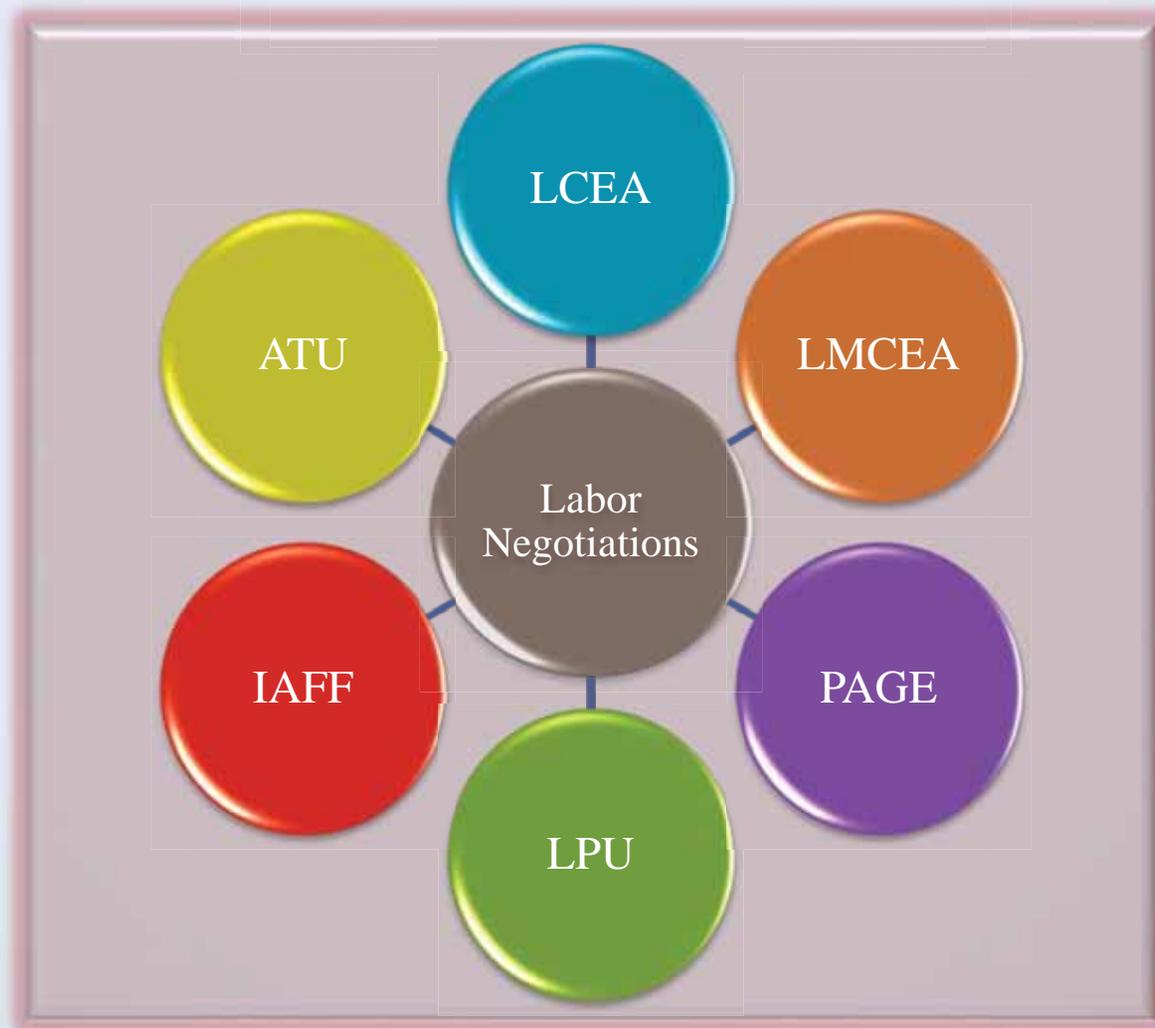
Employee health care costs are projected to increase by 12% or \$4.0 million for all funds in 2014-2015 and an additional 9% or \$2.7 million in 2015-2016.



The City's share of health care premiums is about \$27.0 million for all funds in 2014-2015 and \$29.4 million in 2015-2016.

Mandated Increased Costs: Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR)

LABOR CONTRACTS



Personnel costs make up about 70% of budget.

