



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

DATE OF MEETING: March 11, 2024

ITEM TITLE: Catalyst Grant Application Revision

BACKGROUND:

At the March 4th City Council Work Session, Lisa Kremer – Director for Buchanan County Economic Development talked with the Council about the Catalyst Grant for 107, 109, and 111 2nd Ave. NE. She recommended that the 107 address be removed because a Catalyst application cannot have more than two addresses on it.

DISCUSSION:

During the discussion at the Council Work Session, Staff made it clear that there are major concerns about whether or not the City can afford to do this grant. With TIF revenues uncertain, and other funding sources very low, it's concerning to Staff.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of Developing and Reviving Independence. This item helps achieve that vision by continuing to improve the downtown area.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

Funding for this item would need to come from TIF, and with the current situation, we're unsure that TIF can support an expenditure of \$100,000 for this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to withdraw the application for a Catalyst Grant due to financial concerns.