

Summary of the Buffalo State of the City Address – Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Event Overview

The 2025 State of the City address was presented during a Chamber of Commerce event attended by nearly 110 community members. Speakers for the City included Mayor, Steve Downer; City Administrator, Taylor Gronau; Utilities Director, Jason Meusburger; Community Development Director, David Kelly; and Sergeant, Mark Brown (Buffalo PD).

Mayor, Steve Downer – Opening Remarks

- Emphasized Buffalo's commitment to safety and growth.
- Promoted Buffalo Fiber to support better internet service, reduce tax burden, and strengthen city finances.
- Called for business-minded volunteers to join the proposed City of Buffalo Public Utilities Commission.

City Administrator, Taylor Gronau – Citywide Updates

- **Leadership:** Welcomed three (3) new City Council members: Erin Walsh, Sheila Crawford, and George Fantauzza.
- **Staff Recognition:** 22 City employees were in attendance.
- **Street Maintenance:** This is a key priority of the City Council. Increased investment from \$500,000 (2023) to \$2M (2024) and \$1.4M (2025).
- **Key Infrastructure Projects:** Ryan's Way extension (2025/2026), Highway 25 right turn lane (2025), 12th St NE (2025), Phase 1 of the NE Area/Downtown Reconstruction Project (2026/2027)
- **Recreation:** Lions Park playground (2025), new community center at the former Pen Rad site (2025/2026), splash pad (2026), Buffalo Lake boat rentals, and concerts in the park.
- **Grants:** \$20M in external grants and funding secured since 2023.
- **Transparency:** Public-facing project management tools launched on the City's website.

Utilities Director, Jason Meusburger – Infrastructure & Utilities

- **Staff:** Our Utility and IT services has over 30 excellent employees that are dedicated to incorporating innovative and high-quality services.
- **Electric:** Planning for second substation; AMI meter upgrade by October 2025.

- **Community Funding Support:** Electric utility invested \$1M back into the city in 2024, reducing property taxes and supporting city services.
- **Fiber:** Phase two expansion launching May 15 with presales underway.
- **Sewer:** Grant-funded sewer lining project.
- **Community Engagement:** Employee events and utility fair.

Community Development Director, David Kelly – Growth & Investment

- **Construction:** 70 single-family permits issued in 2024; \$44M total new building investment.
- **Residential Development:** Greenbrier Hills, Arbor Meadows, Settlers Brook, Creekside Manor, South Shores.
- **Commercial Development:** Former Wright County Government Center site, Business Park on Hwy 55, Buffalo Cinema.
- **Programs:** Rental licensing, BRE visits, mural ordinance, stormwater reuse initiatives.

Buffalo Police Department – Sergeant Mark Brown

- Fully staffed police department.
- Reduced medical and mental health calls.
- Stable drug issues and decreased fraud/theft due to outreach.
- Youth and public events planned for 2025.