



RESOLUTION TITLE: TO AMEND GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 2021-264 FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Gaston County Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 for the Gaston County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was adopted in Regular Session by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on September 28, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners shall amend Section 2 of the Grant Project Ordinance to authorize appropriations for specific programs, services, projects, and activities. The Board may also appropriate some or all of these funds to an enterprise fund in an annual budget ordinance for a water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure project.

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Commissioners of Gaston County, North Carolina, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that:

Section 1: This ordinance is to establish a budget for a project to be funded by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (CSLRF). Gaston County has received the first tranche in the amount of \$21,806,063 of CSLRF funds. The total allocation is \$43,612,126, with the remainder to be distributed to the County within 12 months. These funds may be used for the following categories of expenditures, to the extent authorized by state law.

1. Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
3. Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
4. Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	TPhilbeck	RWorley	Vote
2022-141	04/26/2022	TK	TP	A	AB	A	AB	A	A	A	U

DISTRIBUTION:
Laserfiche Users

TO AMEND GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 2021-264 FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

Page 2

Section 2: The following amounts are appropriated for the project and authorized for expenditure:

CSLRF Project \$43,612,126*

Project Allocations

- FJC Program Project \$ 616,366 - Approved 09/28/2021
- Grants Manager Position \$ 535,159 - Approved 12/14/2021
- Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance \$ 250,000 - Approved 01/11/2022
- Cherryville Park Design \$ 200,000 - Approved 03/22/2022
- **Grants Manager Position (Budget Increase) \$ 33,341 (BCR Attached) - 4/26/2022**
- **North Belmont Park Waterline Extension \$ 300,000 (BCR Attached) - 4/26/2022**
- **Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension \$ 5,000 (BCR Attached) - 4/26/2022**
- **Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension \$ 472,000 (BCR Attached) - 4/26/2022**
- **Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension \$ 500,000 (BCR Attached) - 4/26/2022**

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$40,700,260

[*Once it is determined how we will spend all or a portion of the ARP funds, the governing board will amend this section to authorize appropriations for specific programs, services, projects, and activities. The Board may also appropriate some or all of these funds to an enterprise fund in an annual budget ordinance for a water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure project.]

Section 3: The following revenues are anticipated to be available to complete the project:

CSLRF Funds \$43,612,126

- ARPA: Family Justice Center \$ 616,366 - Approved 09/28/2021
- Grants Manager Position \$ 535,159 - Approved 12/14/2021
- Short-term Emergency Housing Assistance \$ 250,000 - Approved 01/11/2022
- Cherryville Park Design \$ 200,000 - Approved 03/22/2022
- **Grants Manager Position (Budget Increase) \$ 33,341 - 4/26/2022**
- **North Belmont Park Waterline Extension \$ 300,000 - 4/26/2022**
- **Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension \$ 5,000 - 4/26/2022**
- **Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension \$ 472,000 - 4/26/2022**
- **Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension \$ 500,000 - 4/26/2022**

Remaining Available CSLRF Project \$40,700,260

Section 4: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grantor agency and the grant agreements.

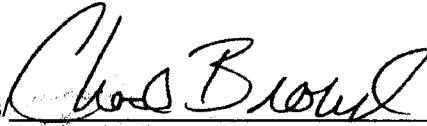
Section 5: The Finance Officer is hereby directed to report the financial status of the project to the governing board on a quarterly basis.

TO AMEND GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE 2021-264 FOR THE GASTON COUNTY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
Page 3

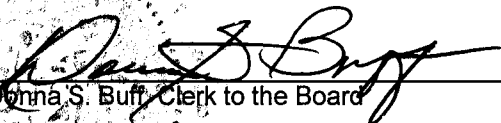
Section 6: Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer and to the Clerk to County Commissioners.

Section 7: This grant project ordinance expires on December 31, 2026, or when all the CSLRF funds have been obligated and expended by the County, whichever occurs sooner.

