



**Work Session Meeting Agenda
2 Park Drive South, Great Falls, MT
Gibson Room, Civic Center
March 03, 2026
5:30 PM**

The agenda packet material is available on the City's website: <https://greatfallsmt.gov/AgendaCenter>. The Public may view and listen to the meeting on government access channel City-190, cable channel 190; or online at <https://greatfallsmt.gov/344/Live-Meetings>.

Public participation is welcome in the following ways:

- Attend in person.
- Provide public comments in writing by 12:00 PM the day of the meeting: Mail to City Clerk, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403, or via email to: commission@greatfallsmt.net. Include the agenda item or agenda item number in the subject line, and include the name of the commenter and either an address or whether the commenter is a city resident. Written communication received by that time will be shared with the City Commission and appropriate City staff for consideration during the agenda item, and, will be so noted in the official record of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

(Public comment on agenda items or any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the City Commission. Please keep your remarks to a maximum of five (5) minutes. Speak into the microphone, and state your name and either your address or whether you are a city resident for the record.)

WORK SESSION ITEMS

1. Update on ARPA Funded Community Projects - presented by Tom Hazen.

Including a presentation on the impact of ARPA funds awarded to Great Falls College MSU for Career & Technical Education - presented by Quincie Jones.

DISCUSSION POTENTIAL UPCOMING WORK SESSION TOPICS

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

City Commission Work Session - Tuesday March 17, 2026 5:30 p.m.

City Commission Meeting - Tuesday March 17, 2026 7:00 p.m.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING



March 3, 2026

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American Rescue Plan Funding

- Total Allocation - \$19,472,737
- Funds had to be Obligated by 12/31/2024 and Expended by 12/31/2026.
- Four Eligible Uses
 - Responding to the public health emergency and negative economic impacts; and
 - Provide Pay to workers; and
 - Provide Government Services; and
 - Make necessary water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure improvements.

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American Rescue Plan Funding

- Great Falls City Commission elected to fund internal and external projects.
- Internal
 - 140 proposed projects submitted by Department heads;
 - Ultimately, eligible projects were broken down into three Tiers
 - Tier One Projects were implemented beginning in May 2022.

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American Rescue Plan Funding

- Great Falls City Commission opted to issue ARPA funded Subawards to Community partners in September of 2021.
- Application Process
 - Applications accepted from February 2, 2022 to July 15, 2022; and
 - Scored by Internal Committee; and
 - Committee recommendation approved by City Commission on December 6, 2022.
- 14 projects totaling \$2,884,557.00

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American Rescue Plan Funding

GFCMSU Presentation Here

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ARPA Projects Status

- The Tier 1 ARPA projects are all completed, except for the Police Dept. Evidence Building.
- Major projects completed in 2025 include the Transformer/Boiler Replacement and the Court Relocation.
- Final budget allocations had to be made in December of 2024. At that time, staff allocated all remaining dollars to existing project budgets to cover any construction overages.
- Allocated budgets have been met, with all ARPA dollars being accounted for and no overages have occurred as of yet.
- The Police Dept. Evidence Building construction is going well, with most of the infrastructure already in place. Most of the remaining work is in finishes and security items. Construction is likely to be substantially complete in May.

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Impact

- Understanding that these ARPA dollars would be a one-time infusion of money, projects were selected based upon their potential for operational impact and their relative inability to be funded by other revenue sources in the future.
- Smaller projects that were completed early on and were more administrative in nature include IT Network Security, Animal Shelter Cattery, Library Internet Expansion, and Parking Garage Security Improvements.
 - These projects were quick, easy wins that provided last-mile or bridge funding to enhance existing projects or provide services that benefitted the City's operational potential.

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Impact

- Fire Stations
 - The Fire Station renovations included various HVAC updates, boiler replacements, as well as living quarter and bathroom remodels in all 4 Fire Stations. These stations had never received this scale of major renovations since they were built in the 1970's.
 - The Garage Door replacement at each Fire Station enabled the stations to rely on newer technology and better operation of the doors for the fire response calls. It also saved the department from having to make multiple service calls to fix aging equipment and searching for obsolete parts to fix them.
 - The Fire Engine Refurbishment project replaced the engine and other various parts, on 3 of the City's older Fire Engines. This enabled the City to avoid the cost of total replacement of these engines (estimated at approximately \$1 million at the time), and allowed us to extend the useful life of these 3 trucks another 10 years.
 - The Miscellaneous Fire Equipment project allowed for purchase of equipment to support fire operations, including a hose washer, various PPE gear, and SCBA equipment. The operational impacts include time saving activities and purchase of gear that was otherwise difficult to fund all at once.

