



# 2023 Annual Report

*Prepared by*

City of Lockhart Staff

[www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org)

# FROM THE CITY MANAGER

*Steve Lewis*



As we embark on a new year, it brings me great pleasure to reflect on the significant milestones achieved in 2023. Projects that have been years in the making are finally coming into fruition, along with major strides in long-term planning for the future of Lockhart.

The City's Comprehensive Plan update process, which kicked off last year, exemplifies our commitment in advanced planning. This document will serve as our roadmap for sustainable land development ensuring Lockhart continues to evolve and grow while preserving its unique character. The collaborative efforts in this process involving Staff, our consultants, the citizens Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and the community are essential in shaping a resilient and vibrant future for our city.

In recognition of the evolving needs of our growing community and in our objective to improve quality of life, we also initiated the development of the Water/Wastewater Master Plan, Parks Master Plan, and Lions Park Master Plan in 2023. These comprehensive frameworks will lay the foundation for sustainable infrastructure and green spaces, ensuring that Lockhart continues to flourish in a balanced and forward-thinking manner.

Additionally, we are thrilled to highlight the Lockhart Economic Development Corporation's refreshed Target Industry Strategy, a dynamic blueprint designed to attract companies keen on expanding to Central Texas. The strategic vision has already borne fruit with groundbreakings from industry leaders like the Ziegenfelder Company, Titan Development, McCoy's Building Supply and soon, RealCold Storage. Their investment in Lockhart not only signifies economic growth but also underscores our city's appeal as a hub for innovation and commerce. This refreshed approach ensures Lockhart remains an attractive destination for businesses, contributing to job creation and sustained prosperity for our community.

Lastly, the Downtown Revitalization Project is a step closer to breaking ground for construction upon completion of its 100% Design Phase. The years-long meticulous planning, and upcoming execution of this endeavor will transform our downtown into a hub of activity, fostering economic growth and community pride while improving safety and preserving the Courthouse Square's character.

Amidst the notable achievements in 2023, it is essential to acknowledge the resilience demonstrated by our community in overcoming the challenges posed by the lingering effects of COVID-19. The collective efforts to navigate the unprecedented times have strengthened our bonds and reinforced our commitment to the well-being of each resident. As we celebrate the positive transformations within our city, let us also honor the perseverance and unity that carried us through the uncertainties of the pandemic.

Together, let us embrace the opportunities ahead, united in our commitment to shaping Lockhart's future as a vibrant, resilient, and thriving community. Here's to an exciting 2024 for us all.



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## CITY COUNCIL



(Front L-R): Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez, Mayor Lew White, District 3 Councilmember Kara McGregor

(Back L-R) District 1 Councilmember Juan Mendoza, At-Large Councilmember Brad Westmoreland, District 4 Councilmember Jeffrey Michelson, District 2 Councilmember John Castillo



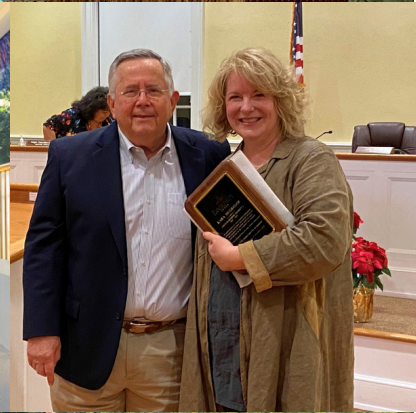


# ADMINISTRATION




- Hired an Assistant City Manager
- Hired a new Police Chief
- Recruitment of a Finance Director and Building Official is ongoing.
- Provided assistance in community engagement efforts for the Comprehensive Plan update, Parks Master Plan, and Lions Park Master Plan, which included fliers, community input workshops and surveys.
- Facilitated the return of the Texas Monthly BBQ Fest for a second year and executed event promotions through digital storytelling, print ads, travel articles and periodic social media posts.
- Drafted an ordinance creating the Animal Shelter Advisory Board outlining its membership, purpose, and jurisdiction.
- Hosted a public town hall on the Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 5 prior to voter approval.
- Transitioned full operation of Lockhart EMS as a City Department.
- Collaborated with TxDOT on a funding agreement for the N. Blanco St. bridge replacement project.
- TRC Engineering designed the 2.5-miles sewer line west of Lockhart funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.





- Participated in joint workshops with the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss future land uses, utilities, and transportation.
- Approved the voluntary annexation of 92.62 acres east of Lay Rd.
- Approved amendments to Chapter 52 “Subdivision Regulations” of the Lockhart Code of Ordinances, setting the standards for the design of residential subdivisions within city limits and ETJ.
- Approved the creation of the Housing and Development Committee.
- Accepted the Lockhart Police Department’s 2022 Racial Profiling Report.
- Amended Visionary Fiber Technologies, Inc.’s (VFT) Chapter 380 economic development agreement to allow for expansion.
- Revised City Council District 4’s boundaries to include three voluntarily annexed properties, including the Red Oak Seawillow Property.
- Confirmed the City Manager’s appointment of Lockhart’s new Police Chief.
- Amended and renewed the interlocal agreement with the Plum Creek Water Partnership.
- Approved a professional services contract with Freese and Nichols for the development of a new Comprehensive Plan.
- Approved a professional services contract with TRC Engineering to develop a Water and Wastewater Master Plan.



