



925 S. Main Street  
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

TEL: 541.258.4900  
www.lebanonoregon.gov

# MEMORANDUM

---

## *Administration*

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

Date: May 4, 2026

From: Ron Whitlatch, City Manager

Subject: **Administration Update – April 2026**

---

- Wetland delineation work is continuing on several parcels off of West Oak Street. This is in conjunction with a potential Industrial Economic Development where the company is looking to expand on the West Coast. Lebanon is one of two sites being considered in Oregon. The work is mostly funded by Business Oregon, and we hope to have results and concurrence from the Oregon Division of State Lands by early summer.
- Staff is currently working with several property owners along Berlin Road to clear and clean up several encampments. Resource Officers with the Police Department have been out in this area identifying the locations of the encampments and the individuals staying in them.
- Staff has been working with PNW Strategies to draft informational fliers for the Lebanon Municipal Jail. These flyers will be placed in City Buildings for anyone interested in the facts about the jail. Staff will also create a webpage to go live in June with information about the jail.
- We are continuing to work with our outside legal counsel for claims against the Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). The claim will be filed with the Federal District Court in the coming weeks. An amended complaint will be filed in early March. This is likely to be a lengthy (and slow) process, and we will provide more information as it becomes available. Albany and Millersburg have now joined the lawsuit and will share in attorney fees with Lebanon and Sweet Home.
- Staff continues to work with Sean Tate (Tate Public Affairs), who is helping the City navigate legislative affairs and advocate for the City. We currently meet with Sean every other Wednesday. Sean has also agreed to help with necessary tasks as we explore the operations levy for the Municipal Jail.
- We have been made aware that Congresswoman Bynum will be recommending our Wastewater Project for \$2.0 million in funding. This will be a lengthy process, as it must go through Congress and be appropriated before Lebanon receives the funds. I will continue to share information as it becomes available.
- Cascades West Council of Governments has submitted a joint Build Grant application for Linn County and the City of Lebanon for a planning/design project of the

Cascade/Crowfoot/Central Intersection. It may take several months to hear if it is successful.

- The City of Lebanon and Western U Oregon have submitted a joint application for a Connect Oregon Grant. If awarded, the grant would fund the improvements needed to get access to the proposed future site of their campus. Aspects of the project include new street access off of East Grant Street, a railroad bridge (allowing vehicular traffic to travel underneath, and the corresponding utilities. The City of Lebanon has agreed to hire an Engineering Intern for the duration of the project (approximately 3 years), with funding from the grant. This position would support day-to-day oversight of the project during its design and construction.
- Staff has spent a substantial time during the month of April preparing for next year's budget process. The Budget Committee Meetings will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff is continuing to work on the sale of the Santiam Travel Station. We have signed a third Amendment to the Property Sale and Purchase Agreement, which states the City will sell the parcel with the building now and work with Linn County to allow for transfer of the roadway parcels at a later date. This was done to speed up the sale of the building. I expect we will be closing on the transaction any day now.
- Holding regular Department Director Meetings (every two weeks) to keep moving priorities forward.
- We continue to meet with Susan Patterson from the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments twice a month to identify grant opportunities that could benefit the City. We are currently exploring funding opportunities to support wastewater plant projects, water service line replacements, street projects, and other initiatives benefiting the city.
- We have received a Planning Grant for a sanitary sewer analysis and transportation analysis of the Champion Mill site. We are currently under contract with Kittleson Engineers to complete the transportation component of the grant and with David Evans & Associates to conduct the sanitary sewer analysis.
- Over the next couple of months, Staff will be reviewing all city-owned properties in an effort to identify properties no longer needed. Once the list has been updated, Staff will engage the City Council to recommend any that should be declared surplus.
- We have entered into a Contract with the Galardi Rothstein Group to update our Wastewater and Drainage System development Charges. This work will include a methodology review, updated project lists, and a new fee structure. A Citizens Advisory Committee has been formed and will be providing recommendations throughout the process. We hope to have the project completed by late 2026.