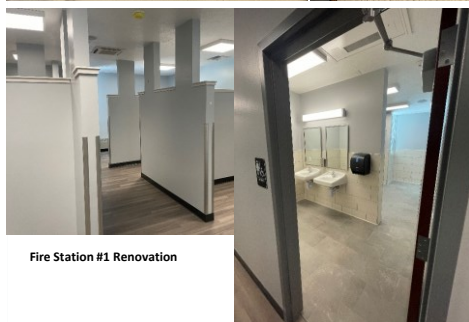
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Fire Dept. Projects



Overhead doors at Station #1



Fire Station #1 Renovation



Misc Fire Equipment



Fire Engine Completed, Front End



Fire Engine Completed, Rear End

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Impact

• Civic Center Upgrades

- The HR remodel was completed in 2023. This project remodeled a space that had been rearranged and made to work numerous times over the years. This remodel gave the staff better functional offices, a kitchen area, and common spaces.
- The HVAC Project was also completed in 2023. This project installed larger, more efficient HVAC throughout much of the Civic Center. This system replaced many parts of the previous system that were over 30 years old, and were in need of fairly constant repairs.
- The Transformer/Boiler project was completed in early 2025. This project replaced the buildings original boilers, which were over 80 yrs old and also in need of constant repair. It also replaced the Transformer and moved it outside of the building, to comply with modern code and safety regulations. The project also replaced the main electrical distribution panel for the building which was from roughly the 1970's, and will ensure future reliability and additional electrical capacity.
- The Court remodel project was completed this last October. This project not only effectively moved the Courts out of the basement; it gave them 2 large functional courtrooms, a consolidated office space with future capacity, and also upgraded the audio/visual components to bring them up to date with the current virtual needs of municipal court operations.

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HR Renovation



Transformer/Boiler

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Court Relocation



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Impact

- Police Department Evidence Building
 - The Evidence Building project has been a need for the Police Dept. for over 20 years.
 - The project went through an in-depth design phase to understand how to best support the growing retention requirements, space availability, and funding opportunities
 - Construction began in August of 2024, and is currently scheduled to be complete in May
 - This addition gives the Evidence staff dedicated office space, with room for additional evidence staff in the future; as well as a dedicated meeting space.
 - It also optimizes the Evidence processing flow to accommodate the needs of Evidence staff, officers, and any potential legal staff that needs access.
 - The building has numerous security features, designed for safe and secure processing of vehicles and other sensitive types of evidence
 - The addition provides over 8,000 sq. ft. of additional storage and processing space for the police department, which is estimated to give the PD sufficient storage capacity for the next 15-20 years.



ARPA Projects

Police Department Evidence Building





ARPA Sub Awards

- **Great Falls Voyagers** – \$600,000.00 for *Centene Stadium Field Repair* – Funds will be used to make repairs to the playing surface. This will ensure the ongoing viability of a facility that is used by professional, amateur, and local school teams. Also, maintains a valuable tourism draw and local business partner in the Great Falls community.



- **NeighborWorks Great Falls** - \$496,810.00 for *Increased Owner-Built Home, or Mutual Self-Help Program (MSHP), Operations* – This award will allow for increased and future-looking operations associated with the MSHP. These funds will contribute to the eventual construction of 100 new homes. The proposed development is located at the 33rd Ave. South and 13th St. South.

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ARPA Sub Awards

- **Peace Place** - \$375,000.00 for *Building Renovation* –Funded the renovation of an existing (and currently empty) downtown location to include classrooms, rest rooms, offices, a kitchen, and other faculties as needed.
- **Alliance for Youth** - \$287,278.00 for *Improving Mental Health and Reducing Violence by Strengthening Parent-Child Relationships* – Funds used to enact evidence-based practices at the Alliance for Youth Headquarters designed to directly address abuse in our community and is anticipated to benefit hundreds of residents.
- **Ideal Option** - \$228,980.00 for *Increasing Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)* – Ideal Option offers substance use disorder treatment in Great Falls. Ideal Option used these funds to offset the expenses incurred in the first six months of this new location.

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ARPA Sub Awards

- **Great Falls Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID)** - \$215,000.00 for *Development of a Tourism Master Plan* – This plan utilized assessments conducted by professional consultants to evaluate Great Falls’ current and potential status as a tourism destination.
- **Great Falls College Montana State University (GFCMSU)** - \$197,350.00 for *Job Training and Education for At-Risk Youth*.
- **Opportunities Inc.** - \$97,750.00 for *Mitigation Improvements to Facility* – Funds used to expand the entry/waiting area and create a safer and healthier environment for people seeking appointments.
- **United Way** - \$85,000 for *Early Education Assistance* – Funds used to coordinate the availability of early childhood education, bridging gaps for children through kindergarten enrollment, and increasing access for underserved populations in conjunction with Great Falls Public Schools.



ARPA Sub Awards

- **YWCA** - \$75,000.00 for *Rental Assistance* – The YWCA provided women the financial resources to place first/last month deposits when entering into a new rental agreement.

