



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/14/2025

REQUESTER: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manger

PRESENTER: Scott Sturtz, Director of Public Works

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-66: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM EXPRESSING ITS COMMITMENT TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE LOCAL MATCH IF SUCH GRANT IS AWARDED AND PROJECT APPROVED.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman experiences flood events on a regular basis which lead to road closures. The current process to identify and barricade flooded roadways is a manual process which can take a significant amount of time and puts both the emergency responders and traveling public at risk. In November of 2020, the City of Norman applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant through the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS). These grants are designed for pre-disaster mitigation and are competitively awarded. In February 2022, ODEMHS notified the City of Norman of the approval to award funds for the FEMA BRIC Grant for the City of Norman Flood Warning System Development Project in the amount of \$100,000 with a 75%/25% local cost match. In September of 2022, the City awarded a competitive contract to Meshek and Associates, LLC to perform this scoping project. The final report from that project was submitted to the City in August of 2023.

DISCUSSION:

On March 8, 2022 City Council approved the acceptance of the FEMA BRIC Grant for the Norman Flood Warning System Development Project. Federal funding for this project was a \$75,000 (75%) reimbursement with a local match requirement of \$25,000 (25%) as part of the FEMA BRIC Grant program. Acceptance of this grant was to design the framework for a flood warning system for the City modeled after the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Flood Information & Notification System. Working with personnel from Public Works, Police, Fire, IT, and public outreach, information on current processes and future needs was gathered. Sub-watersheds

citywide were analyzed to determine the best locations for installation of up to 25 stream and rain gages and cameras as well as the feasibility of incorporating ten existing monitoring locations used for Lake Thunderbird Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance.

Now that locations have been identified through this scoping project, stream gages, rain gages, and cameras will need to be installed. In addition to the installed equipment, software that will integrate with the City's Geographic Information System and the new Emergency Operations Center will need to be created and added to the City's website to provide a way for emergency responders and the public to monitor water levels at each of these sites, in real time. This project also researched ways that this system can be incorporated into existing emergency warning systems, as well as the City's proposed Traffic Management Center, to notify the public of flooded roadways in their area.

The City previously applied for the implementation phase of this project through the BRIC program. In April of 2025, the City learned that it had been selected for that grant but that the BRIC program was terminated. ODEMHS reached out to the City following this notification and began working to find other grant programs to fund this critical project. Currently, ODEMHS staff have indicated that funding can potentially be found in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program. Grant funding for implementing different phases of this system may be split between more than one grant application under this program. The estimated total cost of implementation of the Flood Warning system is \$464,636. If the City is a successful applicant for these grants, 75% of the cost (\$348,477) will be paid by the federal partners and 25% (\$116,159) will be the City's cost share responsibility. If the City is selected to receive these grants, City Council approval would be required to accept the grant and allocate funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve Resolution R-2526-66 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit grant applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program and expressing its commitment to secure funding in the amount of \$464,636, of which 75% (\$348,477) would qualify for reimbursement and 25% (\$116,159) would be the City's local match, if such grants are awarded and project approved.