

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 05/24/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0368

LOG NAME: 04ARPANEIGHBORHOOD WIFI CARES RATIFICATION/ARPA ALLOCATION

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify the Original Spend Authority in the Amount of \$6,277,000.00 for the Neighborhood WiFi Project Authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act with an Actual Spend Amount of \$4,385,010.00, Allocate American Rescue Plan Act Subtitle M Funds in an Amount up to \$3,361,047.00 for the Completion of the Neighborhood WiFi Project, and Allocate American Rescue Plan Act Subtitle M Funds in an Amount up to \$3,730,000.00 for Four (4) Years of Operational Costs Necessary to Support the Neighborhood WiFi System

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify the original spend authority in the amount of \$6,277,000.00 for the Neighborhood WiFi Project, authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act with an actual spend amount of \$4,385,010.00;
2. Allocate American Rescue Plan Act funding in an amount up to \$3,361,047.00 for completion of the Neighborhood WiFi project including redesign, Fort Worth pole installs and additional equipment and engineering support (City Project 103165); and
3. Allocate American Rescue Plan Act funding for four (4) years of operational costs in an amount up to \$3,730,000.00 for operational costs for circuits and support personnel for the Neighborhood WiFi system.

DISCUSSION:

This Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to ratify the original \$6,277,000.00 authorized use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding with an actual spend amount of \$4,385,010.00, then approve the allocation of funding from the City of Fort Worth (City) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$3,361,047.00 for the completion of work not completed in the CARES spend window, including contingencies, and \$3,730,000.00 for the operational costs for circuits and support personnel necessary for the management of the system for four (4) years. ARPA funding will support the management of the system through September 30, 2025 with all funds committed no later than December 31, 2024 per ARPA guidelines.

The Neighborhood WiFi project was initially begun with CARES funding to provide free internet access to five underserved neighborhoods in the City; Rosemont, Ash Crescent, Stop Six, Northside and Como, in an effort to support remote education, employment search, remote work, telemedicine and access to community services. Several factors led to delays in the project's completion, including supply chain issues and failed negotiations with ONCOR for the use of their poles for nodal placement.

While the wireless service has been established in each area, ARPA funding will cover the redesign of deployed infrastructure incorporating the loss of the Oncor poles from the design and the completed implementation of the project, including the installation of additional City poles necessary for further saturation and community outreach and education. Due to the volatile nature of the current market for goods and services, contingency dollars have been incorporated into the allocated of \$3,730,000.00 and would be released upon project completion if not spent.

The additional allocation of ARPA funding will cover the ongoing operational costs of \$3,730,000.00 for circuits and personnel necessary to the management of the deployed technology until September 30, 2025. Funding is budgeted in the Unprogrammed activity within the Grants Operating Federal Fund.

American Rescue Plan Act Subtitle M (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) supports the use of funding in response to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with assistance to households, particularly in underserved communities. ARPA Section 9901, Subsection 603(c)(1)(A) provides funding for internet access programs as a form of household assistance. The Neighborhood WiFi Information Technology Solutions (ITS) capital project has been determined to be a qualified priority by City Management for ARPA funding as approved by the City Council in M&C 21-0445 on June 22, 2021.

Funding for this project was not included in the Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program. The action in this M&C will amend the FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program as approved in connection with Ordinance 25073-09-2021.

ALLOCATION OF ARPA SUBTITLE M FUNDING

The following chart reflects the current status for allocation of the City's ARPA funding under Subtitle M and incorporates each ARPA M&C on the May 10, 2022 Council Agenda:

		M&Cs
Total CFW ARPA Subtitle M Funding	\$173,745,090.00	21-0445 362021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

		M&Cs
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$1,000,000.00	21-0805 13ARPA-ADMINISTRATION
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$4,245,533.42	21-0810 17ARPA ALLOCATIONS EVANS & ROSEDALE REDEVELOPMENT
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$3,000,000.00	21-0809 17ARPA ALLOCATION CDFI FRIENDLY AMERICA
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$2,400,000.00	21-0811 17ARPA ALLOCATIONS TO UNTHSC TECHSTARS
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$10,100,000.00	21-0814 19ARPA ALLOCATIONS TO HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES PROJECTS
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$3,000,000.00	22-0268 19ARPA CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$5,000,000.00	22-0270 19ARPA ALLOCATION FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$52,000,000.00	21-0934 21ARPA-FWCC EXPANSION FUNDING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$6,400,000.00	21-0935 21ARPA AND PEG FUNDING -FUTURE CITY HALL
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$8,000,000.00	21-0908 23ARPA-VACCINATIONS AND TESTING
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$300,000.00	21-0820 25ARPA-WRMC MURAL PLAQUES
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$6,000,000.00	21-0794 25ARPA-VFW-TDG
Allocations Approved To- Date	\$4,560,000.00	21-0913 25ARPA- PED_CAPITAL_RESTORE
Pending Allocation	\$3,675,000.00	04ARPA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
Pending Allocation	\$3,595,000.00	04ARPA ITS CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM

		M&Cs
Pending Allocation	\$7,091,047.00	04ARPA NEIGHBORHOOD WIFI SUPPORT PROGRAM (This M&C)
Remaining Unallocated Balance	\$53,378,509.58	

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations funds will be available in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the Neighborhood WiFi project, and upon appropriation of the second tranche of ARPA funding, funds will be available in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the management and support of the Neighborhood WiFi system. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Information Technology Solutions Department has the responsibility of verifying the availability of funds. Grant funds will be transferred to the Grants Operating Federal Fund on an advance basis

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Valerie Washington 6192

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