



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-2092, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

6/8/2023

### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Energy Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to accept and appropriate \$569,500 in grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program for a smart grid and distribution system design analysis study.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Energy.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$569,500 is available in grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A City funding match of \$395,070 is required and is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Energy Operating Budget. A fiscal note is attached.

### **For More Information:**

Elaine Veselka, VP Electrical Systems Engineering and Technical Services, 512-322-6667; Amy Everhart, Director of Local Government, 512-322-6087; William Kelly, Distribution Process Manager, 512-974-7421.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 was the catalyst for Austin Energy (AE) to actively pursue federal and state grant opportunities that would assist in the funding of AE programs related to increasing electric utility distribution system grid resilience. In April 2023, the FEMA, through the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) awarded the City through Austin Energy a grant under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. This grant funded opportunity will look to engage an experienced engineering consultancy with subject matter expertise in smart grid and electric distribution system design to analyze Austin Energy's current system automation and design. The outcome will be a study complete with as-is analysis on system resilience and recommendations for optimization and automation that will allow Austin Energy to maximize load shed capability and bring along with it ancillary benefits of enhanced system protection against wildfire risk, aging distribution infrastructure and greater customer equity across the service territory. The final award will be a 60/40 cost match split of funding between TDEM and Austin Energy/City of Austin.

### **Award Information:**

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: 97.047

FEMA Award Identification Number: EMT-2021-BR-005-0005

FEMA Project Number: 0005

Project Title: Austin Energy Distribution System Load Shed Resiliency

Period of Performance (POP): 9/19/2022 to 9/19/2025

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

