



FEDERAL GRANT FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

WORK SESSION
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Purpose

Consider Council Objective 3.19: “Investigate Federal Grant Opportunities. Conduct feasibility analysis to determine if outside assistance is needed.”

This issue was raised at the Budget Committee and the Committee instructed staff to find out more information.

Background

- Staff has successfully applied for federal grants, namely:
 - Fire Safer Grant: Firefighters, Diesel Exhaust, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (pending)
 - Cops Grant: Police Officers
 - CDBG: Senior Center, Street/Sidewalk improvements

Background

- Staff met with two consultants: CFM Strategic Communications and Summit Strategies. Both are Oregon-based and well known experts in their field. They have staff in Washington, D.C. and work closely with the Oregon Delegation and their staff.
- Their scope of services include working with City staff to create a list of projects, write and apply for the grant, and meet with the Delegation and/or Agency in support of the grant.

Questions

- The primary questions the Budget Committee asked were:
 - Is Forest Grove eligible?
 - If yes, what projects qualify?
 - What is the cost for grant services?
 - How long does it take to obtain a grant?

Answers

- Potential Projects
 - Fire and Police Grants
 - Police Station Seismic (up to \$1 million)
- Police Location Remediation (up to \$.5 million if it qualifies for Brownfield funding)
- Farmers Market (marketing and development)
 - Historic Renovation
- National Endowment for Humanities (Tigard arts trail)
 - Rail conversion

Answers

- The cost is at least \$60,000/year.
- It is recommended to contract for at least three years as it often takes that long to recognize, apply, and secure a federal grant.
- The contractor identifies 6-8 projects and then applies for grants. These projects are updated each year to keep the list current.

Answers

- Funding for the contract would come from the General Fund.
- The monies spent on a contract are not reimbursable by the grant.

Options

- Option 1: Take no action
- Option 2: Authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposal and execute a three year contract. This would require a budget amendment.
- Option 3: Authorize staff to let a Request for Interest and have a future work session to determine whether to issue an Request for Proposal. This would not require a budget amendment at this time.

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