



**CITY OF BANDERA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM  
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025**

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**AGENDA ITEM:** Discuss and take possible action to approve Resolution 2025-016 authorizing the submittal of a Texas Rural Economic Development fund application to the Texas Department of Agriculture, committing local funds in the amount of \$100,000 to the selected project, and reaffirming civil rights policies as required by the program.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Susan Hutcherson

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**BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of this agenda item is for the City Council to discuss and select a project for submission under the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant Program – Phase II. The selected project will be included in the City’s Phase II grant application, due no later than April 30, 2025.

The RED Grant Program is intended to assist eligible rural communities in implementing public infrastructure and economic development projects that promote business expansion or retention, job creation, and community revitalization.

During Phase I of the application process, the City submitted a preliminary proposal and has since been invited to proceed with a full application. The City Council must now finalize the project selection, taking into consideration project priority, feasibility, community impact, and alignment with grant eligibility criteria: promote business expansion or retention, job creation, and community revitalization.

**Projects for consideration with input from Traylor & Associates, the City’s grant administrator:**

1. **Wastewater Treatment System Upgrades**  
This project is not a viable candidate for this grant opportunity due to the high project cost, extended timeline, and lack of direct economic development impact. The project does not align with the program’s primary objectives.
2. **Bandera City Park Improvements**  
This project is not eligible due to its location within a FEMA-designated flood zone.
3. **Water Conservation and Reclamation Program**  
This project is not viable due to its lack of direct economic development impact and therefore does not align with the program’s primary objectives.
4. **Mobility and Accessibility Improvements**  
This project has low viability due to the high project cost and anticipated timeline.

**5. Historic Jailhouse and Courthouse Area Beautification**

Traylor & Associates has identified this project as the most viable option for this grant opportunity. This project meets program objectives and would have a direct and meaningful impact on Bandera's economic development.

**6. Education Center**

This project has low viability due to the high initial and ongoing costs of constructing and operating an educational facility.

**7. Medical Center**

This project has low viability due to the high initial and ongoing costs of constructing and operating a medical facility.

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**FINANCIAL:**

\$100,000 match in fiscal year 2026. The City will utilize in-kind services to lower the cash portion of the mandatory match.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve a project for submission under the Texas Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Program. City Staff recommends the Historic Jailhouse and Courthouse Area Beautification as the most viable option and with the greatest impact on Bandera's economic development and tourism.