

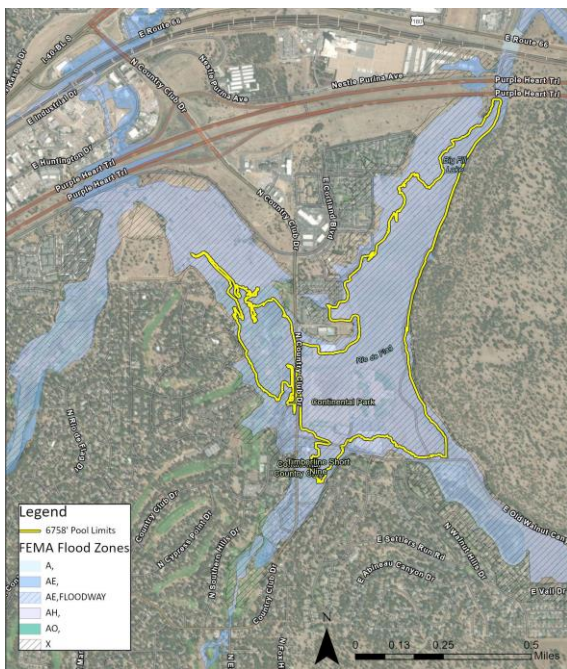


CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

2025 State Lobbying Packet

Flagstaff Wildland Fire Training Facility

The City of Flagstaff's Wildland Fire Management team is in need of a training facility to train firefighters from around the region to hone their skills in combating wildfires in various terrains and conditions. Flagstaff's Wildland Fire Management team is a national leader in fuel reduction, education, and defensible space, and home hardening techniques. Currently, the City's Wildland Fire Management team is housed in a temporary facility at the Flagstaff Airport, but this facility is not designed to be a functional wildfire management station. **The estimated cost to design and build this facility is \$3.95M.**



Flood Mitigation in Flagstaff – Big Fill Lake

The City of Flagstaff is working to leverage local, state and federal dollars to protect residents from flooding and remove homes from the FEMA floodway. On the City's east side, the Rio de Flag experiences a significant bottleneck near the railroad tracks and immediately downstream at historic Route 66. Due to this bottleneck, there are over 50 structures that are now mapped in a FEMA backwater floodway, a restrictive designation allowing no improvements for these homes. The City intends to partner with BNSF to rectify this drainage issue at Big Fill Lake. A new series of culverts under both BNSF rail line and Route 66 will remove the FEMA floodway designation for the 51 homes as well as open 200 acres to development.

The City will apply for a Federal PROTECT grant for the Big Fill Lake project for \$14M and **is in need of a \$3M match if awarded the grant.**



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Police and Fire Vehicles

Updated police vehicles ensure that our officers have reliable, safe, and efficient transportation for responding to emergencies and patrolling neighborhoods. The Flagstaff Police Department anticipates needing to replace 14 vehicles within the upcoming fiscal year, including 3 Detective Metro Seizure Vehicles, 8 Patrol Vehicles and 3 Police Aid Vehicles. **The average cost per vehicle is \$90,000, creating a total need of \$1.26M.**



Up-to-date apparatus for the fire department would allow Flagstaff to have a safer and more dependable fleet to respond to all-risk incidents in our community. The Flagstaff Fire Department has a current need for 2 new Type 1 Engines (one of which is already on order and the City has paid a down payment for, but the remainder of the funding has not been identified). The City's current units are over 20 years old. **The cost for this request is approximately \$2M.**



Airport Security & Access Upgrades



The Security and Access Control Upgrades project at Flagstaff Pulliam airport includes the replacement of the security camera and access control system at the airport, the installation of perimeter fence skirting, terminal vehicle hardening, the replacement of an airfield access gate, and the removal of obstructions near the airport perimeter fence. **The cost for this request is approximately \$950,000.**



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Oppose SB1444: Protect Arizona Groundwater