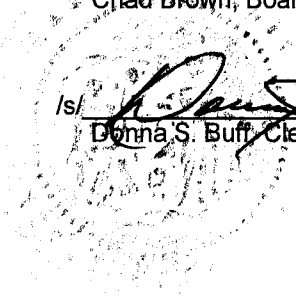
Adopted this 26th day of April 2022.

Is/ 

Chad Brown, Board Chair

Is/ 

Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the Board



GASTON COUNTY BUDGET CHANGE REQUEST

TO: Dr. Kim S. Eagle COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: 4130 Finance
 Dept. # Department Name

Tiffany Murray 4/26/2022
 Department Director's Name Date

TYPE OF REQUEST:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Between Funds * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Transfer Within Department & Fund | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Appropriation of Funds * |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line Item Transfer Between Departments* | <i>* Requires resolution by the Board of Commissioners</i> |

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION (As it appears in the budget)	ACCOUNT NUMBER <small>Fund - Function - Dept - Division - Object - Project</small> xxx - xx - xxxx - xxxx - xxxxx - xxxxxx	AMOUNT Whole Dollars Only (See Note Below)
See attached excel document		

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

To appropriate \$1,310,341 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 CSLRF funds for the design phase of various waterline extension projects and amendment of the Grant Manager project for administrative cost. This project is eligible under Expenditure Category 3 - Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments.

Note: Decreases in expenditures & increases in revenue accounts require brackets. Increases in expenditures & decreases in revenue do not require brackets. Please note that transfers between funds require interfund transfer accounts.

Gaston County Budget Change Request

Page 2

Account Number	Account Description	Amount
010-01-4130-4135-420000-22528	ARPA: Grants Manager	(33,341)
010-01-4130-4135-510001-22528	Salaries: ARPA Grants Mgr	16,860
010-01-4130-4135-510100-22528	FICA: ARPA Grants Mgr	1,570
010-01-4130-4135-510101-22528	Retirement: ARPA Grants Mgr	2,993
010-01-4130-4135-510103-22528	Health Insurance: APRA Grants Mgr	(9,500)
010-01-4130-4135-510104-22528	Unemployment	(100)
010-01-4130-4135-510108-22528	Dental Insurance: ARPA Grants Mgr	(250)
010-01-4130-4135-510109-22528	Life Insurance: ARPA Grants Mgr	7,500
010-01-4130-4135-510102-22528	401K Contrib: ARPA Grants Mgr	918
010-01-4130-4135-520013-22528	Printing	1,250
010-01-4130-4135-520011-22528	Employee Training: ARPA Grants Mgr	350
010-01-4130-4135-520015-22528	Advertising	9,650
010-01-4130-4135-530002-22528	Telephone	2,100
041-01-4265-4135-420000-AR005	ARPA: Chapel Grove Water Line	(472,000)
041-01-4265-4135-420000-AR006	ARPA: Tryon Elem Water Line	(500,000)
041-01-4265-4135-420000-AR008	ARPA: Lowell Elem Water Line	(5,000)
041-01-4265-4135-420000-AR009	ARPA: N. Belmont Pk Water Line	(300,000)
041-98-9800-0000-580043-	Transfer to General Govt Capital Fund	1,277,000
043-98-9800-0000-480041-	Transfer from CIF Fund	(1,277,000)
043-01-4265-4135-540007-AR005	ARPA: Chapel Grove Water Line	472,000
043-01-4265-4135-540007-AR006	ARPA: Tryon Elem Water Line	500,000
043-01-4265-4135-540007-AR008	ARPA: Lowell Elem Water Line	5,000
043-01-4265-4135-540007-AR009	ARPA: N. Belmont Pk Water Line	300,000

Entry #: 13

Date Submitted: 2/23/2022 1:52 PM

About

Gaston County requests proposals from its internal departments for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19.

