



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Susi Lampe, IaCMC, IaCFO – Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer

DATE OF MEETING: January 20, 2025

ITEM TITLE: FY2026 Third Party Requests

DISCUSSION:

Each year, the City of Independence receives requests from third-party organizations. The City Council reviews these requests during a budget work session and provides direction to Staff on who to include in the Budget for approval at a later meeting. During this process, a recommended amount must be identified for the budget's inclusion. The FY26 3rd Party Requests spreadsheet (next page after the memo) shows a list of all requests, dues, and general operating expenses, including funding method. All requests are at the Council's discretion regarding amounts, and funding method.

Requests were received from the following:

Third Party Organization	FY2026 Requested Amount	FY2025 Requested Amount	FY2025 Council Approved Amount
Buchanan County Tourism	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$1,000
Buchanan County Senior Center	\$1,000	\$700	\$700
Independence Day Celebration Committee	\$13,840	\$13,840	\$10,840
Heartland Acres Agribition Center	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$1,000
Independence Area Chamber of Commerce	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$2,000
Independence Chamber & Celebration Committee	\$50,000	-	-
<i>Operation Threshold</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Wapsi Watershed</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

All the Requests listed above are from Hotel Motel funds, except the *italicized* two – Operation Threshold, which is from the General Fund, and the Wapsi Watershed request, which is from the Stormwater Fund.

Staff reached out and talked to Operation Threshold about LMI-restricted funds (from TIF dollars) and how they may be able to utilize those as well. In discussing the unfunded needs that Operation Threshold has seen, Staff feels the council should consider providing \$10,000 in funding to Operation Threshold for LMI programs as well, as we believe this would be an excellent use of those funds.

Each organization did state what the funds would be used for in their requests.

I anticipated that Independence would receive \$100,000 in Hotel/Motel funds during the budget process. After subtracting general operating expenses (\$30,636) and Capital Improvement Project funding (\$22,000), the City will have \$47,364 left to fund 6 organization requests totaling \$102,840. Reserves are being used to fund Capital Improvement Projects in the amount of \$95,500.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends discussion of this topic. No action is needed at this meeting, as any decision items needed would be brought forward to a City Council meeting for approval. However, guidance is needed on amounts for the six organizations to finish the budgeting process and the Operation Threshold LMI option.