HCC UTILITY DEPARTMENT
MAKING CONNECTIONS

To: Eric Duthie, Vance Barlow
From: Project Manager Jerry Postema
Date: April 4, 2022
Re: WaterSMART Grant Opportunity

Eric and Vance, I worked with Hildale Staff to put together a United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBoR) WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant Application and Council Resolutions to support the grant application, committing funding and other resources for the City's grant match. The current grant is for "up to" $100,000 with a grant match of not less than $100,000. The grant allows work in kind as part of the local match. In our application we are proposing a phased approach starting with a fully automated, drive by, interfaced Radio Read/Utility Billing upgrade with the capability to convert to a full Fixed Base Reading and Billing System. The grant will pay to replace the remaining 74 older, manually read meters in the system with new, high efficiency reading new meters with Radio Read/Fixed Base technology. The remaining newer meters with current radio read capabilities will remain with the transmitters being replaced and upgraded to a full Radio Read/Fixed base unit. The Drive by Radio Read System will be fully integrated with the Utility Billing System and could provide alerts to the system operator reading the meters with a new laptop computer and software. The alerts would be programmed to meet the needs of our system and provide exceptional customer service to the residents. It would provide an alarm and re-read if the water use recorded was high or low and if the meter ran for more than 24 hours without shutting off. This would allow the operator to go back and read the meter and make sure it was not running due to a leak or line break o the customer side. If there was a low use, the operator could check the meter to make sure it was functioning properly and did not register the water.

The true, fully functional Drive by Radio Read system will reduce meter reading time by 50%, allowing operators to spend more time in the field doing higher priority projects. The billing software updates, and interface will provide less opportunities for human error and less work for the Utility Billing workers.

The meter reading system can also be read through a Fixed Base technology which allows all meters in the system to be read remotely by the Utility Billing office and eliminate the need for Utility workers to go in the field to read meters. The Fixed Base system will save many field work hours and keep the accuracy of the billing system intact. If a person requests a re-read or a Final Read, these items can be done from the office. If a person thinks they have a leak in the house, the billing office can run a check on the meter and if the usage is elevated warn the customer and send an operator to the house to help locate the leak.

The Fixed Base system requires another $135,000 investment in base fees, integration, repeaters, and software once the initial work is completed from our proposed Phase I work.

The proposed budget in the grant application shows the in-kind work from our staff to support our local match of the grant funds. The time and labor/benefits costs for the meter installations and the radio read/fixed base unit change outs along with the Administration of the grant are included in the match. The actual funding dollars, after deducting the local labor and benefits, to meet the local match requirement will be about $55,252.55. About half of the $55,252.55 amount was approved by the HCC Board for new meters and radio readers at the February 2022 Board meeting.