



*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**



**COMMUNITY UPDATE**  
**JANUARY 2026**



## Our Vision

We embrace "Our City" and its historical Western lifestyle and values while being focused on socio-economic diversity with open eyes, minds, and hearts in keeping Sheridan the community of choice for all.

## Our Mission

We are dedicated to improving quality of life through responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us, with emphasis on public safety, exceptional service, livability, and infrastructure, while being accountable and professional.

## Our Core Values



**Make a Difference** – The primary purpose behind every City Staff action and activity is to make a positive difference in the lives of our Citizens.



**Take Initiative** – In the absence of guidance, we seize opportunities to advance the Mission of the City of Sheridan.



**Build Trust** – We must ensure that we daily earn the trust of the people of Sheridan, even when no one is watching us.



**Show Optimism** – A positive attitude is a force multiplier and is contagious. We look for opportunities in every situation.



**Promote Teamwork** – Together, Everyone Achieves More, and that only occurs through collaboration with others.





# City Administration

## INTRO:

**Happy New Year** Everyone and welcome back from the holidays. The end of December was a good time for Staff to catch up on tasks and take a little breather before jumping into 2026. As an election year, 2026 promises to be an interesting one. Several items will be on the ballot, including the 4% lodging tax, mills for a Senior District that will be used to pay for The Hub's services, and the General Purpose Excise Tax (GPET). The vast majority of lodging taxes are paid by people visiting Sheridan and staying in hotels or AirBnBs. The GPET tax is a significant revenue for Sheridan through which we receive about 62% of each penny as opposed to approximately 18% for each of the first four pennies of sales tax. The City Council typically approves around 10% of the GPET money annually to non-profit services they feel will help improve citizens' quality of life. That leaves around \$4.5M for projects, equipment, supplies, and other expenses. By resolution, GPET funds are limited to the following uses: public safety; community development; facilities and infrastructure; heritage, history and art; housing and shelter; parks, pathway, recreation and open space; public health; seniors; and family. Additionally, the State has a ballot measure permanently reducing property taxes by 50% for all residents. The impact of various bills from 2024 and 2025 on City revenues was a little over a \$400,000 reduction in General Fund revenue. It did a pretty good job moving the impact back toward pre-Covid levels (adjusted for inflation). It's unclear what impact a permanent 50% reduction will have, but we're projecting around a \$830K-\$840K reduction to our General Fund when it takes effect.

During the week of 15-19 December, I had the opportunity to sit down for coffee with **Representatives Tom Kelly and Laurie Bratten** in preparation for their upcoming legislative session. I talked to them about the effects we're seeing from recent legislative property tax changes, along with providing context for other bills they may be



considering. I'm trying to schedule a time to meet with Ken Pendergraft before the session starts, as well. We hope to be a trusted resource for legislators when facing questions of local impact of legislation. Last year I was able to provide perspective to help Laurie Bratten better understand the impact of the various tax reduction proposals.

Mayor Bridger addressed three of our four legislative representatives (Bratten, Pendergraft, and Connolly) and one of two senators (Crago) at the Chamber's **Legislative Forum** on December 19, which provides an important opportunity for businesses, organizations, and individuals to bring topics before the legislators ahead of the upcoming Wyoming State Legislative session. The Mayor spoke to several key issues that are critical to our community, including the need for sustainable Next Generation 911 funding, local authorization of simulcasting, and the importance of stable tax structure, direct distributions, and revenues for the City. The Mayor also discussed the value of professional associations, noting the many benefits they provide the City and its citizens.

Mayor Bridger and I attended the **Critical Air Service Task Force (CAST)** meeting on 8 January.



There were a couple notes of interest coming out of that meeting. The second week of April through most of May (about 6 weeks), the Gillette Airport main runway will be closed and rerouting travelers to other airports. Sheridan can expect some of these air travelers to increase already full flights. It's uncertain if SkyWest will make any adjustments during this period to increase



# City Administration

(continued) capacity. They reiterated that booking Sheridan flights 60-90 days ahead of time is a best practice (especially if flying in April/May timeframe). We were told that the rule-of-thumb for active airport impact is for every dollar spent in air travel there's an approximate \$20 return.

The direct economic impact of flights in and out of Sheridan has been calculated at around \$130 million. The direct and indirect impact across the whole State is believed to be about \$2.6 billion.

The **City and County** governing bodies met again on Jan 13 for their second, planned quarterly meeting to discuss items that Sheridan and Sheridan County have in common. Topics included SAWS, public restrooms, the annexation process, the Sheridan Comprehensive Plan, and others.



The Council and Commissioners discussed forming a joint committee to review and update the Joint Planning Area land use plan, which covers roughly 60 square miles surrounding the City. County officials noted the JPA plan and the county's comprehensive plan are aging documents developed under much different economic conditions, and updating them simultaneously could reduce costs. The electeds also discussed updating the current MOU between the City and County which guides the subdivision of County land within one mile of City limits.

On 14 January, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns announced successful lobbying that allows all Weston Village **Housing Land Trust** properties to be sold to buyers earning 30–120% of Area Median Income (AMI). The HLT was incorporated under Habitat to meet ARPA timelines, but Habitat's IRS restrictions initially limited sales to lower-income buyers. After clarification, it was expected that the best case would be that up to 50% of homes would be able to be sold to households above 80% AMI. This news of 100% of the properties allowed to meet the full range aligns with the City and County's ARPA goal of serving the "missing middle" (80–120% AMI), such as teachers and first responders, who earn too much for low-income programs but struggle to afford local housing.



The change expands access for both low- and middle-income buyers. Habitat has also asked the City to sponsor a \$1.6 million grant request to buy land to expand the program.












# Sheridan Fire-Rescue

*Proudly Serving Since 1888*



## 2025 INCIDENT TYPE BREAKDOWN

Incident Type	Number of Incidents	Percentage of Incidents
 Fire	52	3.0%
 Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	5	0.30%
 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	1106	64.60%
 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	68	4.00%
 Service Call	63	3.70%
 Good Intent Call	176	10.30%
 False Alarm & False Call	243	14.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1711</b>	<b>100%</b>

Overlapping Incidents	162	9.47%
All Hands Recall	59	



# Sheridan Fire-Rescue

*Proudly Serving Since 1888*



## 2025

### SHERIDAN FIRE-RESCUE STATISTICS

 **53**  
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES

 FIRE RESPONSES

**43**   
FIRES INVOLVING PROPERTY  
ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE:  
\$1,178,496



  
TOTAL FIRE LOSS:  
**\$148,920**



VALUE SAVED



## Customer Service and Information Technology

### Customer Service

For most of the year, we have been updating you on our customers assisted. Now, with that in mind, we would like to show you our 2025 year in review!

#### December - Customers Assisted

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
In-person	846	1126	280	33.10%
Phone Call	1206	1495	289	23.96%
Total	2052	2621	569	27.73%

#### December - Permits

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
Alcohol	12	4	-8	-66.67%
Street	1	0	-1	-100.00%
Special Event	0	0	0	0.00%
Mobile Vending	1	1	0	0.00%
Park	0	0	0	0.00%
Black Tooth Fields	0	4	4	100.00%

#### December - Passport Acceptance

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
Applications	78	86	8	10.26%

#### 2025 Year End Review - Customers Assisted

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
In-person	11520	13648	2128	18.47%
Phone Call	16550	18029	1479	8.94%
Total	28070	31677	3607	12.85%

#### 2025 Year End Review - Permits

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
Alcohol	180	185	5	2.78%
Street	101	66	-35	-34.65%
Special Event	58	56	-2	-3.45%
Mobile Vending	29	37	8	27.59%
Park	386	333	-53	-13.73%
Black Tooth Fields	212	316	104	49.06%

#### 2025 Year End Review - Passport Acceptance

	Avg.	2025	Change	% Change
Applications	782	991	209	26.73%

### Information Technology

#### Flex CAD Server Upgrade Completed

The IT Division upgraded the **Flex CAD** (Computer Aided Dispatch) server at the Police Department to a newer version of the **Windows operating system**, improving system efficiency and security features.







