

Legislation Text

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Introduction of City Council Survey to assist with ARPA Project Prioritization

Issue/Request:

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Key Issues:

This presentation is an introduction to a survey tool that will be utilized to assist with determining priorities for the ARPA funds. The intent of the survey is to prioritize elements from the strategic plan based upon the impact COVID-19 may have had on the specific element. The results of the survey will be compiled and shared in a future meeting. The survey will be administered electronically through the use of surveymonkey.com.

Background:

The ARPA allocated \$8,310,882 in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Funds ("Funds") to the City of Lee's Summit (the "City") to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and its accompanying economic fallout. The Funds allow for a broad range of eligible uses to fill the identified needs of the community.

The guidance for the Funds emphasizes a strong, equitable recovery and addresses those areas disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Many, but not all, of the City's internal acute pandemic response needs were addressed through funding provided by the CARES Act. The CARES Act funds enabled the City to purchase personal protective equipment, provide testing capabilities, upgrade physical facilities to decrease opportunities of virus transmission, improve community awareness, and provide economic support to local non-profits and small businesses.

Additional funds were also made available through the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") to help address the needs of the City's low-to-moderate income population. The CARES Act and additional CDBG funding were more restrictive than the ARPA funds and were disbursed in smaller increments throughout the community.

With the ever-changing conditions associated with the Pandemic, additional internal funds may be needed to respond to new variants and conditions, such as those occurring with the current Delta Variant. A portion of the ARPA funds should be reserved to address these needs as they arise.

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.

Ryan Elam, Director of Development Services