



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 08/10/2021

**REQUESTER:** Taylor Johnson, Transit and Parking Program Manager

**PRESENTER:** Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2122-26: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF \$679,700 THROUGH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S FISCAL YEAR 2021 LOW- OR NO-EMISSION VEHICLE PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT, EXECUTE, AND FILE AN APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORMAN WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FORMALLY PROGRAM THE PROJECT AWARD.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. 5339) makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants. A sub-program, the Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program, provides competitive grants for bus and bus facility projects that support low and zero-emission vehicles.

On June 27, 2019 the City of Norman was recognized by the FTA as an eligible recipient of federal transit funds and an eligible applicant of the Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program. Eligible activities for this program include capital projects to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses, vans, and related equipment, and to construct bus-related facilities, including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities.

A requirement of the Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program is to identify the source of local match to the federal funds and to provide evidence and commitment of those funds with the entity's application. A Council resolution meets this requirement. When a project is selected, funds are available for obligation three fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the competitive awards are announced.

On March 25, 2021 Council authorized by resolution a grant application submittal to the Federal Transit Administration's FY2021 Low- or No-Emission Vehicle Program for a battery

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electric bus, partnering with Gillig as the manufacturer, and committing the City of Norman to provide the required local match, through either the General Fund, the Public Transit Sales Tax Fund, or Capital Fund if the project is selected.

Base price, estimated options, and delivery charges were quoted as approximately \$925,000 in total cost. The minimum cost share for this grant opportunity was an 80% federal and a 20% local share, however, due to the competitive nature of this program staff recommended that the City apply with a 70% federal (\$647,500) and 30% local (\$277,500) share.

In addition to the purchase of the bus, the City would need to install an additional charging station in the Maintenance Facility's transit yard. Estimated costs for the purchase of an additional charger and installation were \$46,000. Staff proposed the same cost sharing as the bus, 70% federal (\$32,200) and 30% local (\$13,800).

Total proposed cost sharing for the grant application for the battery electric bus and the associated charger was approximately \$679,700 (70% federal) and \$291,300 (30% local).

#### **DISCUSSION:**

On June 25, 2021 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the project selections through the 2021 Low- or No-Emission Grant Program. A total of 49 projects in 26 states and territories were selected through this highly competitive grant program. The City of Norman's project was the only one selected in Oklahoma.

If approved, staff anticipates delivery of the new battery electric bus to be around July-October 2022 (approximately 12-15 months). The electric charging station will be installed by November 2021 as part of the City's ongoing construction of the new Transit/Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Facility at Northbase. Award of this bid and associated budget transfers was completed under a separate agenda item.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve Resolution R-2122-26, accepting the award of \$679,700 through the Federal Transit Administration's fiscal year 2021 Low- or No-emission Vehicle Program and authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit, execute, and file an application on behalf of the City of Norman with the United States Department of Transportation to formally program the project award.