# Utilities

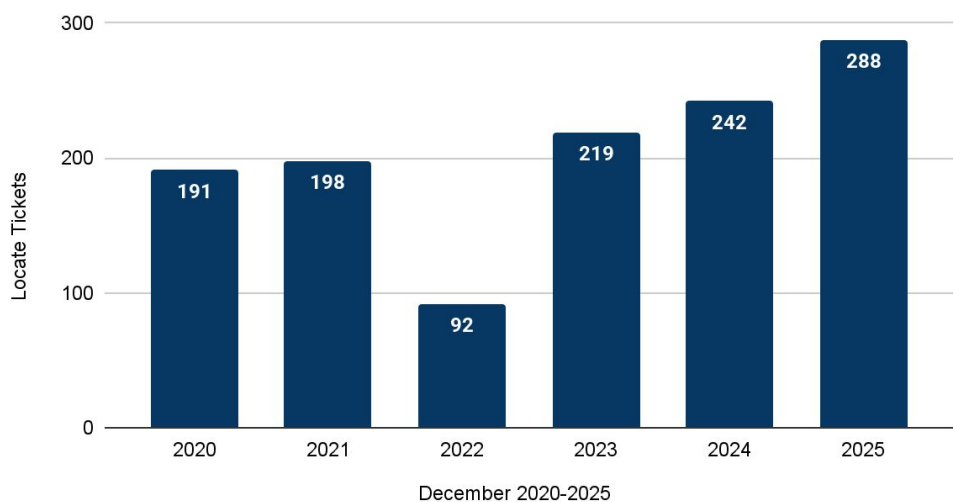
## Utility Services



Know what's below.  
Call 811 before you dig.

With another unusually warm winter month, the amount of locates was slightly elevated compared to other years. Please call before you dig!

December One-Call of Wyoming Tickets (Locates)

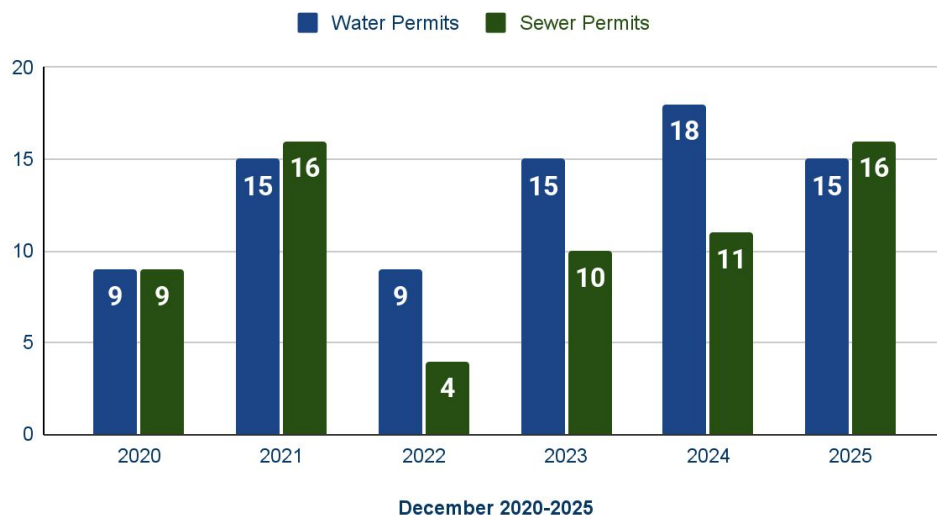


## Water & Sewer Permits

Need to apply for a water or sewer permit? Scan the QR code below to get the process started!



December 2020 - 2025 New Water & Sewer Service Permits





# Utilities

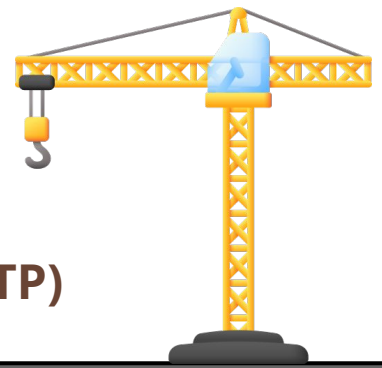
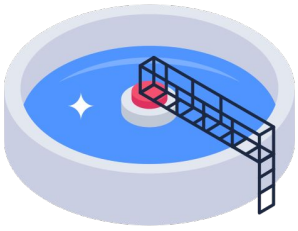
## Solid Waste Division

The City is working with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to create a pilot program that will assist in dead animal composting. The hope is to develop a system that other landfills and processing facilities may use to dispose of animal remains in a more effective and beneficial manner.



The City will use containers for a static pile composting system, which allows materials to decompose naturally without frequent turning. The City would also develop an automated system to control temperatures and moisture in the composting process.





## Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Construction crews continue to work on the installation of the new clarifier mechanism at the plant. We are getting pretty close to turning on the new clarifier and bringing it online. At this point our operators anticipate having the south clarifier online and operating by the end of January.



The clarifier is the second to last step in the wastewater treatment process. It is where treated water and solids enter, the solids settle to the bottom of the tank and the now clean water flows off the top of the tank to the final step which is disinfection before being discharged to the creek. The solids that settle to the bottom of the tank are pumped back into the treatment stream for further processing.





# Utilities

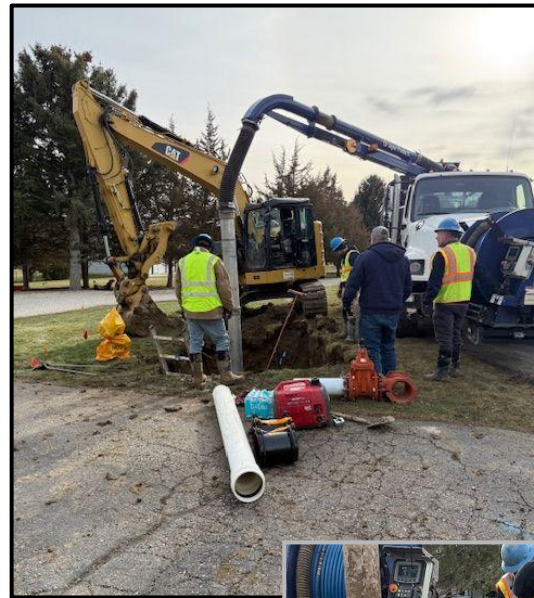
## Utility Maintenance



The high winds experienced in Sheridan County over the past few weeks have significantly impacted the power to several of our pump stations, causing numerous outages across the Little Goose and Big Goose SAWS systems. Our crew responded by deploying three of our portable generators on multiple occasions to maintain power to the pump stations.



The UM crew repaired a water main leak on Home Ranch Circle the week before Christmas. Upon excavation, the source of the leak was identified as a 6-inch PVC Schedule 40 glue-fitting Tee that feeds the hydrants. This incorrect pipe material, installed years ago, was replaced with a standard 6-inch epoxy-coated ductile iron mechanical joint fitting, which is the proper component for our system.