## City Council, cont.

- Adopted a policy for future Public Improvement Districts.
- Initiated discussions on homelessness in Lockhart involving local church leaders and downtown businesses.
- Authorized Halff to develop the Parks Master Plan, Lions Park Master Plan, provide Aquatic Consulting and a Feasibility Study.
- Created the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and appointed its members.
- Approved special seniority pay, also known as lateral entry pay, for newly hired, experienced police officers.
- Amended City-owned hangar rental rates at the Lockhart Municipal Airport as recommended by the Airport Advisory Board.
- Approved a resolution to revise the fees for development applications.
- Approved the Lead and Copper Rule Revision Implementation Plan Engineering Services Agreement with TRC Engineering.
- Accepted two Impact Fee Semi-Annual reports for FY 2022-2023.
- Approved a resolution supporting the creation of the Caldwell County Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 5 and with the inclusion of Lockhart's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).
- Adopted the Lockhart Economic Development Corporation's (LEDC) updated targeted business strategy.
- Approved an ordinance prohibiting the non-retail sale of live animals in public spaces.
- Adopted an ordinance establishing rules for On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) within the City with more stringent requirements to eliminate and prevent health hazards as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- Accepted the 100% Design Phase Report of the Downtown Revitalization Project.
- Approved an economic development performance agreement and Chapter 380 agreement with a major refrigerated warehouse and cold chain operator, F3 Lockhart Owner LLC, also known as RealCold.
- Approved the Lockhart Municipal Airport's participation in TxDOT's Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP).
- Approved an ordinance revising Planned Development District (PDD) zoning requirements to increase the standard for higher quality master planned mixed-use developments and expand application requirements to include a sufficient level of detail to ensure a clear expectation of the proposed built environment.
- Authorized a 36-month lease for six new replacement police patrol vehicles.
- Approved the purchase of a Spartan aerial fire apparatus (ladder fire truck).





# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- Launched first full update of the City's Comprehensive Plan since 2000.
- Processed ten zoning cases.
- Approved 17 subdivisions.
- Heard five variances and two special exception requests.
- Heard 17 Specific Use Permit cases.
- Heard 35 Certificates for Alteration at the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Issued 585 single-family Residential Building Permits , and one permit for a 140-unit apartment complex expansion.
- Adopted a new Capital Improvements Plan and Impact fee rate schedule.
- Adopted a new fee schedule for zoning cases, subdivisions, and building permits
- Updated the zoning code, which included:
  - Residential (single-family and multifamily) design requirements
  - Residential landscaping
  - Planned Development District regulations
- Coordinated the voluntary annexation of 89.77 acres on the east side of FM 1322, near Summerside subdivision.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Refreshed the Lockhart Economic Development Corporation's (LEDC) Target Industries.
- The Ziegenfelder Company broke ground at its future facility at Lockhart Industrial Park III.
- McCoy Building Supply broke ground at its future retail facility along U.S. 183.
- Titan Development broke ground and constructed its first industrial warehouse at Lockhart Industrial Park III.
- Sold out Lockhart Industrial Park III.
- Facilitated RealCold Storage move to Lockhart.







# LIBRARY SERVICES

- Received a \$100,000 donation from the estate of longtime library supporter and Lockhart resident, Ronald Seeliger to acquire books, periodicals, recordings in either printed, analog, or digital.
- Ordered new computers for library patrons.
- Ancestry.com added to the E-Shelf/Find Your Roots Classes.
- Set up a coffee bar for patrons in an effort to provide a comfortable and inviting space for patrons to study, work, and socialize, while also increasing community engagement with library resources and services.
- Hosted a job fair.
- Hosted Texas A&M volunteers for their event, Giving Back to the Community.
- Hosted a book signing for author Dr. Leonard Moore along with a discussion of this book in celebration of Black History Month in February.
- Hosted a book signing for Texas Parks and Wildlife Park Ranger JoAnn Mayberry, along with a book reading from her book "Callie Catches a Lunker: Fishing."
- Co-hosted a story time with the Black Enrichment Project to share their favorite stories.



## Library Services, cont.

- Hosted Evening with the Songwriters with special guest George Ensle.
- An Easter Egg Hunt was held on the library grounds in April.
- Library hosted a book signing and an story with author Taylor Homuth author of “JoAnn’s Adventures”
- A Christmas To Remember was held at the library with lots of entertainment and arts and crafts for children.
- Evening with the Authors at the library was held the first weekend in October. The event donated \$10,000.00 to the library.
- Hispanic Heritage Month was held at the library. Staff shared stories with Mr. Gutierrez class from the Navarro Elementary School.
- Served as a cooling center for the summer.





