



## City of Ketchum

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors  
City of Ketchum  
Ketchum, Idaho

Mayor Bradshaw and City Councilors:

### **Request for Interim Budget Change to Fund Summer Town Beautification Efforts**

#### Recommendation and Summary

During the FY21 budget development process, the Mayor and Council supported the reduction of expenses related to summer beautification efforts (flowers) in order to achieve a balanced budget. Expenses for flowers were primarily located at Town Square, Fourth Street and Main Street.

Over the last several fiscal years, the beautification budget has been reduced as follows:

- FY19 - \$45,256 in beautification line item (\$22k lights, \$16k flowers, balance for other miscellaneous items)
- FY20 - \$31,000 (\$22k lights, flower budget cut to \$9k)
- FY21 - \$22,000 (all for lights, flower budget eliminated)

Last summer, city facilities staff received significant feedback from both downtown businesses as well as residents regarding the reduction of flowers. Staff had already received feedback on the reduction of flowers resulting from the FY19 to FY20 budget reduction. Based on resident feedback and improved collection of Local Option Taxes, staff is seeking Council approval to reinstate funding for this summer.

#### Sustainability Impact

Reinstating funding for the flowers will have a corresponding increase in water utilization. All plants do absorb a relative amount of CO2 gases.

#### Financial Impact

Through January 31, 2021, the City Local Option Tax Fund has received approximately \$80,000 more in revenue than at the same date last year. Staff is proposing to utilize some of that surplus to fund the flower enhancements of \$15,500.

Attachment:  
None