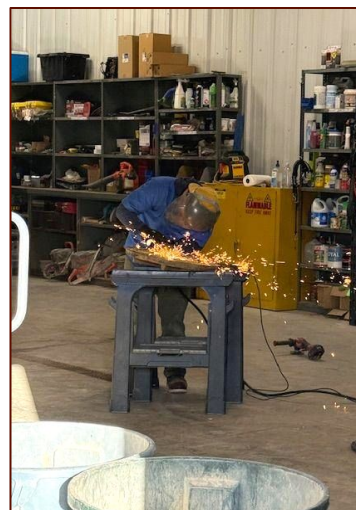
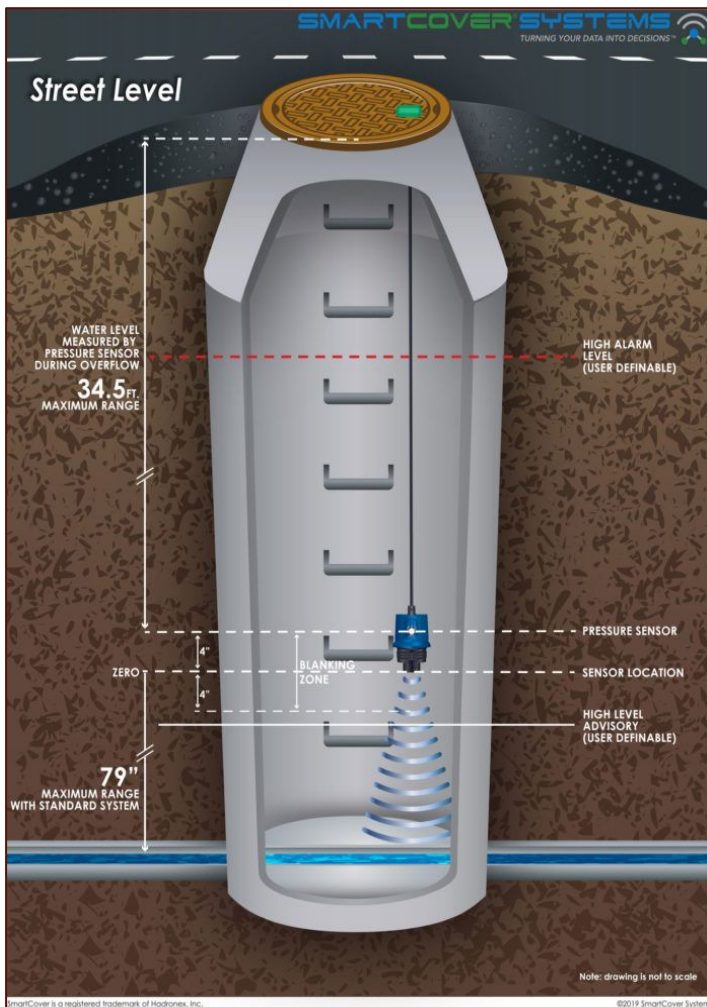


# Utilities

## Utility Maintenance



The Utility Maintenance (UM) crew is currently in the process of installing eight SmartCover sanitary sewer flow meters. This system utilizes real-time remote infrastructure data for monitoring and controls across sewer, lift station, and stormwater infrastructure. SmartCover enables utilities to achieve several key benefits: eliminating overflows, optimizing collection system cleaning, minimizing H2S odors, and accurately identifying inflow and infiltration.







# Utilities

## Water Supply & Treatment



Alex Patterson



Tyller Brummett



*Good job!*

Congratulations to both **Alex Patterson** and **Tyller Brummett** on passing their exams. Alex passed his Level III exam and Tyller passed his level I exam!

Training and education is an essential part of maintaining a water operator license.



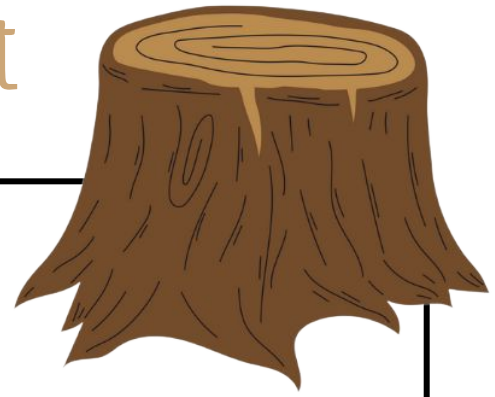
The Water Treatment Operators participated in the December 2025 Wyoming Association of Rural Water virtual mini-conference.

This two-day conference covered multiple topics required for annual license renewal, including EPA updates, biosolids, PFAS, and other regulatory updates.

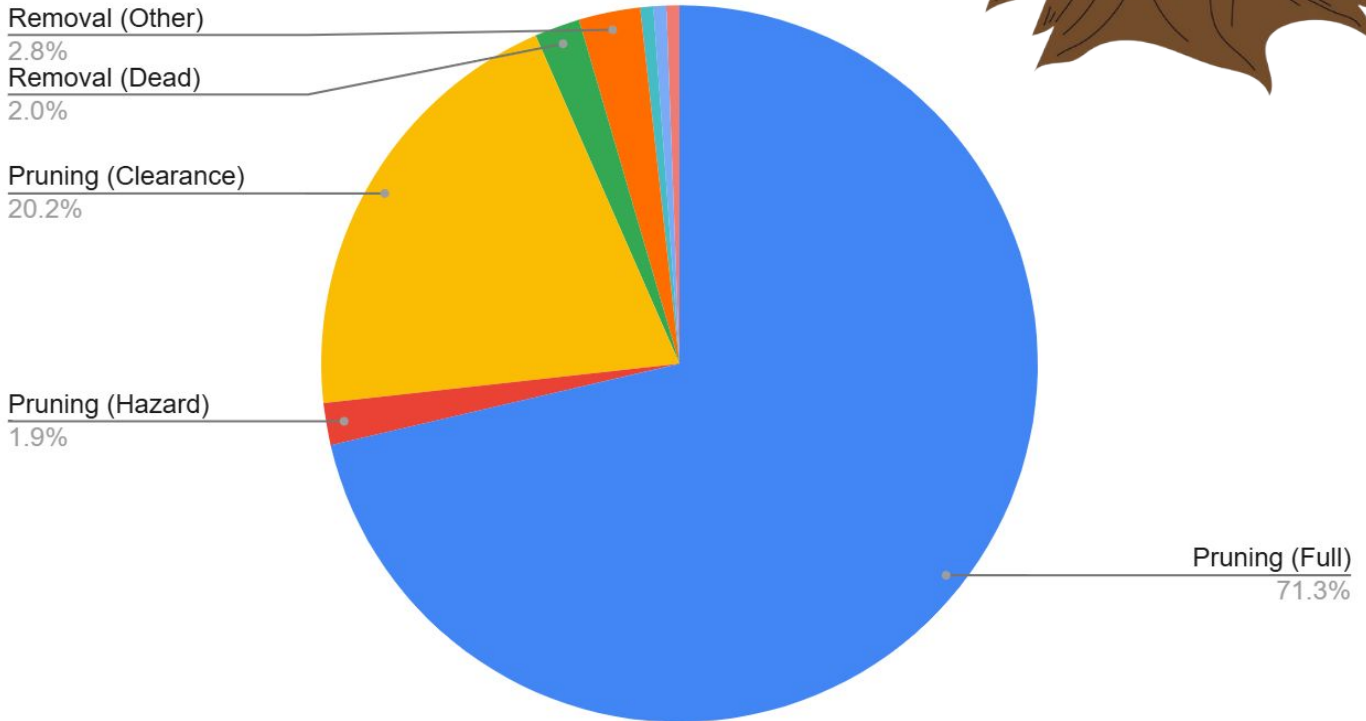




# Parks Department



## Percentage of Trees by Work Type



## Community Forestry

The Community Forestry Division wrapped up a successful 2025 calendar year by summarizing the data collected in their daily work log. The division worked with over 700 trees in 2025; a new high for total trees with maintenance performed in a year. The graph above shows a breakdown of maintenance type by tree count. Full pruning is the desired work type as this shows proactive management occurring on public trees. Full prunes were the majority of the workload in 2025 with 487 trees receiving this type of maintenance.

