



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/08/22

REQUESTER: Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

PRESENTER: Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) SMALL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$186,000 FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS TO BE USED TO BUILD TWO (2) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS LOCATED AT CITY HALL, CONTRACT K-2122-107, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) issues a Call for Projects for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) – Public Fleet Conversion Funding cycle. The grant program is designed to help cities implement clean fuel projects that strive toward the improvement of regional air quality.

Transportation, especially transportation that utilizes fossil fuels, is a significant source of precursors to ozone pollution such as volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, the gasses that react to form ozone. Referred to as mobile source emissions, these “precursors” are emitted through vehicle exhaust and fuel evaporation, reacting to sunlight in windless conditions to create tropospheric ozone pollution. Research continues to demonstrate the effects of ozone pollution on all populations, but children, the elderly, and anyone with respiratory illnesses such as asthma are particularly vulnerable. Any reduction in ozone-forming emissions translates to improved quality of life for everyone in Central Oklahoma.

DISCUSSION:

The CMAQ program was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. It was continued by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST) in 2015. The FAST Act continued to provide funding for transportation projects and programs to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. The funding is available to reduce congestion and help improve air quality with respect to ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter. For 2020, Central Oklahoma did not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and was close to nonattainment for ozone.

The City of Norman Alternative Fuel Program, adopted in February 2009, was one of the first such municipal programs in Oklahoma and cemented Norman as a leader in the implementation of alternative fuel technology. In 2009, Norman found that investment in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) infrastructure and technology was the best course of action until other technologies developed enough to be effective and pervasive methods. Electric vehicle (EV) technology has reached this point now.

This project consists of installing two new high-capacity electric vehicle charging stations in the parking lot at City Hall located on the northwest corner of Gray Street and Santa Fe Avenue. This would allow citizens and visitors utilizing this parking lot to charge their vehicles as they engage in civic activity, conduct business with City departments, visit the post office, and perform other activities.

On November 30, 2022, City Council approved Resolution R-2122-65 (City of Norman City Hall EV Charger Project) requesting Congestion Mitigation Air Quality – Public Fleet Conversion Grant Funding for 76% of the anticipated \$246,000 construction cost.

On January 13, 2022, the ACOG Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Committee recommended a list of projects be approved for funding, including this project. Then the ACOG MPO Policy Committee reviewed the list of projects on January 27, 2022, and approved them for funding.

Of the anticipated construction costs of \$246,000, 76% (\$186,000) would be reimbursed by the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality- Public Fleet Conversion Grant Funding through ACOG and the remaining 24% (\$60,000) would be provided in local match. The \$186,000 in CMAQ funding would be reimbursed to the City once the project is completed.

To complete the project, the following appropriations are needed:

1. \$186,000 appropriation from Special Revenue Fund Balance (22-29000) to Project BG0086, Construction (22550480-46101); and
2. \$60,000 appropriation from Capital Fund Balance (50-29000) to Project BG0086, Construction (50594408-46101).

Funds received as reimbursement under the grant will be recorded into the Special Grants Fund Revenue (225-333364).

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2122-107, a grant contract with ACOG accepting the CMAQ Funding in the amount of \$186,000 for an eligible public fleet conversion project consisting of two (2) dual DC fast electric vehicle charging stations.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:

Staff recommends an appropriation of \$186,000 from Special Revenue Fund Balance (22-29000) for project expenses for the grant-funded portion and \$60,000 from the Capital Fund Balance (50-29000) to cover project expenses for the City-Funded portion to Project BG0086, City Hall Electric Vehicle Charging Station, Construction (22550480-46101).