

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Mayor McFarland & Finance Committee Members

From: **Andrew Beyer, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer**

Date: 11/19/2024

Subject: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity

Background

Review and take possible action: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Opportunity

Background:

In February 2024, the City's multi-year Flood Control Plan project was completed, identifying 15 priority flooding areas to be addressed throughout the City. Three (3) of the priority flooding areas drain to the westside creek system (the Brandt-Quirk Creek and High School Creek systems, which meet near the new fire station site). This creek system begins upstream (north) of the City limits, receiving additional flows from tributary streams and storm sewer before it discharges to the Rock River near the intersection of Fairview Drive and Hoffmann Drive. The Flood Control Plan recommendations included additional study and modeling to design site-specific solutions to the flooding problems. Due to the inter-connectedness of the flooding problems and the westside receiving creek system, staff proposed to study and evaluate the impacts of creek flows, floodplain and stormwater runoff to the creek, including how solving one flooding area could impact another flooding area.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has announced the new Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant to assess natural systems in conjunction with flooding in urban areas. The city is eligible for this grant due to the flooding that occurred in August 2018. It is not known at this time if the Pre-Disaster Resilience Grant will be offered again in future years, or if the City would be eligible at that time. The Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant offers up to 75% cost-sharing, up to a maximum of \$300,000, for the work proposed in this project.

WEM Pre-Disaster Flood Control Grant applications are due November 30, 2024, and require a resolution indicating approval to participate in this grant opportunity and to expend the City's

share of the funds, and that all state grant requirements, forms, local codes and standards will be met.

Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure in an effort to ensure quality, safety and compliance
2. Promotes and fosters innovative approaches for community development and growth
3. Maintains a safe and healthy community, and expands community education on safety and health

Financial Impact

A WEM Pre-Disaster Flood Control Grant can offset a portion of the cost to study and develop solutions to at least three (3) of the priority flooding areas that were identified in the City's 2024 Flood Control Plan. The data collected as part of this study and modeling effort would provide baseline information that would impact the design and effectiveness of proposed flood control measures.

Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends the approval of the resolution supporting the City's application and participation in the Wisconsin Emergency Management Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant.

2024 Operational Goals

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure in an effort to ensure quality, safety and compliance
2. Promotes and fosters innovative approaches for community development and growth
3. Maintains a safe and healthy community, and expands community education on safety and health