



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: April 15, 2025

Agenda Item: Grant Opportunities for C.O.W.

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Becky Magestro- Chief of Staff 262-473-0101

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what, when, where, why)

In early January 2025, the City of Whitewater retained the services of Brooke Pederson as a consultant to conduct comprehensive research on grant opportunities available to the City. Over the course of an 11-week engagement, Brooke diligently researched and compiled a wide-ranging list of grant opportunities relevant to the City's strategic goals and community development objectives. Her work focused on identifying funding sources across federal, state, and private grant programs that align with the City's needs and priorities. In addition to assembling this resource, Brooke analyzed and evaluated the grant opportunities based on factors such as eligibility, potential funding amount, alignment with city initiatives, and competitiveness. As a result of this analysis, she has provided a prioritized recommendation, highlighting the top grant opportunity that the City should pursue. This information will serve as a valuable guide in helping the City strategically pursue external funding to support current and future initiatives.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

The financial impact will vary depending on the size of the grant award and any required matching funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

After reviewing the grant research spreadsheet and accompanying presentation, the City has identified several promising grant opportunities that could significantly support future projects and equipment needs across multiple departments. These opportunities have been shared with the respective department heads for further review and consideration.

- **Whitewater Fire Department (WFD)** received information on the **Leary Firefighters Foundation Grant**, which may assist in funding critical equipment and facility upgrades.
- **Parks and Recreation** was provided details on two programs: The **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program** and the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, both of which support recreational infrastructure and park improvement projects.
- **Department of Public Works (DPW)** was informed about the **Community Facilities Direct Loan Program**, which could be applicable to the planned construction of a new DPW garage.
- **Economic Development** was made aware of the **Community Development Investment Grant**, which may offer funding for projects related to **childcare facilities** and **city beautification, including park enhancements**.

These grant opportunities represent meaningful prospects to advance departmental initiatives and citywide goals through external funding. Departments are encouraged to evaluate the eligibility requirements and potential fit for their respective projects.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

N/A
