



COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Type: Council - Regular

Meeting Date: February 20, 2025

Agenda Item Type: Old Business

Staff Contact: Brandon Perkins, Town Manager

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM:

Consideration to approve the acceptance of a hazard mitigation grant from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) to fund required upgrades to the Lake Pendleton Dam.

BACKGROUND:

In September 2018, the Town received notification from Georgia Safe Dams that the Lake Pendleton Dam had been upgraded to a Category I dam. This designation indicates that a breach/failure could result in the loss of life. Questions arose at the time concerning ownership and it was determined that the Town had significant ownership and responsibility because a public street (Pendleton Trail) traverses the structure.

The initial cost estimate to bring the dam into compliance was approximately \$2 million. In August 2019, the Town applied for a 75%/25% hazard mitigation grant through GEMA to help cover the cost of the required upgrades to the dam.

On February 12, 2025, the Town was notified by GEMA that a grant award in the amount of \$2,410,000 had been awarded to the Town with a Federal share of \$1,807,500.00 and a local share of \$602,500.00 along with subrecipient management costs of \$21,000.00. The \$21,000.00 for subrecipient management costs does not require a match and helps cover indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific project.

Upon acceptance of this grant, the Town will be expected to:

1. Cover the upfront costs of the upgrade and submit reimbursement requests as the project progresses; and
2. Complete the project by October 1, 2026.

It should be noted that an extension may be requested, if necessary.

Once acceptance is approved by Council, Staff will forward the executed documents to GEMA and await their final letter of approval (this is a formality and simply indicates that they have received our paperwork and it is all acceptable). After this is finalized, we can begin final engineering and the RFP process.

FUNDING:

\$2,410,000 in upfront costs with a \$21,000 reimbursement for management costs and \$602,500.00 for the local match. \$1,807,500.00 to be reimbursed by the grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to accept the grant and to have the Mayor execute the documents.

ATTACHMENTS:

GEMA grant award letter and Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement.

PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS:

-This item has been discussed several times since 2018.