



## Question #1 Report:

### What do you think should be Lawrence's top three priorities for the coming year?

#### Introduction:

The City Commission is starting their process to develop the city's 2016 budget. As part of this year's planning efforts, the Commissioners want residents to provide feedback and be a part of the conversation which will eventually help craft the city's budget.

Budgets reflect priorities and set the direction for future discussions about policies, services and programs. Our first Lawrence Listens question is about priorities and what our residents think the City Commission and staff should focus on as the budget process continues. We look forward to your comments!

#### General Demographic and Survey Information:

- 435 people visited the question
- 90 people (or 21% of those who visited) participated with a response (Open Town Hall requires users to verify the email account with one response allowed per email. The Open Town Hall system tracks browser cookies and IP addresses to look for systemic fraud).
- 161 people subscribed to Lawrence Listens for future questions
- Of those who reported their age, the 30-39 and 40-49 age demographics were highest. Approximately 1/3 of respondents did not provide their age.
- 90% of people who participated said they liked using Lawrence Listens.
- The question launched on May 4. The press release and social media notification started on May 6. The city used the following tools for publicizing: social media, website, press release, radio interview, Ch 6 news story, *LJW* coverage in Town Talk. More social media and face-to-face promotion is planned as part of the communication plan going forward.
- Lawrence Listens received the most responses on May 7 and May 13.

## **Response Analysis:**

Open Town Hall is not meant to be a voting platform. The responses received were analyzed and can be broadly categorized to reflect the categories below. In my analysis, I grouped similar responses together; however, the actual response could be vastly different than another in the same category. For example, under economic development, I grouped responses including more jobs, better-paying jobs, and accountability for economic incentives all within the same general category. Similarly, if the response was about pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, or improved sidewalks for safety, those responses all went into Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety.

Because this was an open-ended question and encouraged participants to comment with no specific phrases or set topics, it isn't as easy to categorize but the information gleaned is no less helpful. As a reminder, Lawrence Listens is not a scientific sampling of the community and is a report from a self-selecting group that is aware of the system and chooses to respond. A full list of responses is included as part of this report.

## **Top priorities listed:**

- Public Safety (police facility, body cameras, consolidated locations)
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety (sidewalks, safety, school zones)
- Economic Development (accountability of funds, better paying jobs)
- Street Maintenance/Infrastructure (repair of roads)
- Gigabit Fiber installation and access
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Health Services
- Traffic Planning (traffic flow, safety)
- Public Transportation & Transit (hub, routes)
- Good Planning Efforts (growth, density, development)
- Accountability for spending
- Tourism/Convention Center
- Transparency in Government
- No tax increases
- Equality & Diversity
- Concern for Ecological Impact/Sustainable Practices
- Downtown Parking/Downtown Support
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle
- Support for Elderly

Other priorities that were provided but were not grouped into categories:

- Living wage
- Jail space
- Preservation of green space

- Civil, respectful and cooperative spirit
- Funding for arts
- Rental registration for safe housing
- Downtown support
- Education
- Dog parks
- Clean up river
- Spend money locally
- Decrease sales tax
- City Manager search

### **What is next for Lawrence Listens?**

Question #2 will go live on May 14. The question is utilizing the same question that has been discussed at the two budget meetings: **“What level of priority do you think each budget category should receive in the 2016 Budget?”** Introduction: The City of Lawrence recently held two budget meetings in May 2015. At those forums, the city split the current budget into 20 general categories of city services. For this survey, please select your answer for each category whether you think the category should receive a more funding priority, the same amount of funding priority, or less funding priority. *Please provide your answer for each category listed.* For example: “I think Fire & EMS should have *higher priority / the same amount of priority / less priority* in 2016.”

### **90 Responses (in chronological order):**

- Gigabit/Fiber Internet (Not necessarily Wicked, either)
- Traffic Problems
- Legalizing Food Trucks
  
