

Grand Forks Legislative Committee  
Friday, March 14, 2025

**Attendees:**

Tami Lazur, Jaxen Bratcher, Todd Feland, Candi Stjern, Maureen Storstad, Mike Vatnsdal, Ed Liberman, Ryan Brooks, Dan Gaustad, Jason Freedman, Gary Lorenz

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The Grand Forks Legislative Committee participated in the weekly conference call with the North Dakota League of Cities.

The GF Legislative Committee addressed the following bills:

**HB 1332** (Ag Facility Incentive Program)

This bill would provide, through the Department of Agriculture, \$30M in an incentive program for value added agriculture facilities. This bill is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committee on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 9:00 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill and will provide testimony at committee.

**SB 2254** (Public Transportation Funding)

This bill provides grants for fixed route public transportation systems in North Dakota. This bill was amended in the House Transportation Committee to have the grants be available to paratransit only. This bill was given a DO PASS recommendation as amended with an 11-1-2 vote. The bill will now go to House Appropriations and it's scheduled for committee work on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 9:30 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**HB 1577** (Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program)

This bill would create a Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program. This bill will be in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Friday, March 21, 2025 at 9:00 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill and will provide written testimony.

**HB 1176** (Property Tax Reform)

This bill is the Governor's property tax reform. This bill will be heard in the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on Monday, March 17, 2025 at 9:00 am. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**HB 1020** (Water Resources)

This bill is the Water Resources budget. This bill includes \$260 M for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project and \$25 M for Municipal Water Projects. We would like to

see the Resources Trust Fund stay at 20%. This bill was heard in the Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Division Committee on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The City of Grand Forks SUPPORTS this bill.

**HB 1419 (Dispatchers)**

This bill would designate 911 dispatchers as first responders and make them eligible to be included in the Public Safety PERS Defined Benefit plan. This bill will be in the Senate State and Local Government Committee on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 3:15 pm. The City SUPPORTS this bill and will provide written testimony.

**HB 1015 (OMB Budget)**

This is the budget bill for the Office of Management and Budget. This bill also includes Prairie Dog allocations. We understand that there may be some changes to some county's classification as "oil producing counties" which would make them eligible for the Prairie Dog funding we are currently allocated. We ask that the funding in the City/County bucket be adjusted to keep us whole.

**Testimony**

Written or verbal testimony will be provided for the following bills

March 17-21

HB 1332 – Thursday, March 20, 2025

HB 1419 – Thursday, March 20, 2025

HB 1577 – Friday, March 21, 2025

All of the bills that the City of Grand Forks is tracking can be found online at [www.grandforksgov.com/legislature](http://www.grandforksgov.com/legislature).