



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3009, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

9/30/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance accepting grant funds from the Texas Department of Emergency Management and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200811-001) to appropriate \$158,996 in grant funds for Austin Water and Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Lead Department

Budget Office.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$158,996 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

June 26, 2014 Item # 21 - Council approved bundles 1, 4, 5, and 6 of grant funding.
August 28, 2014 Item # 27 - Council approved bundles 7 and 8 of grant funding.
March 12, 2015 Item # 5 - Council approved bundles 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 of grant funding.
October 6, 2016 Item # 16 - Council approved individual grant awards.
June 22, 2017 Item #17 - Council approved individual grant awards.
May 24, 2018 Item #7 - Council approved individual grant awards.
September 19, 2019 Item #7 - Council approved individual grant awards.
September 17, 2020 Item #6 - Council approved individual grant awards.

For More Information:

Aoife Longmore, 512-974-0468.

Additional Backup Information:

The 2015 Halloween Flood that began on October 30, 2015, resulted from rainfall that fell directly on Austin, creating spontaneous and unpredictably hazardous conditions. Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt signed a Disaster Declaration October 30, 2015. The President approved Public and Individual Assistance on November 25, 2015. Public Assistance enabled the City of Austin to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to obtain funding to bring City owned and maintained facilities and infrastructure back to pre-disaster condition. The funds flow to the City through the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) has coordinated the gathering and submittal of debris removal, emergency protective measures, and infrastructure projects.

The Colorado River flooding and subsequent boil water notice response was initiated as widespread rainfall occurred throughout the central Texas region in early October 2018. The Lake LBJ and Lake Buchanan watershed basins received heavy rainfall causing significant damage to surrounding areas. Much of this rainfall drained to the Colorado River through Lake Travis from the Llano River. As a result, the Lower Colorado River

Authority (LCRA) and Austin Water Department commenced flood response operations.

The EOC was activated on October 18. The water draining through the Colorado River was fed by water from the Llano River which had a significant amount of silt, dirt, and debris as a result of the extremely dry summer conditions in the area. By Saturday, October 20, 2018, the increased water turbidity began to impact Water Treatment Plant operations and water production fell. On October 22, 2018, a boil water notice was issued preemptively. On October 23, 2018, the turbidity levels leaving the filters at one of the WTPs triggered a mandatory boil water notice by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The impact of the boil water notice was felt throughout the city and county. Restaurants, schools, and hospitals were all impacted. Austin HSEM and Travis County OEM provided potable water to the community through seven water points of distribution (PODs). Five of these PODs were run by the City of Austin, one of the PODs was run by Travis County, and one POD was run by Williamson County.

The boil water notice lasted for seven days. On October 28, 2018, TCEQ informed Austin Water that all the criteria required to lift the boil water notice had been met.

The award coming before Council today is for Grant Administration.

Council will be presented with additional appropriation requests in the future once FEMA has approved the projects and determined funding estimates accordingly:

Department	Project	FEMA Reimbursement	City Match	Total Project Value
Homeland Security and Emergency Management	Management Cost	\$153,321	\$0	\$153,321
Austin Water	Management Cost	\$5,675	\$0	\$5,675

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the department's needs for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.