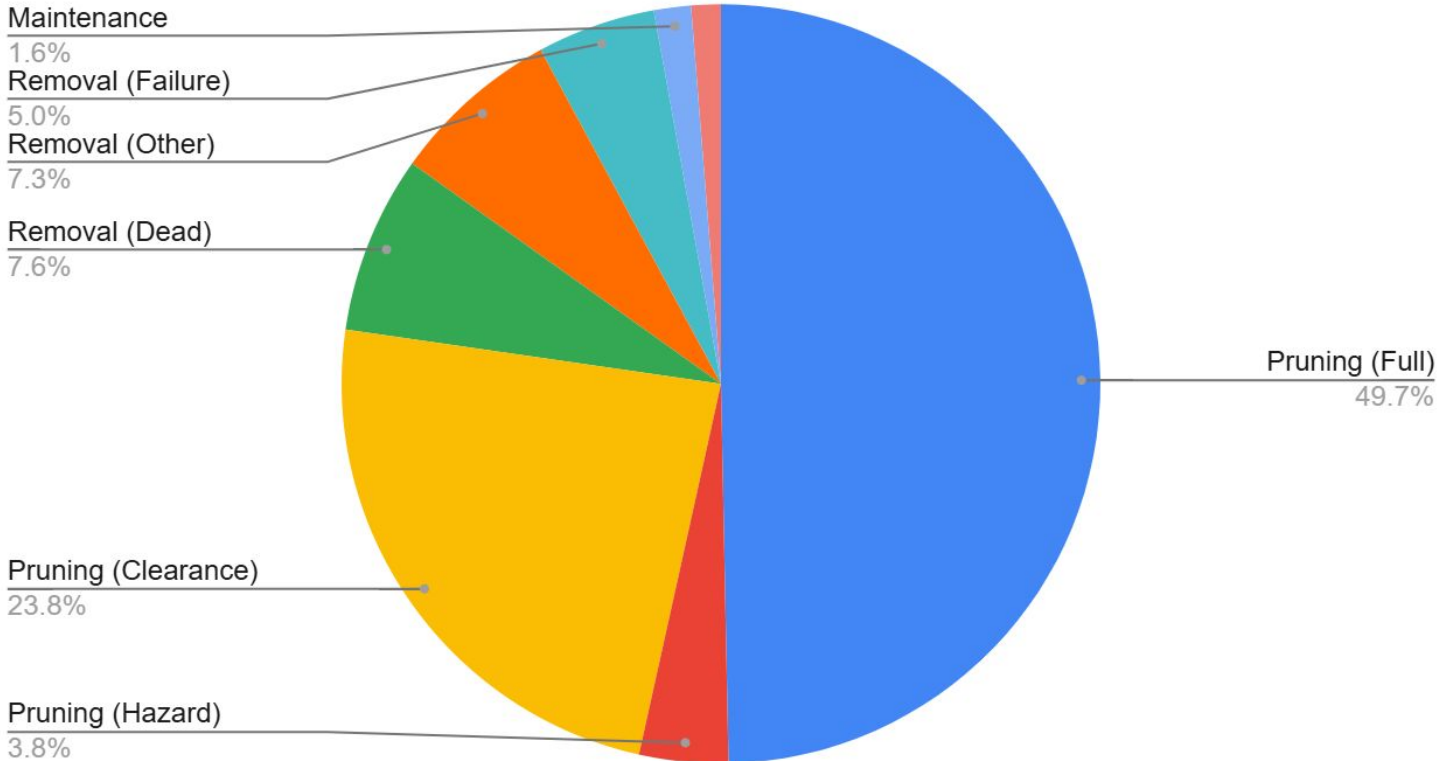




# Parks Department



## Percentage of Time Per Work Type



## Community Forestry Cont.

The division also tracks maintenance types by time. Typically, removals can take much more time than pruning on a tree to tree basis. This year crews removed 34 trees due to tree death, failure or hazard. It should also be noted that clearance pruning amounted to about of quarter of the workload. Clearance pruning for streets, signs, alleys or line of sight is often initiated from outside requests from citizens or from other departments within the city.

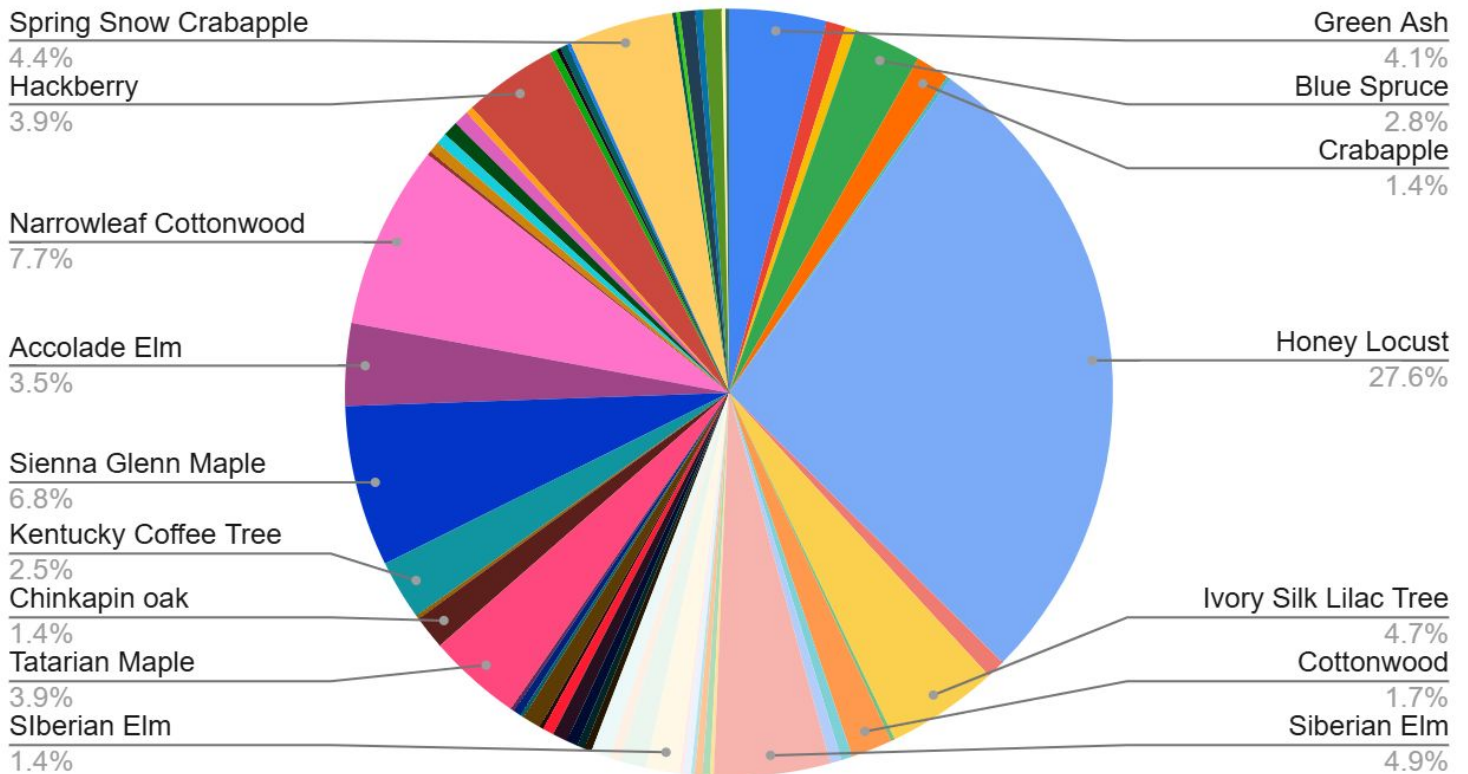






# Parks Department

## Work Load by Tree Species



## Community Forestry Cont.

Finally, the division keeps track of which tree species are being worked with throughout the year. Work history is tracked and updated on an individual tree basis through the City's tree inventory. This data is a good reflection of species diversity within the city while also providing insight as to which species require more maintenance than others.







# Police Department

## Training Update

Officer Moss and Officer Rinehart began the Basic Training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement academy on January 5, 2026. Officer Hawkins recently attended a Field Training Officer program to become a trainer of new officers for the department. The role of an FTO is a vital leadership role and Officer Hawkins will fill the role in an excellent manner. Communications Technician Shay Walker has begun her FTO program in dispatch and is excelling in her training, displaying a strong aptitude for the position and a very positive attitude.

## Sworn Staffing Update

The department currently has four (4) open positions to fill to reach the allocation of 31 sworn police officers. That includes one (1) officer starting on January 19, 2026. The department currently has a lateral officer in the background investigations stage of the hiring process. The department will not be testing for officer until mid-April due to the number of officers currently in the training program.

## Communications Staffing Update

The communications team has one (1) vacant position. Shay Walker successfully passed the background investigation and began employment on December 1, 2025. The department is currently collecting applications for another round of interviews, to be completed as soon as possible, to fill the last vacant position.



