



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 7/28/2026

REQUESTER: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2627-11: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, APPROPRIATING \$2,488,500.00 FROM FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) STORMWATER GRANT REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS TO THE FINDLAY DRIVE DRAINAGE PROJECT ACCOUNT.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman's Stormwater Division maintains an extensive network of storm sewer infrastructure throughout the community. Much of this system consists of corrugated metal pipe that has reached or exceeded its expected service life and has experienced significant deterioration due to corrosion. One of the City's highest priority capital improvement projects is the replacement of the existing 60-inch corrugated metal storm sewer beneath Findlay Avenue between Robinson Street and Acres Street.

Over the past several years, Stormwater and Streets Division staff have responded to numerous washouts, pavement failures, and emergency maintenance issues caused by the deteriorating condition of the existing storm sewer.

Engineering evaluations determined that localized repairs were no longer a cost-effective solution and that complete replacement of the storm sewer system was necessary. In June 2023, City Council approved the engineering design contract for the Findlay Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement Project. Final design is complete and the project is ready to proceed to construction.

On July 8, 2025, City Council approved Contract K-2526-16 for construction of the Lower Imhoff Creek Stabilization Project. Due to construction costs exceeding the funding available for the project, Council authorized the temporary use of funds from several Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects to allow construction of the Lower Imhoff Creek project to proceed without requesting additional Capital Fund resources. As outlined in the approved staff report, staff would request grant reimbursement funds to be transferred back to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Program upon receipt of the federal reimbursement.

DISCUSSION:

The City has now received \$2,488,500.00 in FEMA reimbursement funds associated with the Lower Imhoff Creek Stabilization Project (\$1,463,201.10 in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$1,025,298.90 in Fiscal Year 2027). These funds were recorded into Other Revenue-FEMA Stormwater (Account No. 225-333322). The funds received in Fiscal Year 2026 have since moved to Special Grant Fund Balance.

Staff recommends appropriating the full reimbursement amount of \$2,488,500.00, with \$1,463,201 coming from Special Grants Fund Balance (Account No. 22-29000) and \$1,025,299 coming from Other Revenue-FEMA Stormwater (Account No. 225-333322) to the Findlay Drive Drainage Project (DR0027; Account 50599968-46101 Construction). This action restores funding to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Program that was temporarily redirected to facilitate construction of the Lower Imhoff Creek Stabilization Project and allows those funds to be invested in the Division's next highest-priority capital project.

Findlay Avenue serves Norman Regional Hospital, nearby schools, residential neighborhoods, and surrounding commercial development. It also provides the sole vehicular access to the Adult Wellness and Education (AWE) Center. Replacement of this infrastructure is critical to maintaining public safety, preserving reliable access to these important community facilities, protecting the roadway from future failures, and ensuring continued stormwater conveyance. Approval of Resolution R-2627-11 will restore the FEMA reimbursement funds to the Stormwater Capital Improvement Program in a manner consistent with Council's previous direction and provide sufficient funding for the Findlay Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement Project to proceed toward construction.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:

Staff recommends approval of a budget appropriation in the amount of \$2,488,500, with \$1,463,201 coming from Special Grants Fund Balance (Account No. 22-29000) and \$1,025,299 coming from Other Revenue-FEMA Stormwater (Account No. 225-333322) to the Findlay Drive Drainage Project (DR0027; Account 50599968-46101 Construction).

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2627-11.