



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 23-2857, **Agenda Item #:** 3.

9/21/2023

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### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Energy Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20220817-004) to increase appropriations in the amount of \$20,000,000 for costs related to Winter Storm Mara.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Energy

### **Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is attached.

### **Prior Council Action:**

June 1, 2023 - City Council ratified mutual aid agreements with CenterPoint Energy, New Braunfels Utilities, and CPS Energy.

June 1, 2023 - City Council ratified four contracts for emergency electrical services with Bird Electric Enterprises, LLC; MP Technologies, LLC; Renegade Group, LLC; and Tempest Energy, LLC.

### **For More Information:**

John Davis, Austin Energy Finance Director, 512-505-3724; Rusty Maenius, Austin Energy Finance Vice President

### **Additional Backup Information:**

In February 2023, the effects of Winter Storm Mara required Austin Energy to conduct the largest restoration operation in its 127-year history. Approximately 174,000 customers (32 percent of customers) lost power due to the storm. The outages were spread across the entire service territory of 437 square miles. To address the extensive storm damage and fully restore power to customers as quickly as possible, Austin Energy immediately requested restoration assistance from several other utilities, who sent in additional line workers and equipment to assist in restoration efforts and repair the damage caused by the storm.

After projecting current-year expenditures, the utility anticipates costs related to the storm will cause its Operating Fund to exceed annual appropriations. This budget amendment will ensure Austin Energy stays within Council-approved appropriation levels and does not need to delay or limit payments for services or operations. Austin Energy is currently working along with other City departments through the FEMA process to receive reimbursement for eligible costs. If approved, eligible costs will be recovered at 75 percent.