



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 9/23/2025

**REQUESTER:** Ken Giannone, Capital Projects Engineer

**PRESENTER:** Chris Mattingly, P. E., Utilities Director

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-58: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND EMERGENCY GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT**

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) was approved to administer \$100 million in one-time grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address water, wastewater, and dam rehabilitation infrastructure projects across Oklahoma. Funding was further allocated or split between dam rehabilitation projects (\$10 million), large system projects (\$40 million), and small system projects (\$50 million). For large systems, which includes Norman, cities and/or utility systems were required to submit proposed projects along with other information for the respective utility which the OWRB then used to score each utility with a maximum allocation of \$2 million per system and required cost share of 50 percent. The Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) submitted the required information to the OWRB and proposed six possible projects for grant funding including the Line Maintenance Facility (Project WA0329/WW0329). The OWRB rated systems according to their scoring criteria and the NUA scored just below the funding line.

The Line Maintenance Facility project then proceeded using local, ratepayer funds. On April 26, 2022, the NUA/City of Norman awarded Contract K-2122-115 to Crossland Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$14,650 for preconstruction services for the Line Maintenance Facility. Crossland was selected for the Line Maintenance Facility due to their expertise and due to their work on the adjacent Emergency Communications and Operations Center facility. Amendments 1-3 were later approved and the project was completed in December 2023 with a total construction cost of \$8,300,119.63. The ribbon cutting occurred on January 9, 2024.

#### **OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD EMERGENCY GRANT**

On May 7, 2025, Utilities Department/Line Maintenance Division staff were advised that an 18-inch aerial sewer crossing over Bishop Creek in the general vicinity of 730 Stinson Street had failed and sewage was discharging into the creek. Investigation determined that the failure was due to partial overturning of support piers caused by flood conditions in Bishop Creek resulting from several days of heavy rains. Due to the risk to the environment, the NUA General Manager/City Manager authorized emergency repairs to prevent further sewage discharge.

Under this emergency declaration, NUA staff received verbal price quotes to rent temporary pumping services and contract for installation of temporary piping to restore system integrity. This work was completed on May 7, 2025. NUA staff also contracted with Garver Engineers under their current on-call contract with the City of Norman/NUA to prepare an expedited design to replace the existing, failed aerial crossing that would be bid as an emergency project. Consequently, bidding documents for the Bishop Creek Emergency Sewer Line Repair (Project WW0212) were issued to ten (10) potential bidders on May 19, 2025, and at 4:00 pm on May 20, 2025, bids were received and publicly opened from four (4) bidders. The lowest and best bidder was determined to be Krapff-Reynolds Construction Co. (KRCC) with a low bid of \$748,550. Contract K-2425-120 was approved by the City Manager on June 3, 2025, and was later ratified by the NUA on June 10, 2025 pursuant to R-2425-131. This work is funded from the Sewer Maintenance Fund (321) and currently is ongoing with completion expected in November 2025.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

In 2025, the OWRB contacted NUA Staff and identified that funding was available from the ARPA grant. Information was provided to the OWRB for the Line Maintenance Facility project and OWRB determined that the project qualified for reimbursement and, on September 16, 2025, the OWRB awarded the ARPA grant in the amount of \$2,000,000.

OWRB also offers Emergency Grants of up to \$100,000 for public utilities who have experienced an “emergency situation which could not have been avoided by reasonable care.” On August 12, 2025, NUA approved Resolution R-2526-22 authorizing Norman Utilities to submit an application for this Emergency Grant. An application was submitted immediately thereafter, and, on September 16, 2025, an Emergency Grant in the amount of \$100,000 was awarded by the OWRB.

If accepted, the grants would be allocated as follows:

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Account No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ARPA	319-333252	Other Revenue – Federal Grant Reimbursement (Water Fund)	\$1,000,000
ARPA	329-333252	Other Revenue – Federal Grant Reimbursement (Water Reclamation Fund)	\$1,000,000

Emergency Grant	321-331346	Other Revenue – Misc. Grant Reimbursement (Sewer Maintenance Fund)	\$100,000
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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2526-58 accepting the OWRB ARPA and Emergency Grant in the amount of \$2,100,000 and allocating funds as outlined in the resolution.