# **PARKS AND RECREATION**



- Completed renovation of Nueces Park basketball courts.
- Constructed new Splash Pad at Maple Street Park.
- Installed shade structures and improved the pavilion at Maple Street Park.
- Formed an Aquatics Facility Feasibility Committee to begin the planning process for a new City Pool produce a feasibility study for the construction of a new City Pool.
- Selected Halff & Associates as the Landscape Architect/Engineering Firm to lead us through the development of several park projects.
- Collaborated with Halff & Associates to update the Parks Master Plan, and created plans for the renovation of Lions Park.
- Hosted a Kidfish event at City Park with over 150 participants.
- Provided maintenance support for Lockhart Little League and Lockhart Youth Soccer Association including replacing lights, fencing, door repairs, and soil products.
- City Pool building repainted by LCRA volunteers for “LCRA Steps Forward” day.
- Continued partnership with Lockhart ISD for the Lockhart Summer Teen Center’s second year.
- Partnered with Keep Lockhart Beautiful to provide two park cleanup events.
- Assisted residents with 109 park pavilion rentals and 20 pool parties at City Pool.
- Provided fireworks for the Lockhart Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza.



## **Parks and Recreation, cont.**

- Cleared brush from Lions Park to improve use and visibility in the creek area.
- Planning the conversion of one basketball court into a soccer mini-pitch at LaFleur Soccer Complex.
- Re-paved the street in City Park on the East side of the Pond.
- Provided facility and logistics support for Lockhart ISD's Cross Country Meets, Chisholm Trail Roundup, and Texas Monthly BBQ Fest.





## PUBLIC WORKS AND ELECTRIC

- TRC Engineering and City Staff Lead and Copper Rule Revision Implementation Plan has completed initial inventory. The Lead and Copper Rule Revision Implementation Plan is scheduled for completion by October 16, 2024.
- The Downtown Revitalization Project reached the 100% Design Phase. Construction anticipated to begin in March 2024, completion scheduled for March 2026.
- Resurfaced seven streets during the 2023 Street Improvements Project including City Park Road improvement and paving Fire Station No. 2 Parking Lot.
- The High Service Pumps and Emergency Generator Project at the Lockhart Water Plant is nearing completion. Components are onsite and should be completed the first quarter of 2024. This project will improve resiliency at the plant and increase the supply capacity.
- Replaced approximately 1,465 SY of deficient sidewalk and replaced 21 sidewalk ramps as part of the 2023 Sidewalk Improvement Project.
- The City's First Water and Wastewater Master Plan started with plans to complete in the third quarter of 2024. The plan creates a dynamic computer model of both water and wastewater evaluating real conditions of the systems. Short- and long-term goals and projects will be identified as part of this plan with associated milestones of their development.
- A \$25,000 grant from CAPGOG was received to replace the cardboard baler at the Recycling Center.
- Held the Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff in April, collecting 2.18 tons of hazardous household materials.



## **Public Works and Electric, cont.**

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality accepted the submission of the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan for water utility operation as required by TX SB3. Increasing resiliency, preparedness and improving standard operating procedure should a power disruption or nature event impact the water system.
- City has been awarded the 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant amounts to \$350,000 with a \$70,000, or 20-percent match, which will be used to replace approximately 1,500 residential water meters.





# PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

## Municipal Court

- Filed 2,062 cases overall in fiscal year 2022-2023.
- Filed 28 parents for contributing to non-attendance cases from the school district for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Filed 39 truant conduct cases from the school district for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Police Department

- Hired a new Police Chief.
- Increased recruitment and retention efforts.
- Installed a new in-car camera system installed in patrol vehicles.
- Promoted Lt. Daniel Williams to Captain.
- Purchased breaching tools to deal with barricaded subjects.
- Purchased WRAP restraint devices to restrain belligerent individuals while preventing injury.
- Held National Night Out October 3, 2023.
- Held our first Coffee with a Cop event August 14, 2023.
- Purchased radar/speed trailer to assist with speed enforcement and traffic data gathering.



# Public Safety and Justice, cont.

## Fire Department

- Responded to 1,679 calls for service in 2023.
- Held three civil service entrance written tests and Physical Ability Tests (PAT) to create hiring eligibility list.
- Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Bergerson was named Caldwell County Firefighter of the Year for 2023 by the Lockhart Post Register.
- Assistant Fire Chief attended the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy. Once completed with the two-year program, he will obtain a certificate as a “Certified Fire Executive” from the Texas Fire Chiefs Association (TCFA).
- Fire Chief served on the Lockhart I.S.D. Safety Task Force and the Career and Technical Education Committee to enhance the safety and education of children in our community.
- Fire Chief served on the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Homeland Security Task Force which develops programs to assist in the overall preparedness of our region.
- Eight Lockhart Fire Rescue personnel attended the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) certification course on the operation of an aerial apparatus in preparation of the arrival of the aerial apparatus in June 2024.
- Lockhart Fire Rescue responded to 19 wildland fires from June 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 within Caldwell County with five wildland fires of significance in Lockhart city limits or its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) in 2023. The total acres burned for the five wildland fires is 418 acres. Fortunately, there were no major injuries to firefighters or citizens and no structures were lost.

## Lockhart EMS

- Lockhart EMS transitioned to City of Lockhart as a City Department.





- Recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting—the association’s higher form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.





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