



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator
Subject: BRIC Funding
Date: 4/27/2026

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program which makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. It does so by recognizing the need to upgrade and modernize the nation's infrastructure against the growing risks to communities and the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote resilience with respect to natural hazards.

The city had planned to apply for this program in 2025, but it was eliminated by the federal government. The federal government was sued, and the program was put back in place. The city is still waiting to hear from the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program that the federal government was supposed to award in October of 2025.

This BRIC grant would cover the cost of the flood mitigation project the city has worked toward over the last five years. The project would purchase land in the northeast corner of Oelwein, dig a large hole, and remove over 80 properties from the flood plain. The large retention area would be created to take on the water which floods Oelwein and would slowly release it over 24 hours as required by state and federal regulations.

The issue is the city has already invested \$175,005.85 in the first application and will need to invest another \$15,000 in the second application. The city has made a total investment of \$189,993.77 over the last three years when it comes to all the projects. The original BRIC study was \$100,000 but only required a city match of 15 percent.

The good news is the city is eligible for funding to pay back what has already been invested by the city. This entire process started because the DNR had funding to help local communities understand their flooding. Through this process we now have a solution to help save homes and commercial businesses that provide a vital tax base to our community.

If none of these applications work out, the city will need to allocate general fund, local options sales tax, or franchise fee dollars to pay back this investment. This project could positively affect Oelwein residents for generations and solve a flooding problem which will only get worse.