



CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

GENERAL SERVICES

Columbus In Focus

THE WORK BEHIND THE CITY

- 01 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
- 02 CITY CLERK
- 03 HUMAN RESOURCES
- 04 FINANCE
- 05 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

General Services Leadership Team

Connected expertise. One City.

90 days of clearer ownership and follow-through

The team focused on building repeatable ways to coordinate work, support employees and verify implementation.

90-DAY STATUS

Most goals

complete or awaiting outside action

01

OPERATING MODEL

Shared expectations are now documented

The General Services Operating Manual defines coordination, decision authority, initiative ownership, accountability and implementation checks.

02

ONBOARDING

A consistent process is ready to use

The team developed and communicated a new onboarding process and checklist. Full validation will occur with the next suitable supervisory hire.

03

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

One working plan through 2029

The full General Services team refined the City's four strategic priorities and agreed on a shared plan to guide the work through 2029.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES THROUGH 2029

The entire General Services team refined and agreed on one working plan.



WORKFORCE



EFFICIENT DELIVERY
OF CITY SERVICES



COMMUNITY
RELATIONS



COLLABORATION

Making City information easier to understand and use

Clearer information, improved digital access and stories that connect residents with City work

20,000+

combined video plays

One Facebook Live and three additional videos expanded engagement with City information and initiatives.

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

Budget information residents can follow

Public Communications helped develop, write, edit and publish the adopted budget guide, explaining City revenues and expenditures in plain language.

DIGITAL ACCESS

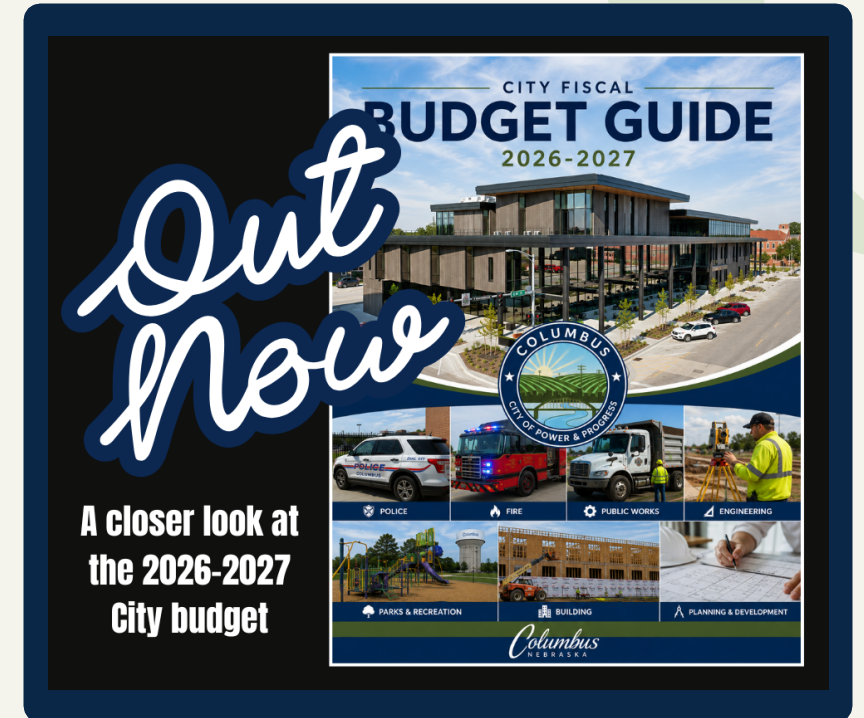
Website redesign targets Dec. 1 launch

The team leads planning, content and implementation while helping departments improve pages. A redesigned Licenses and Permits page is prepared for launch.

CITY STORYTELLING

History creates a new connection

A recurring “Back in the Day” series, produced with Fire Capt. Eric Kluever, highlights department history and Columbus’ public safety heritage.



2026–27 ANNUAL FISCAL BUDGET GUIDE

Developed with Finance and City Administration

DEC. 1, 2026

TARGETED WEBSITE LAUNCH

Includes a redesigned Licenses and Permits page

Keeping official City business moving

Public records, official actions, licensing, and other miscellaneous transactions

48

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

44

OFFICIAL ACTIONS

37 resolutions 7 ordinances

MISCELLANEOUS

15 cemetery spaces sold

4 property liens filed with the Register of Deeds

LICENSES

5 Special Designated Licenses

3 approved administratively
2 approved by City Council

39 Active Class C liquor licenses

Renewals take effect Nov. 1. Staff are collecting local fees and coordinating with the NLCC to get the new licenses issued.