# Police Department

## Bureau Leadership Change

At the beginning of 2026, the leadership of the Operations Bureau and Special Operations Bureau will change. Lt. Hill will begin his tenure of the Operations Bureau, which oversees patrol and dispatch and Lt. Keller will oversee the Special Operations Bureau, which oversees Detectives, Community Service Officers and School Resource Officers. Both lieutenants spent four (4) years leading the bureaus in an exemplary manner. The change creates additional experiences for the leaders and the officers.

## Ballistic Armor Grant

The department applied for, and was notified of preliminary approval, of just over \$14,000 of a State Homeland Security Program grant for the purchase of rifle rated ballistic armor for our patrol officers. This grant covers all the expenses to outfit our officers with new plates that will increase their level of protection when faced with an armed individual. The department is committed to providing our officers with every bit of protection necessary for them to carry out their duties and service to the community.

## Shop with a Cop

On December 13, 2025, the department, along with multiple other first responders in the community, participated in the Shop with a Cop program. This program brought approximately 75 elementary aged kids from our community together with first responders to Walmart where they shopped for presents for themselves or family. Each family was also given at least one (1) food box containing all the essentials for a large, holiday dinner. This program is funded entirely by private donations from businesses and individuals in our community.





# Police Department

## Shop With a Cop

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**Thank you to our donors:** Walmart, Powder River Energy, Big Horn Mountain Eagles, Century 21 BHJ, First Northern Bank, A Plus Plumbers, Karen and Dale Boedeker, Doug and Mary Emme, Bryan and Amy Martini, Jay Luedtke, Madonna Rowe and Ron Dailey, Tim and Mary Barnes, Katharine and William Kovacs, Norleen Fleming, Dee and Gerry Pelesky, Sandra Suzor, Cheryl and James Schellinger, and many others who were anonymous!



# Police Department

## Patrol Division Activity Report for December 2025

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### **SHERIDAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

#### **MONTH OF DECEMBER**

Calls for Service: 716

Custodial Arrests Made: 62

Criminal Citations Issued: 53

Drug Related Arrests: 16

DUI Arrests: 11

Traffic Stops: 425

Traffic Accidents: 73





# Police Department

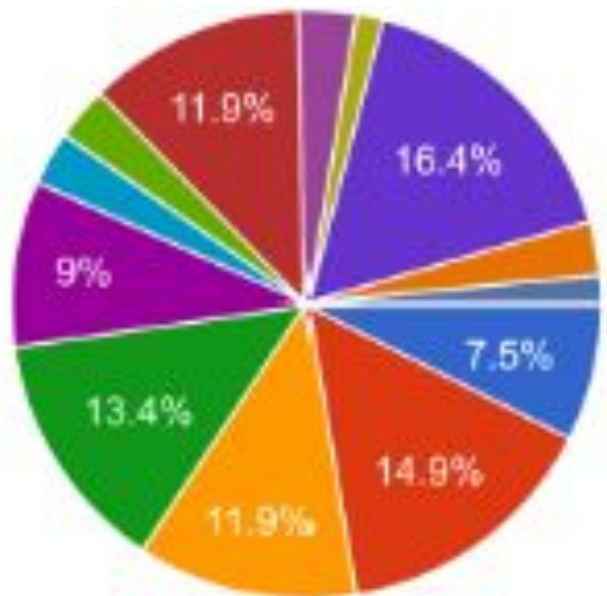
## Special Operations Division Activity Report

### December 2025

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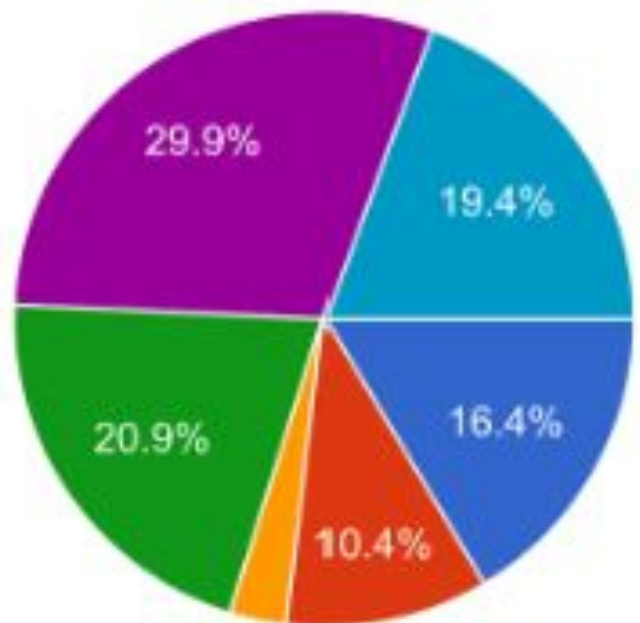
#### Investigative Title (52 Responses)

- Assist Agency
- Death Investigation
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Abuse of a Minor
- Suspicious Circumstances
- Burglary
- Drug Investigation
- Child Abuse



#### Disposition (52 Responses)

- Cleared by Arrest
- Sent to Prosecutor
- Unfounded
- Suspended, No Additional Leads
- No Further Action, Not Criminal
- Other time spent on duties





# Public Works: Building, Planning & Engineering

## Building

### Permit Report

Commercial New/Add/Alter

- **9** Permits
  - **2** New
  - **7** Add/Alter

Residential New/Add/Alter

- **15** Permits
  - **8** New
  - **7** Add/Alter

Permit Fees, December 1-31, 2025

- **\$49,672.20**

### Code Compliance - 4 Total Complaints

- 1 Signage
- 1 Mobile Vending
- 1 Filthy Premise
- 1 ROW Obstruction

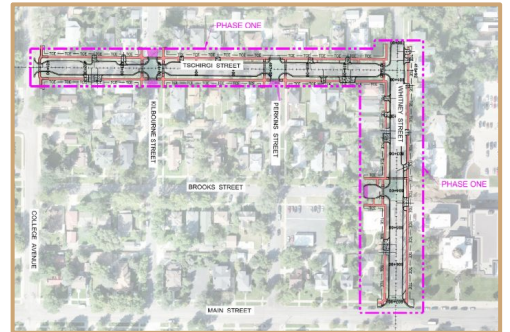
### Items of Note:

Currently all sprinkler, fire alarm, and related fire inspections, and any associated fees, are directed through the state until the City has a Certified Fire Plans Examiner or qualified Fire Inspection Professional.

## Engineering

### Projects Out for Bid:

- South Downtown
- Safe Streets for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan



## Planning

### Approved:

Elmwood Estates Final Plat





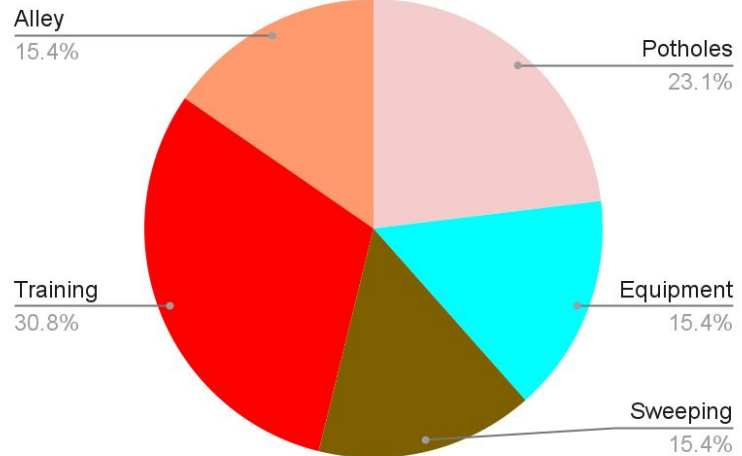


# Public Works: Streets Department



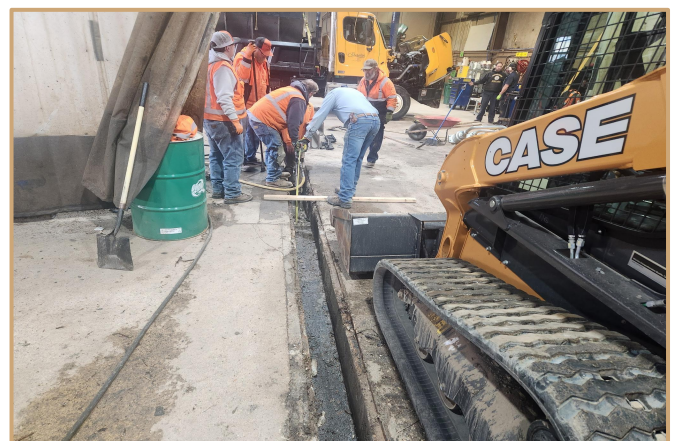
Staffing efforts continue, with two new hires currently in the background check process and one remaining position yet to be filled.

