



AGENDA ITEM: 9.3

AGENDA DATE: May 12, 2023

TO: Chairman and Members of the Board

THRU: Michael A Kaigler, County Manager

Michael A. Kaigler

FROM: Tara Jennings, Strategic Planning Administrator

Tara Jennings

ISSUE:

Request Board approval of ARPA-Chatham County Recovery Funds proposed projects and associated budget.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of the Treasury, under the American Rescue Plan, allocated \$362 billion dollars for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. Chatham County approved acceptance of the initial SLFRF allocation on June 11, 2021, and authorized staff to establish a chart of accounts. The Board approved an initial set of projects on August 27, 2021, with budgets set to expire December 31, 2022. The second payment was accepted by the Board on June 24, 2022. Staff have been working to evaluate programs and make recommendations for strategic, community wide, long-term investments.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, which included the \$362 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). Out of this amount, \$65.1 billion was allocated for direct aid to counties.
2. As per the provisions of the ARPA legislation, counties with populations exceeding 200,000 residents were eligible to receive direct payments from the U.S. Treasury. Chatham County has received both payments, amounting to a total of \$56,218,385, referred to as Chatham County Recovery Funds. Staff provide regular updates to the Board on programmatic outcomes and expenditures.
3. The bill outlines several acceptable uses for the funds, including but not limited to:
 - a. Responding to or mitigating the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic or its negative economic impact.
 - b. Providing government services to compensate for the reduction in revenue.
 - c. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
 - d. Responding to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. SLFRF funds have been awarded with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for all citizens and promoting equitable outcomes for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. To this end, Chatham County has taken a deliberate and conscious approach by making investments in areas classified as Qualified Census Tracts, which are identified based on various socio-economic factors, including poverty level, unemployment, and education, among others. Chatham County is

responsible for submitting Quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports along with Annual Recovery Plans and Performance Reports to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

5. The Board approved the initial projects and corresponding budgets in August 2021, with the majority starting implementation in October 2021.
6. Internal application process for funding from the second tranche opened on July 1, 2022. On November 7, 2022, staff shared recommendations for potential projects to the Board during a workshop. On February 17, 2023, proposed funding allocations were presented to the Board for approval. Staff has since collaborated with departments and management to finalize scope of work for said projects.
7. Per U.S. Department of the Treasury, all SLFRF funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.
 - a. On November 18, 2022, the Board authorized extension of 30 temporary and two new Chatham County Recovery Funds positions through June 30, 2024, in order to ensure uninterrupted service delivery for the continuation projects.
 - b. Of the initial set of projects, funding agreements with Chatham Emergency Services (CES) and Gateway Community Service Board (Gateway), were set to expire on December 31, 2022. Both organizations need additional time to complete projects as outlined in their respective agreements. Staff recommends extension of the January 14, 2022, Intergovernmental Agreement with CES for the Job Training Scholarships project through June 30, 2023, and an extension of the October 8, 2021, Memorandum of Understanding with Gateway for the Youth Mental Health Facility project through June 30, 2024.
 - c. Staff recommends that Chatham County Recovery Funds be expended prior to U.S. Treasury's obligations deadline, namely by June 30, 2024, to allow time for reallocations, if needed.
 - d. Project recommendations are attached to include current accounting project code, project allocations as of February 2023 and the recommended total project allocations.

BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT:

Quality of Life – Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life with a safe, active and healthy environment.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of Chatham County Recovery Fund projects and corresponding budgets as allowed and extension of two agreements under the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.
2. Provide staff with other direction.

FUNDING:

Each project is assigned a separate account within the finance system as noted on the attached page. Completed projects are noted in green color.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

It is consistent with Board policy to support safe, cost effective, and environmentally responsible operations; while diversifying funding streams.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Alternative 1.

#E: Recovery Fund Projects BOC 05.12.23

Tara Jennings	Completed	05/08/2023 12:19 PM
Linda Cramer	Skipped	05/02/2023 9:14 AM
duplicate workflow item		
Tara Jennings	Skipped	05/02/2023 9:14 AM
duplicate workflow item		
Robin Panther	Completed	05/08/2023 12:24 PM
Mark Bucalo	Completed	05/08/2023 12:28 PM
Vicki Center	Completed	05/08/2023 1:36 PM
Linda Cramer	Completed	05/08/2023 5:05 PM
Danielle Hillery	Completed	05/09/2023 1:29 PM
Michael A. Kaigler	Completed	05/09/2023 3:58 PM
Board of Commissioners	Pending	05/12/2023 10:30 AM