SB1444 (helium exploration; aquifer protection permit) would exempt helium exploration and production wells from Arizona's aquifer protection permit program even in the case of fracking (injecting chemicals into the subsurface). The City of Flagstaff opposes SB1444 because helium wells are being drilled in Northern Arizona within the same aquifer as municipal water wells, and where the surface casing may not protect the safe drinking water quality of the aquifers used by water providers. Current law allows ADEQ to require the installation of a monitor well to ensure that groundwater is being protected. **This is an important protection that needs to remain in place to ensure our aquifers in Coconino County remain free of pollutants and contamination.**



Support SB1368: Funding for Public Safety Equipment



SB1368 (appropriations; public safety equipment) would appropriate a total of \$528,000 from the Peace Officer Training Equipment Fund for the Flagstaff Police Department for important public safety equipment. The funding would be used to purchase a public safety training simulator, which uses immersive technology to prepare officers for real-life scenarios, enhancing decision-making, de-escalation skills and improving overall safety. The funding would also be used to purchase non-lethal apparatus (pepper ball equipment), which are designed for de-escalation and threat deterrence.



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

2025 State Legislative Priorities

GUIDING PRIORITIES

Preserve Local Control - Support legislation that preserves or enhances the City's ability to govern locally and oppose legislation that reduces or restricts the City's local authority.

State Shared Revenues - Protect (and recover) state shared revenues to municipalities and oppose new legislation seeking to divert shared revenues away from municipalities.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation - Advocate for additional funding to plan, build, preserve, modernize, and expand transportation and infrastructure projects that impact northern Arizona and our tribal partners. Support investments in clean transportation infrastructure, including public transit, electric vehicle charging, and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure.

Resilience and Preparedness - Advocate for assistance to upgrade infrastructure to withstand catastrophic events such as flooding, storms, and forest fires.

Flagstaff Pulliam Airport – Protect the State Aviation Fund (similar to HURF) and emphasize the need to use funds for airport maintenance and operations. Discourage transfers out of the fund for non-aviation expenditures.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Affordable Housing - Support legislation and seek funding in support of affordable housing, including the renewal of the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH), renewal of the State Affordable Housing Tax Credit program, and funding for the Arizona Housing Trust Fund. Join cities across the state in prioritizing the creation of housing units while retaining local control in areas related to housing development.

Short-Term Rentals - Work with stakeholders supporting legislation to allow for local regulations over investor-owned residential properties used as short-term rentals and ensure equity with the hotel industry.



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Rural Broadband - Support and encourage continuing state efforts to increase rural broadband access and capacity to encourage and develop economic activity, including allowing for remote education, business attraction, revenue creation, and the attraction of remote workers.

Fire Insurance – Support state level efforts to ensure affordable and accessible fire insurance coverage for Flagstaff residents, including efforts to reduce wildfire risk in both the natural and built environments that are aligned with the AZ Dept. of Insurance and Financial Institutions Resiliency and Mitigation Council.

ENVIRONMENT

Forest Health - Advocate for state and federal investments in wildfire risk reduction-based forest management across all lands in northern Arizona, complementing municipal efforts to protect our region. Invest state funding in important regional forest health projects across all lands while also reducing wildfire risk to the built environment. Advocate for collaborative prescribed fire policies that both increase acres treated and support the development of a technically skilled workforce.

Arizona Corporation Commission - Urge the Arizona Corporation Commission to preserve energy efficiency programs and renewable energy credits to protect critical resources that benefit Arizona households, businesses, workers, and ratepayers. Develop and strengthen relationships with Arizona Corporation Commissioners to increase awareness of these programs' economic and workforce development benefits.

Environmental Funding and Partnership - Support state funding and partnership opportunities to expand open space, parks, natural areas, trails, and wildlife corridor initiatives across northern Arizona. Support the restoration of funding to the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund grant program for historic preservation. Promote the City's dark skies program and strengthen relationships with regional partners such as the Arizona Department of Transportation to increase understanding of the City's dark skies goals.