- Economic Development
- Public Safety (Police Dept needs)
- Infrastructure
  
- Economic Development
- Public Safety (adequate police facility)
- Transparency
  
- New police headquarters

- Economic development — including incentives, public/private partnerships, etc.
- Conference center
- Accountability in Economic Development (Stop Blindly Funding the Chamber!)
- Gigabit Fiber - Working with LOCAL providers to facilitate Open Access
- Citizens Review Board for Police Department
- Alternative transportation options (increased bus frequency, cohesive bike lane network)
- Economic development (new jobs in various areas of town; not excluding, but not limited to retail along South Iowa)
- Public safety (addressing police and fire needs, as well as mental and physical preventive health)
- Gigabit Wicked Broadband Fiber
- Implement School Zones
- Sidewalk repair
- Local provider (not necessarily Wicked) for gigabit Internet
- CoC Transparency
- Economic development
- Emergency Services including police facility
- Transit issues (frequency of buses and hub)
- Pedestrian crossings on Bob Billings Parkway
- Gigabit fiber with a local vendor
- Business recycling
- Convention center downtown
- Local Gigabit Fiber
- Conference Center
- Local Transit Improvement
- Gigabit Fiber (not Wicked)
- CoC transparency
- Education
- Solution to the traffic jams around YSI during certain times.

- Gigabit fiber
- Attracting good jobs and businesses; convention center seems like a good idea
- Data driven metrics for the budget
- Policy changes to reduce arrest and ticketing for minor municipal violations
- Affordable housing not gentrification
- gigabit fiber with wicked broadband
- better roads for east and central lawrence
- better sidewalk for east and central lawrence
- Gigabit Internet with Wicked Broadband
- Events for African Americans
- Better roads for east lawrence
- Investment in STEAM programs & Makerspaces
- Gigabit Fiber (w/ common carrier) Locally owned preferred
- Property tax abatement program to offset sidewalk repair
- Improved sidewalks and pedestrian routes
- Implement school zones
- Combined Police facility
- sidewalks, safe bike lanes, connected trail network
- jobs
- affordable housing
- Parks and recreation
- Interconnected bikeway system
- Affordable housing
- Gigabit fiber with local provider preferred
- Better hours for public transportation
- Road and infrastructure maintenance (without ripping back into it within a week of finishing it)
- Infrastructure - sidewalks, streets, utilities, city buildings, older parks
- Police department

- Better planning and implementation - street layout and land use, access to retail, Complete Streets policy in older areas.
- affordable housing
- mental health prevention
- require businesses receiving incentive package to donate 1% of savings to DG CO community foundation
- I feel Lawrence has enough police officers in town. I normally work in the Kansas City area on both sides of the state line. Lawrence defiantly makes you feel suffocated with the police here. At some point the citizens need to be responsible for they're own well being or we will live in fear..flooding the town with more cops isn't the right thing to do..as we've found out with Officer William Burke and the riots in Baltimore.there isn't enough cameras in town to police the police..
- New Police Department Facility
- New Police Department Facility
- New Police Department Facility
- Adequate funding to operate and maintain LPRD facilities
- Continue with economic development infrastructure
- Review and validate police operational and maintenance needs
- Pedestrian and bicycle path system (e.g. proposed river trail connecting to Burroughs Creek Trail)
- Help with safe routes to schools
- High density and mixed use zoning
- Maintain Roads & Infrastructure
- Community/Rec Center Activities & Resources
- Safety & Police Commitment to Community
- economic development to bring higher paying jobs to town
- infrastructure improvements
- adequate and functional police facility
- Studying police needs and priorities for space and efficient sustainable operations

- Long range planning and community vision as the comprehensive plan is updated
- Providing robust support in multiple ways for the Health Department's strategic plan for community health--physical and mental health
  
- Streets and sidewalks
- Mental health services
- Downtown parking
  
- Education
- Taxes
- Environment
  
- attracting tech companies to town
- sidewalks, safe bike lanes, connected trail network
- expanding the T buses to the west side of town
  
- Preserving the authenticity and uniqueness of Downtown
  
- Economic Development/Jobs
- Reducing City Hall Red Tape
- Being a Help to New Businesses
  
- No tax increase
- Budget within your means
- Police and Fire protection
  
- Dedicated funding stream for Safe Routes to School and other bike/ped infrastructure improvements
- Promoting transit utilization (including evaluation of fare-free transit)
- Encourage high-density residential development (including affordable), including discussion of urban growth boundary
  
- Downtown Convention Center with 400+ capacity room AND several other meeting rooms of various sizes for breakout sessions
- Mental health facility
- Attracting higher paying jobs and attracting better options for senior living to help make Lawrence a more attractive place to retire. I realize that is 4. Sorry.