- **Great Falls Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Clinic** - \$70,894.00 for *Early Intervention Speech/Language/Feeding Outreach Support* – Increased access to speech/language/feeding therapy on site in daycare centers, homes, or other youth focused locations





ARPA Sub Awards

- **Cascade County Historical Society** - \$56,595.00 for *Technology Upgrades to Ozark Club at Cascade County History Museum* – Funds used increase the remote gathering capacity of the Museum.
- **Helping Hands** - \$49,900.00 for *Operation of a Food Pantry in Downtown Great Falls* – Helping Hands is located in the downtown area and provides food, hygienic items, and clothing to individuals facing financial hardship.
- **Discovery Family Counseling Services** – \$49,000.00 for *Expansion of Services* – Funds used to expand the mental health therapy services available for children as young as three years old. Specifically, Discovery implemented programs designed to treat behavioral health concerns in youth through “play therapy”.





Career & Technical Education

One-Time Funds, Ongoing Impact

Workforce Results from ARPA

Quincie Jones, Executive Director of CTE

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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Who

- Justice Involved
 - Youth court referrals
 - Pre-release residents
- Veterans
- Under-employed adults
 - Job Service
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Opportunities Inc



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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Foundation

- Technical Training
 - Construction
 - Flooring Installation
- Safety Training
- Job Site Ready Training
- Essential Skills Training

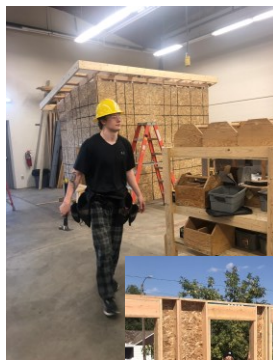


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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – Real World Training



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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Impact

Credentials Earned:

- 73 – OSHA 10 Certifications
- 20 – First Aid/CPR Certifications
- 11 – Job Site Ready Certifications
- 4 – Flagger Certifications
- 7 – NCCER Core Level 1 Certifications
- 3 – HiSET (High School Equivalency) Earned
- 13 – Basic Flooring Installation Certifications



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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Impact

Community Impact-

- Reduced barriers
- Alternative pathways
- Labor supply
- Supported housing construction capacity
- Increased social stability



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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Impact

A job is not just income it is behavioral intervention

- Recidivism for adults with job training is reduced to 15-20% vs. 25-40%*
- Reoffense for youth is reduced to 20-35% vs. 55-70%

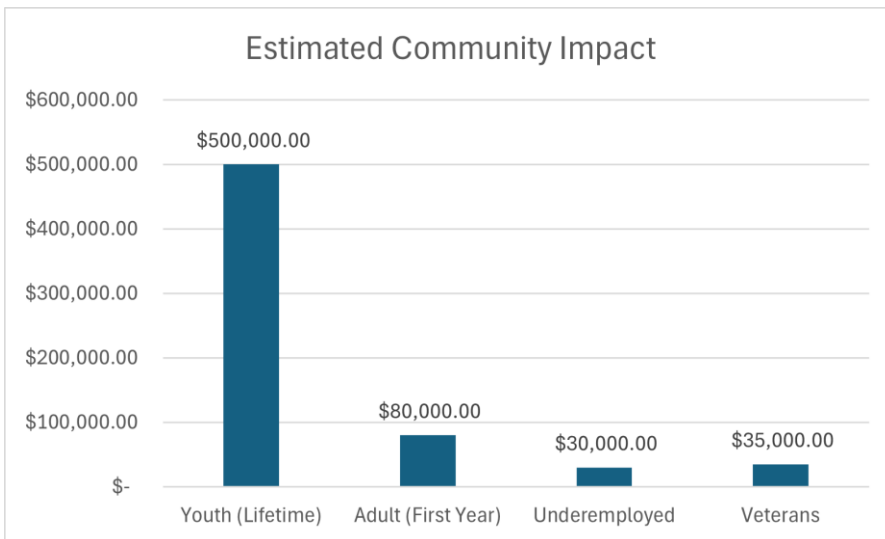


*Montana DOC community corrections outcomes & RAND Corporation correctional education meta-analysis

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Career & Technical Education



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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Future

Operations Model:

- Short-term workforce credential program & employer connected training
 - Employer demand
 - Blended funding model
 - Community partnerships

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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The Partners

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Habitat for Humanity | Floors & More |
| Youth Court | Pierce Flooring |
| Job Service | Sletten Construction |
| Vocational Rehabilitation | Dick Anderson Construction |
| Opportunities Inc. | United Materials |
| MT Contractors Association | RDO |
| Floor Covering Education | Tractor & Equipment |
| Foundation | Torgersons |
| Great Falls Public Schools | TC Glass |
| Accelerate Montana | Tri-State |

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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – The STARS

- Future Build

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGS8Bha5Z4o&t=30s>

- Basic Flooring Installation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oXcAvGhWho>

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Career & Technical Education

Workforce Pipeline – Questions

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