## Street Maintenance



The month remained relatively quiet, with minimal snowfall and frequent windy conditions. High winds resulted in several incidents of fallen branches and treetops, which caused roadway obstructions and required prompt removal by crews.

With limited snow response activities, crews shifted focus to roadway patching and alley maintenance as weather conditions permitted. Additionally, repairs to the main shop floor drain were initiated, taking advantage of the reduced demand from winter operations. Favorable weather conditions have also allowed the sweeping crew to operate sweepers during the month.





# Public Works: Traffic/Signs

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Christmas Decorations:

- Replaced **1** damaged bracket
- Repaired **4** pole banners

### Repair/ Install signs:

- Replaced **3** damaged
- Straightened **2** damaged

### Roadway Luminaires:

- Repaired **3** corroded wiring

### Decorative Lighting:

- Replaced **1** damaged pole base stub & **4** damaged decorative bases
- Reset **5** controllers & **5** GFCIs

### Traffic Signals:

- Replaced **1** speaker for audible PED crossing

### School Zone Signals:

- Replaced **2** batteries

### Pedestrian Crossing Signals:

- Replaced **2** batteries

### Sheridan Public Arts:

- Temporarily installed **"Stacked Frogs"** at 25 E. Loucks until permanent location is completed
- Updated/installed **7** sculpture plaques

### Kendrick Park Pool:

- Installed/anchored **8** concrete parking curbs
- Delivered **5** barricades for winter closure

### The Traffic/Sign Division assisted with:

- Removed/installed **1** banner for DSA
- Provided an operator and bucket truck for updating UM's repeater batteries
- Plowing/sanding City streets
- Updating **10** of the Kendrick Park bollards from HPS to LED lighting
- Replacement of **3** GFCIs on the Service Center's equipment line







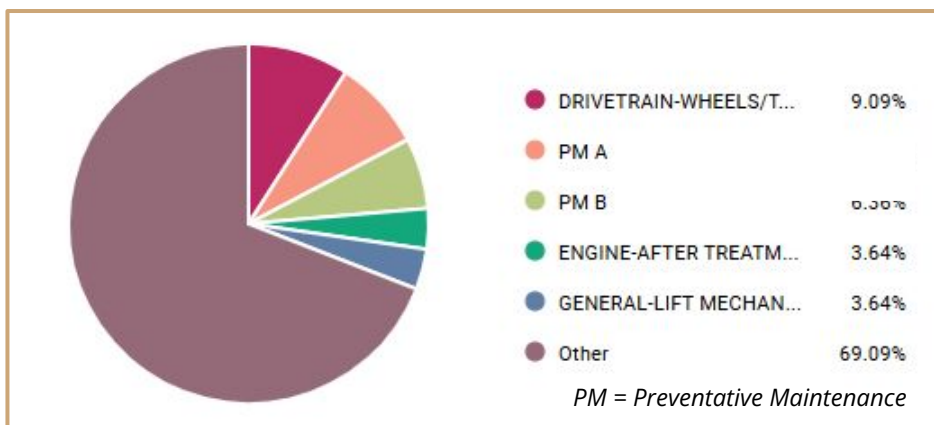
# Public Works: City Shop

During the month of December, the shop completed a total of **86** tasks. Key projects included upfitting **FD32**, Engine 2, with a new communication system and installing a test system on a sideload waste collection truck to help verify that waste containers are not missed during pickup.

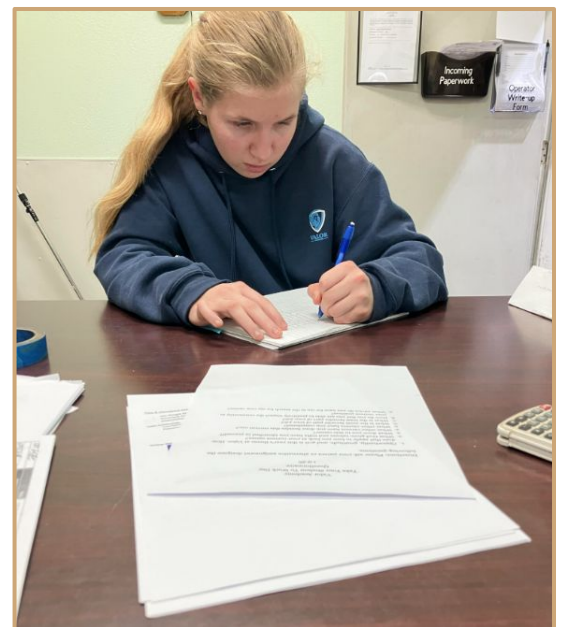
Throughout much of December, operations on **FD32** were delayed while awaiting the manufacture of a new radiator and air cooler. These components have since been installed, and **FD32** is now operational. However, during the first weeks of January, staff are working to diagnose and resolve issues related to the V-MUX onboard diagnostic system, which controls a significant portion of the vehicle's electrical functions.

At the recycling facility, another equipment issue has arisen. **RC4002**, the JCB skid steer appears to have experienced another hydraulic pump failure. Evaluation is underway to determine the most appropriate course of action for this equipment.

On a positive note, the Street crew has completed installation of the new ADA-approved floor drain. This upgrade has eliminated previous tripping hazards and issues with creepers becoming stuck, resulting in a safer and more functional work area.



Shop Supervisor, Ivan Pierce, was interviewed by his daughter for her school project.





# Finance Department



## City of Sheridan Tax Revenue Report January 2026 For November Taxes

### General Fund Monthly Sales and Use Tax Revenues

	Budgeted Revenues Jan-26	Actual Revenues Jan-26	Prior Year Actual Revenues Jan-25	Variance FY25 - FY26
Sales Tax	\$ 497,485	\$ 522,171	\$ 490,817	6.4%
Use Tax	\$ 46,640	\$ 45,163	\$ 39,245	15.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 544,125</b>	<b>\$ 567,334</b>	<b>\$ 530,062</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