- Streets and Bike Lanes
  - Police Facility Additions to existing facilities
  - Job creation by attracting more businesses
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- Road repair/maintenance! Lawrence roads are very bad.
  - Property tax abatement for curb/driveway repair.
  - More shopping opportunities. Lawrence is throwing away large sums of money because residents travel to Overland Park and Topeka for shopping. More shopping opportunities would also mean more employment opportunities.
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- Add jobs paying \$15/hr or more, so grads of new career center can support their families while working in Lawrence.
  - Implement and enforce rental housing inspection program to improve safe and affordable housing supply and discourage slumlords.
  - Work with Dg County and Bert Nash MHC to positively treat and prevent unnecessary jailing of those with mental health or substance abuse issues.
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- affordable housing (through dedicated affordable housing trust fund)
  - Entrepreneur grants for local venture businesses (e.g. Hilary's Eat Well)
  - investing in fiber infrastructure
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- Housing
  - jobs
  - feeding people
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- not raising property taxes.
  - not building a new jail
  - homeless problem
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- Affordable housing
  - Mental health center
  - Body cameras for law enforcement
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- creating an affordable homes trust fund and dedicating money to it
  - creating a treatment center for people with mental illness who are in crisis
  - making city buildings as green as possible



- Decrease taxes, or at least no increase
- Police facility - make best use of current facilities or other city property
- City and County work together on mental health treatment issues
- Bring Gigabit Fiber to Lawrence with Wicked Broadband
- Greater accountability in economic development spending
- Greater focus on small business and local businesses
- Accessibility for disabled people, city website, streets and buildings
- Open Data Policy for all City Data <http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/>
- Reducing waste being promoted by the city: Smaller City owned Cars , Less city employees with expensive mobile phone contracts. Also the smaller garbage bins are more expensive,why?
- Mental health care
- Stop giveaway tax abatements
- More programs for senior citizens via LPRD
- Gigabit Fiber I trust Wicked Broadband to be the most ethical company for this.
- Accountability in economic spending and budgeting
- Mandatory police bodycams
- Environment: clean water, air, and energy sources; safe streets; affordable housing; mental and physical health availability for all
- Education, with emphasis on appreciation of diversity
- Economic opportunities and job training
- Most of all, I would like our leadership to focus on people who have NEEDS (housing, food, living wage jobs). Our citizens with NEEDS are often placed behind what some people WANT. We know there are essential needs that our citizens suffer. Let's make their needs a priority!
- Repave and add speed bumps to Louisiana street Prior to 31st opening up. Once 31st is open Louisiana will be a Busy street
- Upgrade 10 hwy and Kasold Before fatalities pile up
- Don't raise taxes and have a balanced budget

- Preserving green spaces
- Ensuring bike lanes throughout the city
- Maintaining the water quality
- Using the current Judicial Center's parking lot to do a high-rise two-story parking lot and 2 to 3 stories for a new Police Department. Does not require a purchase of new land and is centrally located.
- Keep up with the times and put new high-speed fiber optics in Lawrence
- adding additional bedspace to the current jail so we are not spending money sending prisoners to other counties
- Invest more in businesses that create both jobs and retail/service/contract sales revenue, and less in large-scale housing development projects.
- Dedicated downtown tourist information/public art area coupled with downtown bus station hub
- Ensure Lawrence keeps its reputation as a city that promotes and protects equality for people of any race or sexual orientation.
- Everything we do must address our contribution to the critical local and global problem of elevated greenhouse gases and collapsing ecosystems. 1) Decrease energy consumption (especially from fossil fuels but also from other energy sources--address our energy addiction) City Universities Schools Employers Homeowners and renters Shoppers Tourists Everyone of us This weaning must include but not be limited to-- All types of Vehicles (e.g., city, work related--urban & rural, personal) (cars, SUVs, pickups, trucks, buses--such as electric ones with humorous "batteries included" sign, motorcycles, airplanes...) All types of buildings and design variables (H&AC systems, berms, passive solar heating, natural cooling, building materials...) (offices, schools, other public & private buildings, homes, condos, apartments, retirement communities, etc.) All aspects of our lives must be included. 2) Walking-biking paths-- A loop all the way around the city, plus more crisscrossing the city that incorporate routes to help K-12 students get safely to their neighborhood schools; routes that make it easier and safer for community members to get downtown and to essential places, such as grocery stores; timely and safe routes that enable university students to get to campus without driving cars... 3) Promote healthy lifestyles for all ages-- Support local gardens and farms (including cooperative or community gardens, school-based gardens, home gardens, "truck farms," nurseries, farmers using sustainable practices and avoiding GMOs and other alterations and contaminants negatively affecting the

longterm food supply...) Educate people about the increasingly detrimental effects of choices such as non-native plants; any plants that don't benefit pollinators by providing them food; pesticides such as Roundup and others containing neonicotinoids that are associated with devastating pollinator populations and eventually our entire food supply... Require responsible, non-polluting, conservation-oriented use of water by all public and private entities and every person!!! Prioritize environmentally friendly events and other opportunities that encourage people to stay active, including using the walking-biking paths and locally grown food mentioned previously.

