

**CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: January 7th, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Rick J. Rudometkin, City Manager

Subject: Hurricane Ian, FEMA/DEM reimbursement information/update

Background:

The city has been waiting on the FEMA reimbursement from the state (FDEM) for \$1,265,039.13 for debris removal from Hurricane Ian. We submitted a reimbursement request in October 2023 which was rejected in December 2023. They requested documentation on tree removals and stump grinding. They also informed us that some of the load tickets provided were not completed, that the invoices from one vendor did not match the load tickets, and load documentation was missing for invoices from other vendors.

Our Finance Director went through the load tickets to try and piece them together to match the invoices and found some issues such as incomplete and incorrect load tickets, possible billing errors and double charges, and a possible significant discrepancy where we may have been invoiced for tree removals instead of logs. These discrepancies could result in overpayment to our vendor.

With the issues found, the amount we could even ask to be reimbursed for is significantly reduced. Additionally, we may still be lacking documentation even to be reimbursed for the items that have been substantiated.

The state consultant for DEP/FDEM has requested documentation to clear this up. We are in contact with them currently.

Staff Recommendation: No recommendation at this time

Suggested Motion: None

Alternatives: Open for discussion

Fiscal Impact: \$1,265,039.13 of expended funds, possibly, could not be reimbursable.

Attachments:

No attachment