### Historical Perspective of MONTHLY Sales and Use Tax Revenues







# Finance Department

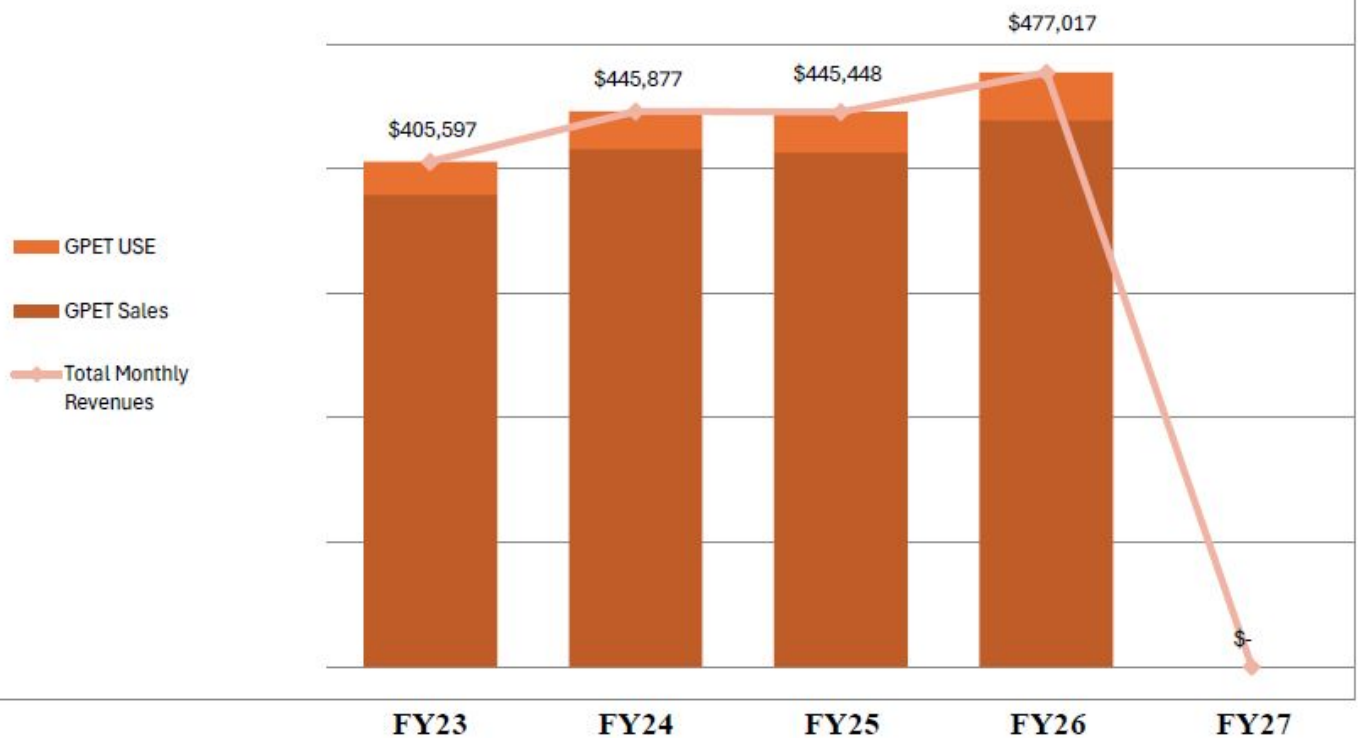


## City of Sheridan Tax Revenue Report GPET Tax Received in December 2025

### GPET Monthly Sales and Use Tax Revenues

	Budgeted Revenues Jan-26	Actual Revenues Jan-26	Prior Year Actual Revenues Jan-25	Variance FY25 - FY26
GPET Sales	\$ 239,400	\$ 412,125	\$ 413,134	-0.2%
GPET USE	\$ 215,539	\$ 34,287	\$ 32,314	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 454,939</b>	<b>\$ 446,412</b>	<b>\$ 445,448</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

### Historical Perspective of MONTHLY Sales and Use Tax Revenues





# Finance Department

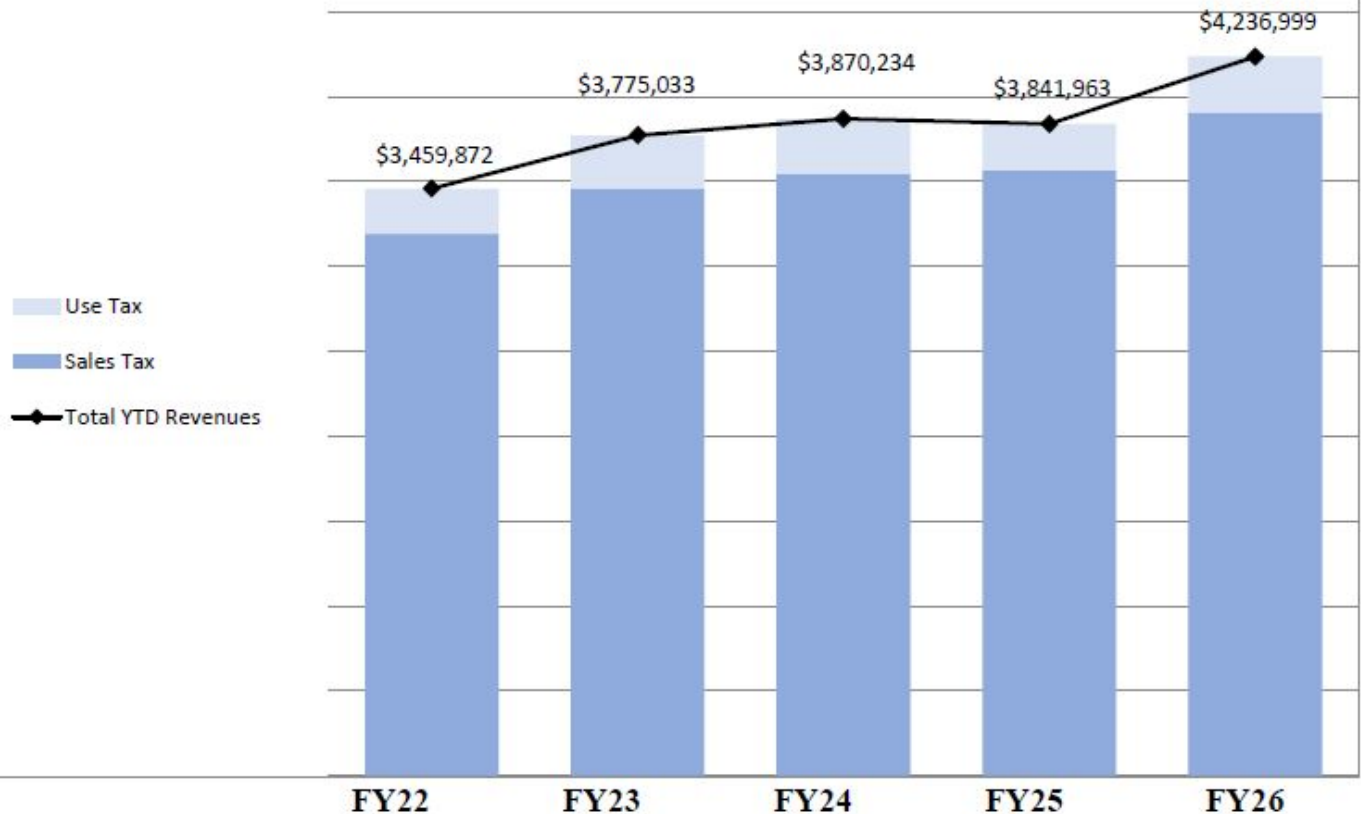


## City of Sheridan Tax Revenue Report January 2026 For November Taxes

### General Fund Year-To-Date Sales and Use Tax Revenues

	Budgeted Revenues YTD FY26	Actual Revenues YTD FY26	Prior Year Actual Revenues YTD FY25	Variance FY25 - FY26
Sales Tax	\$ 3,183,071	\$ 3,906,616	\$ 3,567,246	9.5%
Use Tax	\$ 285,727	\$ 330,383	\$ 274,717	20.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,468,798</b>	<b>\$ 4,236,999</b>	<b>\$ 3,841,963</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

