



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/26/2023

REQUESTER: Jason Murphy, Stormwater Program Manger

PRESENTER: Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2324-65 A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES 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 that lead to road closures. The current process to identify and barricade flooded roadways is a manual process that 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 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 a 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. Subwatersheds

citywide were 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.

Now that locations have been identified through this scoping project, stream gauges, rain gauges, and cameras will be need to be installed. In addition to the installed equipment, software that will integrate with the City's GIS 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 general public to monitor water levels at each of these sites in real time. This project also researched 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.

A notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is expected to be issued by the ODEMHS in the coming weeks. Based on the project analysis report completed by Meshek and Associates, implementation of this project shows a favorable cost benefit analysis and a very positive impact on all of Norman's citizens. Based on this report, the City of Norman has a very competitive application and favorable chance of being selected for further grant money to implement the Flood Warning System. This BRIC grant has a limited amount of funding and it is distributed on a first come, first serve basis, so it is imperative that that an application is submitted as soon as possible to increase the City's chances of being selected for receiving this grant. The estimated cost of implementation of the Flood Warning system is \$313,000. If the City is a successful applicant for this grant, 75% of the cost (\$234,750) will be paid by the federal partners and 25% (\$78,250) will be the City's cost share responsibility. If the City is selected to receive this grant, City Council approval would be required to accept the grant and allocate funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve Resolution R-2324-65 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to submit a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program and expressing its commitment to secure funding in the amount of \$313,000, of which 75% (\$234,750) would qualify for reimbursement and 25% (\$78,250) would be the City's local match, if such grant is awarded and project approved.