



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Jeff Mohlenkamp, Finance Director  
**DATE:** August 18, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Update to City Council on Status of FEMA Application Related to the COVID-19 Federal Emergency

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### Background and Analysis:

On March 13, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency. This set in motion the ability of governmental entities to seek funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The emergency declaration established that costs associated with responding to the COVID-19 emergency from the declaration date would be eligible for potential reimbursement through FEMA. There has been no identified ending date to the emergency. The City submitted an application that was approved on April 8, 2020. FEMA provides reimbursement funding totaling 75% of eligible expenses.

The City has been tracking expenditures that directly relate to responses to the emergency. This includes identifying specific invoices for items purchased such as protective equipment, sanitizing supplies and overtime costs directly tied to the response efforts. To date, the City has costs of approximately \$20,000 that appear to be clearly reimbursable by FEMA. The City has plans to spend approximately \$100,000 for items that staff believes will likely qualify for reimbursement. This includes costs for expanded sanitization as City operations continue to re-open for more direct public service. There may be additional items related to the COVID-19 pandemic response for which the potential exists for FEMA reimbursement eligibility. City staff feels it to be prudent to submit these costs for reimbursement separately from those items which are clearly eligible. This will help ensure that Beaumont may maximize all of its eligible reimbursements and provide the maximum benefit to the local tax payers. These items will be submitted as a separate FEMA project application.

Staff has received guidance from the California Office of Emergency Services that the City can submit multiple projects under the FEMA application. Staff intends to submit the first application for reimbursement in September 2020. Additional projects will be

submitted as expenditures are incurred and as guidance regarding the incident end date is received.

Staff will advise the Council once an application is submitted and seek approval for the receipt of funds when a funding decision is made by FEMA.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no financial impact at this time. This is an informational item. Costs related to responding to COVID-19 have been occurring since March 2020, and will continue as needed to assure safe conditions for staff and the public. The FEMA application will allow for the reimbursement of 75% of eligible expenses.

**Recommended Action:**

Receive and file this update regarding the pending application for FEMA reimbursement related to the COVID-19 emergency.

**Attachments:**

- A. FEMA Fact Sheet regarding the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency
- B. FEMA Streamlined Project Application description