



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action on County ARPA Funds for CHRO RFP Process

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Provide staff direction as appropriate.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

At the Board's annual retreat on January 30, 2024, the Board discussed \$2 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds set aside to address unsheltered homelessness. Attached is a staff summary sheet handed out during the Board retreat.

At the retreat, the discussion centered around if/how the Board wanted County ARPA funds to be incorporated into the Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) RFP process to address unsheltered homelessness and unsanctioned encampments. Commissioners Adair and DeBone spoke in favor of allocating \$1.5 million of the \$2 million for the CHRO RFP process. Commissioner Chang supported allocating \$2 million.

Staff would like to continue this discussion and receive Board direction on the following:

1. Does the Board want to review the compiled list of publicly owned property?
 - a. If yes, does the Board want to pre-approve or remove any of the properties that could be eligible for County funding?
2. Does the Board want to include the County ARPA funds in the CHRO RFP process without parameters (other than the Board would need to ultimately approve any project that uses County funds and/or County land)?
3. If the Board would like to include parameters on use of the County ARPA funds in the CHRO RFP process, what are these parameters?

A few notes on the use of ARPA funds:

1. Projects would need to be verified to be ARPA eligible.

2. Organizations accepting ARPA funds would need to follow ARPA spending and reporting requirements.
3. The ARPA funds would need to be contracted (obligated) by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. The County may want to identify a date earlier than December 31, 2026 for the funds to be expended to allow for reprogramming of any unspent funds.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$2 million in County ARPA funds are available.

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator