



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 3/08/2022

REQUESTER: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manager

PRESENTER: Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works

TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 TO BE USED FOR A FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, CONTRACT K-2122-103, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE SPECIAL GRANT FUND AND THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

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, with approval from the City Manager, the City 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.

DISCUSSION:

Federal funding for this project is 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 is 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 the Public Works, Police, Fire (Emergency Management), and Information Technology Departments, information on current processes and future needs will be gathered. Sub-watersheds citywide will be analyzed to determine the best locations for installation of up to 25 stream and rain gauges and cameras as well as the feasibility of incorporating ten existing monitoring locations used for Lake Thunderbird Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance. Once locations are identified through this scoping project, stream gauges, rain gauges, and cameras will be installed pending availability of funding either through future appropriations or grant opportunities. In addition to

the installed equipment, a GIS map will be created and added to the City's website to provide a way for emergency responders and the general public to monitor water levels at each of these sites in real time. This project will also research ways that this system can be incorporated in to existing Police and Fire Department warning systems, as well as the City's proposed Traffic Management Center (TMC) to notify the public of flooded roadways in their area.

If approved, the City would create an RFP by mid-April. The selection process for the award recipient of the RFP would be completed no later than end of July, at which point, a contract proposal would be brought before the council for approval. Following council approval of the contract, the project would have an estimated completion time of 3-5 months.

In addition to accepting the above award, a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant State and Local Agreement (SLA) in the form of Contract K-2122-103 needs to be approved obligating the City to comply with the outlined rules for grant administration and federal regulations with regards to purchasing and expending federal funds. The City's existing purchasing rules meet or exceed the standards outlined within the SLA.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends acceptance of the FEMA EMT-2020-BR-014-0005 BRIC award grant through the ODEMHS in the amount of \$100,000.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Staff further recommends approval of Contract K-2122-103 with ODEMHS.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Staff requests approval for budget appropriation in the amount of \$75,000 from Special Grants Fund (22-29000) to Flood Warning System, Design (Account 22592214-46201; Project DR0023) for the Federal Share of the grant. Staff further requests approval of budget appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from Capital Fund Balance (Account 50-29000), to Flood Warning System, Design (Account 50592214-46201; Project DR0023) for the Local Match portion of the grant. All reimbursed funds will be placed in the Special Grants Fund, Revenue Account (225-333322).