



The federal government has explained that the Funds are intended to support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery. Accordingly, fund recipients have the latitude to concentrate larger amounts of funding in specific areas to complete larger projects that will benefit the community long-term. The flexibility with the use of the funds opens the opportunity to fund items that would likely not be able to be brought forward in other ways.

In August of 2021 the City Council heard an initial overview of the ARPA funding, agreed upon a general decision making framework, and directed staff to do additional research on the best use of the funds. At that time the general guidance that was available on the use of the funds was not finalized.

In October of 2021 the City Council participated in a survey to further prioritize elements from the Ignite Strategic Plan based upon the impact COVID-19 may have had on the specific elements. The results of the survey were utilized to form the basis for the scoring criteria.

In October and November of 2021 a potential project list was developed by City Council and City Staff.

In January of 2022 the final rules from the U.S. Department of Treasury became available. Several key decisions were made by the City Council at the January 11, 2022 City Council meeting:

- The funds would be utilized for the provision of Government Services and the City would report the maximum allowable amount of "revenue loss" under the standard allowance allowed by the Treasury.
- This decision allows the most flexibility in the use of the funds with the least amount of administrative burden
- The Project List was agreed upon
- The Project Criteria was agreed upon
- City Staff was directed to score the agreed upon projects based upon the agreed upon criteria and bring back a discussion over those results

Impact/Analysis:

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