Cash Reserve

\$3.9 million in fund (telecommunication settlements)

- \$1 million to Police Fire Pension
- \$1.5 million to save General Fund programs
- \$ 200,000 for Contingency funding

\$1.2 million remaining for the future



Program Prioritization

\$1.5 million in cuts would mean the elimination or reduction of the following programs:

- Fourth of July celebration
- Wilderness park conservation areas
- Senior citizen volunteer programs
- No Sunday hours at Bennett Martin library; no Friday hours at all branches
- Neighborhood/business watch program
- Parking and abandoned vehicle enforcement
- Neighborhood pools





Contingency funding

- Need \$1.7 million for prudent budget management
 - \$382,000 – Annual General Fund appropriation 2014-15
 - \$382,000 – Annual General Fund appropriation 2015-16
 - \$400,000 – Parking meter revenue 2014-15
 - \$400,000 – Parking meter revenue 2015-16
 - \$200,000 – Cash reserve
 - \$1.764 million total contingency funding available

Unused parking meter revenue returns to the Parking Fund.

Fee and revenue adjustments for 2014 - 2016

	<u>Tax-Funded Budget</u>	
	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
■ TIF administration fee	\$100,000	\$100,000
■ Parks and Recreation fee changes	245,673	317,535
■ Health Dept. fee changes – City share	67,498	90,801
■ Donations and TIF collections to pay debt service for entryway project	48,755	304,700
■ Landscape compliance fee	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	\$741,926	\$823,036

Non-tax fund fee and revenue adjustments for 2014 - 2016

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
❖ Water/Wastewater: 3% revenue change through rate adjustments	\$2,042,000	\$2,067,900
❖ Landfill: \$2/ton occupation tax and \$2/ton gate fee increase	\$0	\$1,147,000

Voter-Approved Tax Increase

November 2012: Voters approve \$7.9 million stormwater bond issue and tax levy increase.

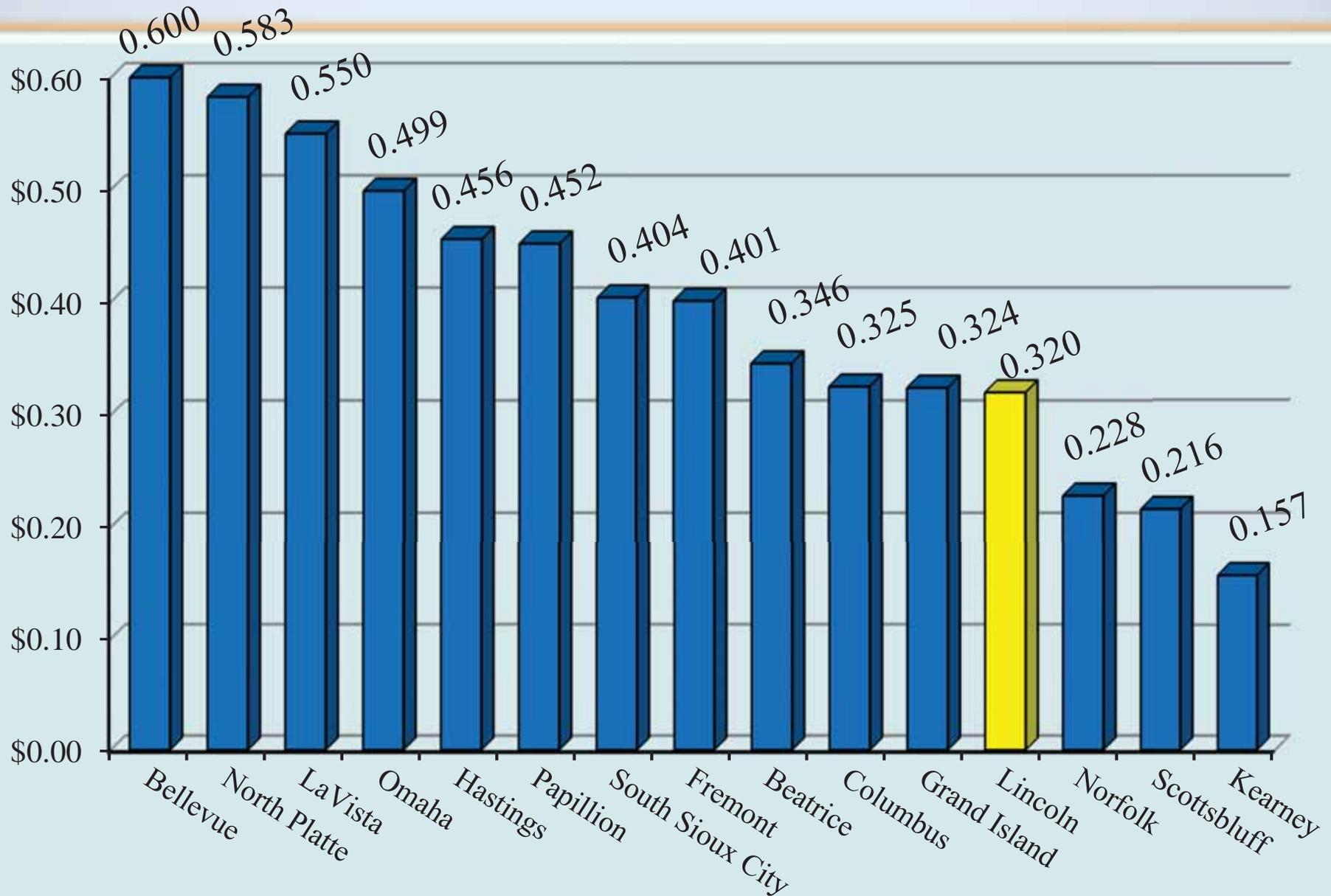
Tax rate increase of .378 cents results in annual increase on \$150,000 home of \$5.67.



