

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 037, 2025, 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 \$9,800 of unanticipated grant revenue awarded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and
- Utilizing matching funds in the amount of \$9,800 from existing 2025 appropriations into these new grant projects.

In January 2025 the CDA awarded the City a total of \$9,800 under the CDA's Agricultural Workforce Development Grant Program (AWDP). The Garden's Internship Program aligns with the objective of the AWDP in addressing the shortage of skilled agricultural workers in Colorado by providing training and support through internships. The City will be providing an additional \$9,800 in required matching funds. The award funds and City's matching funds will support hiring two interns for the Garden's' summer 2025 internship program.

The \$9,800 in funds through the CDA's Agricultural Workforce Development Grant Program are state funds and are pursuant to two separate State of Colorado purchase orders, with corresponding terms and conditions. Each award/purchase order provides up to \$4,900 for each paid internship provided through the Garden's summer 2025 internship program. There is no requirement that the City sign an agreement for either award. Rather, upon the City submitting the first request for reimbursement under each award/purchase order to CDA, the City agrees to all terms and conditions of the award.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's (CDA) The 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 \$4,900 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 provided two \$4,900 awards to support horticultural internships for the summer of 2025. Each internship will be further supported by City funds, based on a required 50% match. One 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. The other internship will support the propagation and care of over 30,000 vegetable, annual and perennial crops grown for the community and to be planted onsite throughout the 12 acres of gardens.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$9,800 in unanticipated revenue from the CDA in support of the Garden's summer 2025 internship program. The \$9,800 in unanticipated revenue is through two separate \$4,900 awards that require independent tracking of allowable costs and reporting to CDA.

Both grants are reimbursement-type grants so Cultural Services Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$9,800.

Required matching funds in the amount of \$9,800 have already been appropriated in the Cultural Services Fund, specifically in the 2025 operating budget for the Gardens. Up to \$4,900 in required match will be transferred from the Gardens' 2025 operating budget to each grant project, totaling \$9,800 in transferred funds.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. Purchase Orders