

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Hannah Krikorian, The Gardens on Spring Creek
Kerri Ishmael, Grants Administration

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 079, 2024, Making a Supplemental Appropriation and Authorizing Transfer of Appropriations for The Gardens on Spring Creek Internship Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to support The Gardens on Spring Creek internship program by:

- Appropriating \$4,200 of unanticipated grant revenue awarded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and
- Utilizing matching funds in the amount of \$4,200 from existing 2024 appropriations into to this new grant project.

In May 2024 the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) awarded the City of Fort Collins (City) \$4,200 under the CDA's Agricultural Workforce Development Grant Program (Attachment 2). The City will be providing an additional \$4,200 in required matching funds. The award funds and City's matching funds will support hiring an intern for The Gardens' summer 2024 internship program.

The \$4,200 in funds through the CDA's Agricultural Workforce Development Grant Program are federal pass-through funds.

As presented per Attachment 2, the \$4,200 is provided pursuant to a State of Colorado Purchase Order, with corresponding terms and conditions. There is no requirement that the City sign an agreement. Rather upon the City submitting the first request for reimbursement to CDA, the City agrees to all terms and conditions of the award.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) Agricultural Workforce Development Program (AWDP) provides financial incentives to farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses to hire interns and provide them with hands-on training needed to begin a career in agriculture. Qualified businesses may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the actual cost of hiring an intern, not to exceed \$5,000 per internship.

The AWDP is the result of legislation introduced during the 2018 session of the Colorado General Assembly by the Young and Beginning Farmers Interim Study Committee. In its first five years, the AWDP has supported 130 internships at 107 different Colorado agricultural businesses.

As many City internships are unpaid, The Gardens on Spring Creek applied for funding to continue to provide paid internship opportunities for learners. By creating paid opportunities for students to support career readiness, we expect to increase students' skillsets to better prepare them for quality jobs, while decreasing the financial burden an unpaid internship can cause.

The Gardens was awarded one horticulture internship of \$4,200 for the summer of 2024. This internship will work directly in the Garden of Eatin', an acre garden dedicated to food production where all produce is donated to the Food Bank of Larimer County, as well as with the Community Gardens Program, which allows residents to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs and annual flowers in one of the City's eight community gardens.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$4,200 in unanticipated revenue from the CDA in support of The Garden's internship program.

This grant is a reimbursement type grant, meaning Cultural Services and Facilities Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$4,200.

Required matching funds in the amount of \$4,200 have already been appropriated in the Cultural Services and Facilities Fund, specifically in the 2024 operating budget for The Gardens. Up to \$4,200 in required match will be transferred from The Gardens' 2024 operating budget to the grant project.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. CDA Purchase Order and Corresponding State of Colorado Purchase Order Terms and Conditions