Property Tax Summary

Tax rate for Mayor's budget	\$31.580 cents
Tax rate for voter-approved <u>stormwater bonds</u>	<u>.378 cents</u>
Total Tax Rate 2014-2016	\$31.958 cents

Lincoln's property tax levy is low compared to others.



**The City property tax rate
has dropped 38.5% since
1993-1994.**

Lincoln receives a small portion of total property tax levy.

2013 – 2014 Budget Year



All other taxing entities receive 84.4%.

City of Lincoln receives 15.6%.

City Staffing

In full-time equivalents (FTEs)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Change</u>
2013-14	2,094.72	
2014-15	2,104.71	+10
2015-16	2,106.53	+1.8

Staffing changes over nine budgets

2007–2008 through 2015-2016

Net positions eliminated	120
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Total estimated annual savings overall	\$7.2 million
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6.75 employees were added during the 2012-2014 biennium and are shown in the 2013-14 total.



Doing more with less

Budgeted full-time equivalents (FTEs)
 2006-2007 through 2014-2016 Mayor's Recommended Budget

Fiscal Year	Fire, Police, 911 Employees	Other City Employees	Total Full-Time Equivalents	Lincoln's Population	Area
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2006-2007	740	1,487	2,227	239,213	85.3 sq. miles
2013-2014	744	1,352	2,096	267,792	91.6 sq. miles
2014-2015	746	1,359	2,105	268,738 <small>Estimated</small>	92.7 sq. miles
2015-2016	746	1,361	2,107	272,000 <small>Estimated</small>	92.7 sq. miles
% change					
since 2006-2007	+0.8%	-8.5%	-5.4%	+13.7%	+8.7%

5.4% of the City workforce has been cut over the last nine budgets.

Budget Summary for 2014-2016 Biennium



Mayor's recommended
budget 2014-2015 \$166,458,924

Council-adopted
2013-2014 budget \$159,625,257

Dollar difference \$6,833,667

Percentage change
over prior year 4.28%

Mayor's recommended
budget 2015-2016 \$172,532,591

Mayor's recommended
2014-2015 budget \$166,458,924

Dollar difference \$6,073,667

Percentage change
over prior year 3.65%

Nine-year average change 3.64%



Looking Down the Road:

Sidewalks

Public safety response

South Beltway

Street rehabilitation

Capital Improvement Program – Parks Department



2014 Scrap Tire Collection

Saturday October 11, 2014 Only
7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Held West of the Lincoln Airport at 6601 W Fletcher Avenue
(adjacent to Nine Mile Prairie at the old Bunker Site)
See Map Below for Instructions