1 new tobacco license issued

Recruitment activity across seven City positions

Human Resources supported hiring processes while continuing committee work tied to employee benefits and organizational risk.

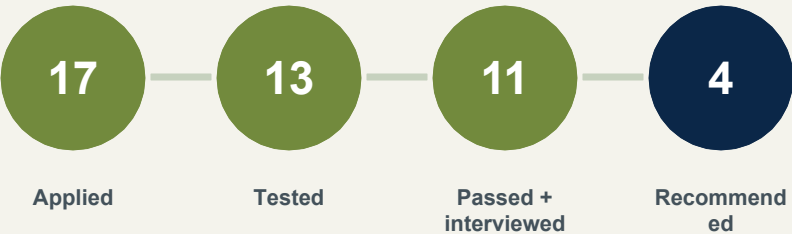
55

applications received

7

recruitments

POLICE OFFICER SELECTION

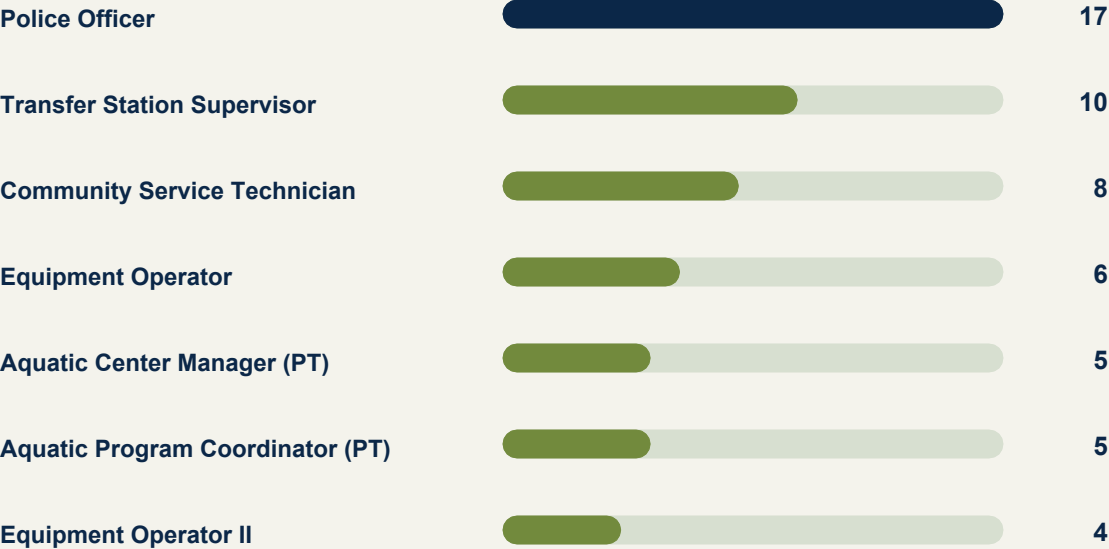


Civil Service recommended four applicants to City Council for certification.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Risk Management Fire Retirement Police Retirement Health

APPLICATIONS BY POSITION



The part-time Aquatic Center Manager position was not filled.

Closing the budget cycle and preparing for audit

Finance completed the City budget while maintaining operational support and advancing special assignments.

2026–27

BUDGET

COMPLETE + ADOPTED

CURRENT SUPPORT

Water Office cross training

Finance staff are building coverage and maintaining continuity while the City works to fill an open position.

NEXT FINANCIAL CYCLE

2025–26 financial audit

The team is preparing records and schedules for the upcoming audit.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

OCTOBER

Budget and Purchase Request Form training

Preparing training materials for City supervisors

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Detailed review underway

Turning opportunity into a development pipeline

Research, practical tools and clear priorities are preparing Columbus for the next development conversations.

10+

POTENTIAL PROPERTIES

identified within
Columbus's
Opportunity Zone

POSSIBLE USES

Housing Commercial Mixed use Adaptive reuse

01

OPPORTUNITY ZONE READINESS

Tools for investors and property owners

Research supported an educational handout explaining the Opportunity Zone and its location. A playbook and quick guide are now taking shape around identified sites and possible uses.

02

HOUSING DIRECTION

Housing and Needs Study completed

Work with Points Consulting brought the study to completion. The next step is to review and prioritize its recommendations so forward momentum continues.

03

QUALITY OF LIFE

Downtown arts and culture remain visible

Support for Fall for the Arts and the Columbus Nebraska Hispanic Festival helped showcase local and regional artists while strengthening downtown cultural programming.