- Thorough and affordable mental health services
- Civil, respectful conversations, open minds, cooperative spirit
- Attention to the needs of our elderly citizens
  
- more sidewalks so my kids don't have to walk in the street
- affordable housing. it's not only a college student town. families can't afford the price gouge
- better water
  
- Improve public safety
- Fix/build sidewalks
- Resolve traffic issues
  
- Better sidewalks and connected bike path system
- Invest in Peaslee Tech to increase job readiness
- Maintain excellent Parks and Recreation system
  
- More center and right turn lanes to avoid traffic jams
- Downtown parking
- Bring more businesses and jobs to Lawrence!
  
- Bring better paying jobs to town
- Create more affordable housing
- Better traffic flow through the city
  
- Safety and promotion of walking and cycling. That means, in part, more safe bike paths and safe pedestrian crossing.
- Support the bus system, including keeping "hub" downtown. Super important.
- Support the arts. For example, music recording studio in the library is a great idea.

- Better paying jobs. Minimum wages do not work for the prices in Lawrence.
- Traffic issues! I have been asking for years to remove the street parking on Alabama Street between 23rd and 27th. I have seen children nearly get hit, buses can't really get through with cars on the street. I would really like to see that officially fixed. Every house on that street has a driveway no reason for cars on the street.
- More family centered entertainment.
- stop tax abatement for rental housing. Reserve this for business growth.
- Expand recycling to business and commercial customers
- East Lawrence street improvements. Some have not had any repairs for 15 years
- New police facilities
- Modernize Internet and reach out to other providers (Google Fiber, Clea, etc) for a more competitive market
- Make bus stops more user friendly.
- Arts funding
- Convention business
- Attracting businesses
- 27th Street traffic calming
- School zones
- Police
- Expanded & improved bike/ped infrastructure
- Affordable housing
- Mental health crisis & infrastructure instead of jail time
- Add sidewalks so kids aren't walking in the street
- Add street lamps to dark blocks so everyone feels safe walking at night
- Gigabit Internet
- Provide for the poor, elderly, and disabled.
- Lower the Sales Tax.
- Increase the Minimum Wage.

- Two dog parks, in town. Exercise for ourselves as well as pets. a friendly community builder.
- Dog park in Watson Park
- Dog park in Centennial Park
- River - working to make the river cleaner, more inviting, and a focal point for our community.
- Parking - downtown is becoming less of a destination for me because of the lack of available street parking.
- Sidewalks - I have a small child in a stroller and it is difficult to get from my house in East Lawrence to downtown on the terrible sidewalks.
- Consolidated Police Facility
- Significant Street Improvement Program Upgrades
- Increased Priority to spend Lawrence dollars with Lawrence Businesses.
- A new, efficient, modern and consolidated police facility
- Traffic concerns
- Consolidated Police Facility
- Continued support for Parks and Rec
- Continued collaboration with County and Chamber for job growth
- New Police Facility
- Economic Development
- Road resurface/repair
- Economic Development - dedicated fund
- Police Facility
- Road maintenance
- Economic Development, fill Venture Park
- New, centrally located police station
- Plan to deal with homeless and mentally ill
- 24/7 mental health crisis help
- affordable housing

- maintaining Parks and Rec facilities funding
- Unified police station!
- New Police Facility
- Economic Development Plan
- A consolidated police facility
- A safe, secure, modern police headquarters
- A new Police facility/headquarters
- Police Station
- Police Station
- Police Station
- secure, modern police headquarters
- new Police facility/headquarters
- Police facility
- New Police Facility
- Find the "Best Fit" City Manager for Lawrence
- Economic Development
- Pedestrian safety
- Bike safety
- Slow the cars down
- new, consolidated police facility
- traffic issues
- new, consolidated police facility