

City of West Buechel

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To: City Council, City Employees, Business Owners, and Community Members

From: Mayor Brenda Moore

Date: May 22, 2025

Subject: City of West Buechel Budget Address

I am honored to serve as your mayor, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the city's progress, challenges, and future. It is a privilege to listen to your concerns, celebrate our achievements, and work alongside you to make West Buechel an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. I take great pride in leading and representing this wonderful community.

I am excited to present a balanced and fiscally responsible budget that aligns with our shared priorities: public safety, quality of life, and infrastructure improvements. Before I discuss our accomplishments and plans, I want to express my gratitude to the City Council for their partnership in leading our community, to our exceptional employees for their dedication, to the community board members for their service, and to the entire community for your trust and ongoing support.

Fiscal Year Highlights:

This year, we have made significant strides in improving our city:

- **Public Safety:** We began renewing our police fleet, replacing three outdated vehicles with three new Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles. We also outfitted five of our nine police officers with new ballistic vests, funded by a state grant, ensuring their safety as they serve our community.
- **Police Department Achievements:** The WBPD has initiated a Constant Presence Initiative to be as visible as possible in the retail area and in residential areas. This initiative has been very successful in the deterrence of national/statewide organized retail criminals. This effort has also built strong working relationships with LMPD, other small city police departments, and our local asset protection teams. The Constant Presence Initiative has been detailed in our council meetings, and our crime reports show a great difference in comparison to our surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Road Maintenance:** We completed essential repairs on Bashford Ave, McCollum Ct., and Old Shepherdsville Rd., making our streets safer and more accessible for everyone.
- **Streetlight Upgrade:** We signed a contract with LG&E to upgrade all city streetlights to LED. This investment will nearly pay for itself in electricity savings over the next five years.

- **Public Works Projects:** We are installing a new fence along the police department property with the Buechel Bypass to ensure the safety of our community, especially our children and pets.
- **Community Space Improvements:** Work has begun to improve the lot next to City Hall, a popular spot for walkers and pet owners. We are making it safer and more enjoyable for everyone. We recently finished construction of a gazebo at the community center. We also graded this area, making it safer and more appealing.
- **Community Development:** Our community center team will continue their partnership with JCPS 502 Food Works to provide meals for children this summer, ensuring that no child in West Buechel goes hungry while school is out. Last year, we served approximately 1600 meals (800 breakfasts and 800 lunches) during the summer months last year.
- **Support for Small Business:** Through collaboration with the Council, we recently updated the occupational license ordinance to support small businesses and increase compliance with our city ordinances. The revised ordinance will make it easier for businesses to follow the ordinance and participate in community events.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** We have consistently managed the tax dollars wisely and have maintained a balanced budget. To do this, we are constantly monitoring spending, quoting work, and bidding for large projects.
- **Community Cleanup:** Our spring cleanup enabled residents to dispose of bulk items responsibly and easily, keeping our neighborhoods clean and beautiful.

Managing Expenses:

Like many cities, we have faced rising costs:

- **Healthcare:** Healthcare rates increased by 9% this year. By working closely with our provider, we now offer two plans, giving our employees excellent coverage while minimizing increased costs for the city.
- **Competitive Wages:** We have increased employee wages to remain competitive with similar-sized cities and retain our talented team.
- **Sustaining Public Safety Technology:** As ARPA funding has been fully utilized, the city is now funding body-worn cameras and Flock cameras directly from our police budget. This transition was necessary to maintain the high standard of transparency and safety our community expects.
- **Police Budget:** The police budget has been increased by nearly 18% to support higher salaries, new equipment, and expanded services for our officers.

Looking Ahead:

Our commitment to progress continues:

- Continuing road repairs remains a top priority for the city.
- I will continue working with the Council to modernize our ordinances, ensuring they align with Metro Ordinances, and state and federal law.
- I am working with MSD to address drainage issues in residential areas.
- We have given the police department the tools and funding to recruit and hire five additional police officers so we can provide 24-hour police coverage.
- Continue working on building a food pantry program at our community center.

Closing:

As I look to the future for our amazing city, I want to thank the Council, our employees, and every member of our community for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are building a safer, stronger, and more vibrant West Buechel. My commitment to public safety, quality of life, and infrastructure improvements remains unwavering. I will continue working with the Kentucky League of Cities, Louisville Metro Government, and our neighboring small cities to strengthen our financial health, enhance our insurance options, and improve the services we provide.

We believe in West Buechel, and by working together, we will continue to make our city a place we are all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brenda Moore
City of West Buechel