### Historical Perspective of Year-To-Date Sales and Use Tax Revenues







# Finance Department

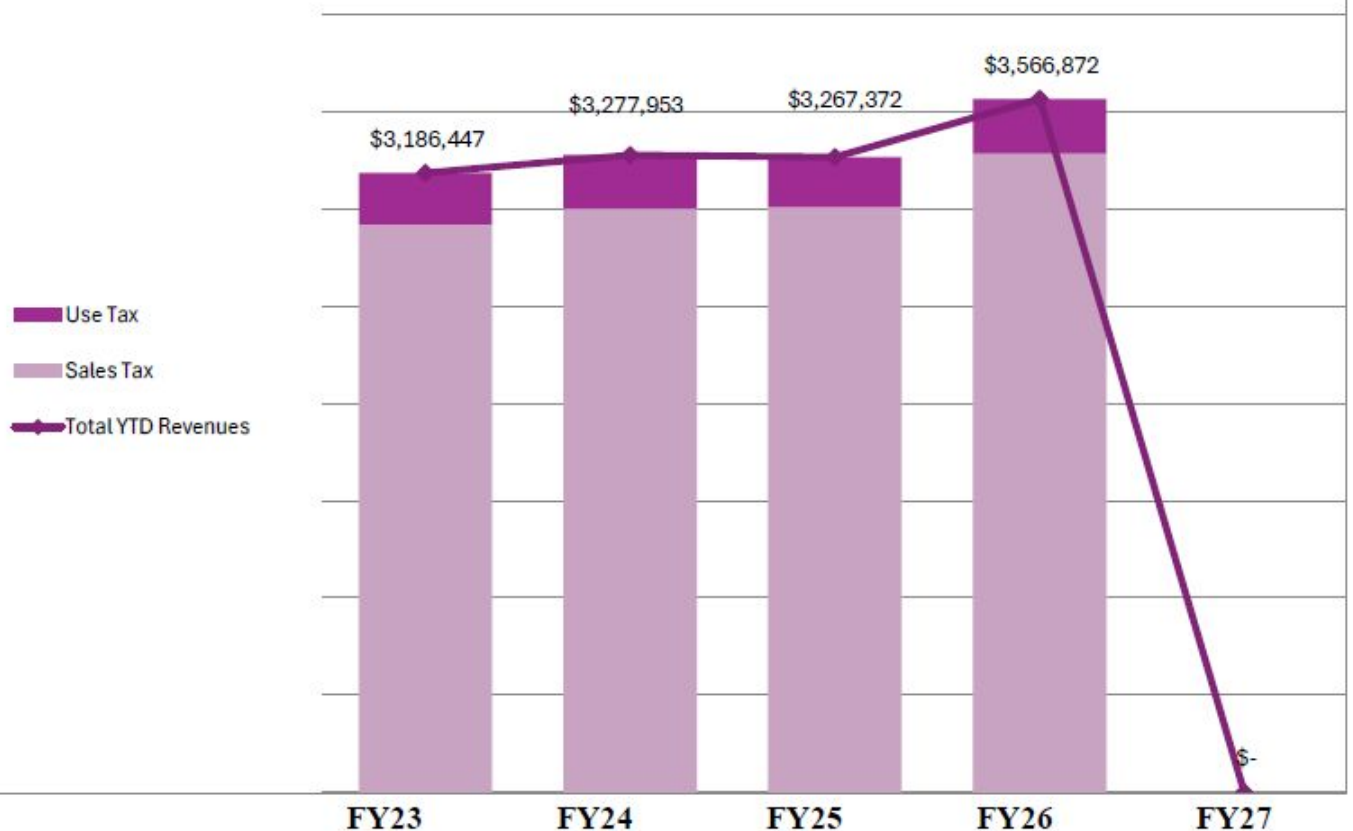


## City of Sheridan Tax Revenue Report GPET Tax Received in January 2026

### GPET Year-To-Date Sales and Use Tax Revenues

	Budgeted Revenues YTD FY26	Actual Revenues YTD FY26	Prior Year Actual Revenues YTD FY25	Variance FY25 - FY26
Sales Tax	\$ 2,850,000	\$ 3,287,579	\$ 3,013,494	9.1%
Use Tax	\$ 2,031,674	\$ 279,294	\$ 253,877	10.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,881,674</b>	<b>\$ 3,566,872</b>	<b>\$ 3,267,372</b>	<b>9.2%</b>

### Historical Perspective of Year-To-Date Sales and Use Tax Revenues



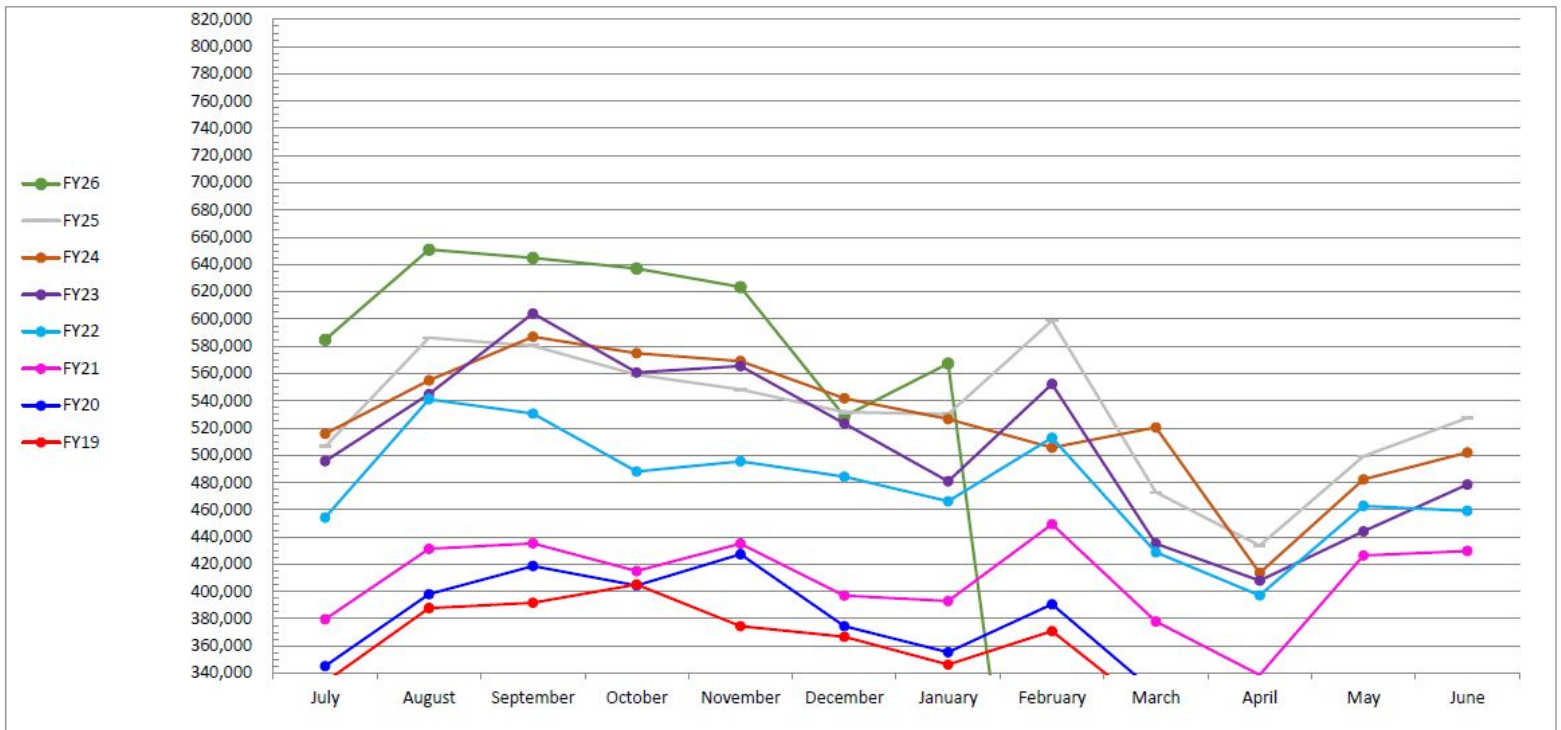


# Finance Department



## City of Sheridan Tax Revenue Report January 2026 For November Taxes

General Fund Monthly Sales and Use Tax Revenue by Year







# Finance Department



**City of Sheridan**  
**Sales & Use Tax Revenue Report**  
January 2025 for November Taxes

## Select Municipalities Comparison

	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>%</b>
Sheridan	\$ 528,765	\$ 567,334	7.3%
Buffalo	\$ 172,171	\$ 201,780	17.2%
Riverton	\$ 219,879	\$ 254,120	15.6%
Gillette	\$ 2,220,352	\$ 2,299,431	3.6%
Douglas	\$ 949,593	\$ 806,609	-15.1%
Casper	\$ 2,001,151	\$ 2,111,700	5.5%
Cheyenne	\$ 2,101,270	\$ 2,673,137	27.2%
Laramie	\$ 723,979	\$ 880,036	21.6%
Jackson	\$ 730,983	\$ 665,945	-8.9%
Cody	\$ 283,133	\$ 337,738	19.3%
Green River	\$ 473,355	\$ 500,473	5.7%
Rock Springs	\$ 941,745	\$ 995,697	5.7%