ARPA/SLFRF

Chatham County Recovery Funds Projects

Project Code	Project	Project Budget BOC APPROVED 02.17.2023	Project Budget FOR BOC APPROVAL 05.12.2023	Revisions/ Additions
2202091	Small Business Grant Program	2,000,000	2,000,000	
2202092	First Responder Retention Plan	250,000	362,000	112,000
2202093	Home Repair Grant Program	250,000	250,000	
2202101	<i>Blueprint/Nonprofits (United Way)</i>	<i>625,000</i>	<i>625,000</i>	
2202102	<i>Blueprint/Nonprofits (CASA)</i>	<i>50,000</i>	<i>50,000</i>	
2202103	Blueprint/Nonprofits (Gateway)	248,400	248,400	
2202104	Blueprint/Nonprofits (Hospice)	20,000	20,000	
2202105	Blueprint/Nonprofits (Senior Citizens)	47,942	47,942	
2202121	Job Training Scholarships	72,320	72,320	
2202122	Paratransit Buses	2,000,000	1,000,000	-1,000,000
2202123	Behavioral Health Unit	175,000	756,175	581,175
2202124	Employee Housing Assistance	250,000	750,000	500,000
2202125	Electronic Monitoring Fund	200,000	200,000	
2202126	Community Park Improvement - Ambuc	108,595	214,000	105,405
2202127	Community Park Improvement - Salt Creek	200,000	200,000	
2202128	Community Park Improvement - Westlake	154,750	259,500	104,750
2202129	Community Park Improvement - Lamarville	527,850	430,700	-97,150
2202130	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	335,845	335,845	
2202131	Homelessness	650,000	650,000	
2204011	<i>Hazard Pay</i>	<i>1,442,318</i>	<i>1,442,318</i>	
2204012	<i>E911 Supplement</i>	<i>221,976</i>	<i>221,976</i>	
2204013	Communication Towers	3,500,000	7,000,000	3,500,000
2204014	Website Redesign	1,000,000	850,000	-150,000
2205021	Sewer - Gale Brake Lift Station	300,000	600,000	300,000
2205022	Sewer - Sallie Mood Force Main	1,100,000	1,100,000	
2205023	Sewer - Hopecrest Lift Station	300,000	300,000	
2205024	Sewer - Salcedo Lift Station	300,000	0	-300,000
2205025	Sewer - Nancy Place Lift Station	900,000	900,000	
2205061	<i>Stormwater - Willow Lakes</i>	<i>700,000</i>	<i>700,000</i>	
2205062	Drainage - One Chatham Stormwater Program	1,200,000	1,200,000	
2205063	Drainage - Hardin Canal	1,500,000	1,500,000	
2205064	Drainage - Isle of Hope	900,000	900,000	
2205065	Septic Education Awareness Program	350,000	350,000	
2205066	Hydrants - Ogeechee Farms	1,400,000	1,400,000	
2205067	Hydrants - Burnside Island	1,400,000	1,400,000	
2205068	Hydrants - Sandfly	1,400,000	1,400,000	
2205069	Hydrants - Hollow Oak Subdivision	1,400,000	1,400,000	
2205070	Hydrants - Wilmington Island	1,400,000	1,400,000	

#E: Recovery Fund Projects BOC 05.12.23 (5707 : Request Board approval of ARPA proposed projects)

ARPA/SLFRF

Chatham County Recovery Funds Projects

Project Code	Project	Project Budget BOC APPROVED 02.17.2023	Project Budget FOR BOC APPROVAL 05.12.2023	Revisions/ Additions
2205071	Drainage - Marshall Branch Canal	300,000	300,000	
2205072	Drainage - Sapelo Road	300,000	300,000	
2205073	Drainage - Wilmington Island Road	400,000	400,000	
2205074	Drainage - Burnside Island	400,000	400,000	
2205161	Broadband Infrastructure	2,500,000	2,500,000	
2205162	Cybersecurity - Access Control	1,119,400	1,119,400	
2206001	Early Learning Center	1,350,000	1,350,000	
2206002	Youth Mental Health Facility	1,000,000	1,000,000	
2206004	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Jail Management Syst	865,147	865,147	
2206006	<i>Judicial Caseload Backlog - Queue Management</i>	21,004	21,004	
2206008	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Superior Court Clerk	266,545	266,545	
2206009	Judicial Caseload Backlog - District Attorney	1,049,458	960,000	-89,458
2206011	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Juvenile Court	357,787	357,787	
2206012	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Magistrate Court	259,463	320,966	61,503
2206013	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Probate Court	748,313	890,900	142,587
2206014	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Public Defender	568,434	555,811	-12,623
2206015	<i>Judicial Caseload Backlog - Sheriff's Office</i>	174,999	174,999	
2206016	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Indigent Defense	692,131	0	-692,131
2206017	Judicial Caseload Backlog - State Court	124,029	102,429	-21,600
2206021	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Superior Court	962,604	962,604	
2206024	Mental Health at Detention Center	300,000	300,000	
2206025	<i>Employee Vaccination Incentive</i>	777,963	777,963	
2206027	HVAC at Courthouse	800,000	800,000	
2206028	Future COVID Response	11,267,141	626,586	-10,640,555
2206029	<i>Public Vaccination</i>	82,727	54,724	-28,003
2206030	Mobile Emergency Operations	88,971	88,971	
2206032	<i>Tax Commissioner - Software</i>	42,273	42,273	
2207011	Administrative Expenses	345,000	460,000	115,000
2207021	Evaluation and Data Analysis	175,000	259,100	84,100
	Air Quality Improvement		700,000	700,000
	Aquatic Center Dehumidification		3,275,000	3,275,000
	Community Engagement Platform		150,000	150,000
	Digitizing County Services		1,000,000	1,000,000
	Grants Management Software		300,000	300,000
	Housing Development		1,000,000	1,000,000
	Unified Communication Platform		1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Allocated (w/o Future COVID)		44,951,244	55,591,799	0
ARPA/SLFRF Allocation		56,218,385	56,218,385	

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*completed projects