Gaston County has been awarded \$43,612,126 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Gaston County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Please note that applications must be complete before they will be reviewed by the review committee. The committee will prioritize projects that do not supplant regular operational budgets, cost between \$25,000-\$1,000,000, and clearly address a need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here to read the County's ARPA project selection process, including a project ranking methodology.](#)

[Click here to learn more about compliance.](#)

[Click here to learn more about eligible uses of the County's ARPA funding.](#)

Timeline

- May 2021: County received initial ARPA funding
- August 31, 2021: Began quarterly financial reporting
- December 31, 2022: Second quarterly report
- December 2024: All funds must be encumbered
- December 2026: All funds must be spent

Form Instructions

Availability: This form will not close. Submissions will be reviewed in the order they are received.

Save and Resume Later: Clicking the Save button (bottom right of form) will save your progress and allow you to either copy or email a personalized link to your in-progress entry. This link may be shared with others. Anyone who has the link to the saved form entry can pick up where you left off and complete your submission.

Submit: When your form is complete and ready for review by the ARPA Project Review Committee, click submit. You will not be able to edit the form after you click submit. If you need make any changes to your form after submission, please contact Budget.

Confirmation Email: When you click submit, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address listed in the "Primary Contact Personnel Email" field. It will include a copy of your entry details in the body of the email, as well as a link for viewing your submission online, which may be shared with anyone.

Questions?

Justin Amos
justin.amos@gastongov.com

Project Name
North Belmont Park Waterline Extension

Department Name and Number
4265 - Public Works

Primary Contact Personnel
Dan Ziehm

Primary Contact Personnel Email
dan.ziehm@gastongov.com

Location of Project (if applicable)
3110 Hickory Grove Rd, Gastonia, North Carolina 28056

Project Category
5. Infrastructure

Description of Project
Project will design and install new waterline to serve the community around North Belmont Park, west of Mt. Holly. The community is currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC- 5 Infrastructure, 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project also aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution

Project Start Date
1/1/2022

Project End Date
1/1/2024

Project Plan
In accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.31 and following Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures, an RFQ for Professional Architecture/Engineering Design Services was advertised January 2022, and a selection will be made by February 28, 2022. The project will be taken to the Board, as directed, March 22, 2022. If scope and fee negotiations are successful, A/E Firm will be given NTP in April. Project design could take up to 9 months depending on possible right of way acquisition, and coordination with Two Rivers Utilities. An Agreement will be executed between Gaston County and Mt. Holly. Gaston County will be the lead agency on the project. Right of Way acquisition, permitting and Construction could take 12 months.

Please explain both the NC state and federal legal authority to undertake this program.
The County does have the authority to construct water infrastructure, but the County's Attorney will need to verify if NCGS 160A, Article 16 and NCGS 153A, Article 15 are the correct statutes.

Link to COVID-19
Stay at home orders and business shutdowns stemming from the early outbreak of COVID have made health, hygiene, and safety a more obvious priority. Residential water usage has increased. However, vulnerable households still lack reliable access to water. Unexpected events from droughts to floods, and social disruptions like COVID, have highlighted the need to bolster the reliability, resilience and sustainability of the water system in this area to provide critical water services under more variable and uncertain conditions. The threat of ground water depletion is more present since the pandemic, and the associated increased residential water usage. Protecting the ground water dependent ecosystems should be considered. This project will provide the community that maintains their own water supply with a protective action for future disruptions and help preserve the natural ecosystem.

Statement of Need

There are numerous private and community wells in the vicinity of the park. Gaston County continually has difficulty providing adequate, clean drinking water for the park due to ground water and well issues. The Drinking water well at the park has been replaced due to low flow and water quality. There are no available areas for future wells, so an established and consistent waterline source needs to be provided. This project will enable and ensure the park and surrounding area to have access to adequate, safe, and reliable drinking water source.

Population Served

North Belmont Park is adjacent to 2022 Qualified Census Tract 310.01 that has a diversity index of 47. The diversity index has increased from 23 since 2010. The park is within census tract 310.03 and also adjacent to 310.04. The park is within 2 miles of East Gaston High School where 35% of the students are considered disadvantaged. The park is within 2 miles of North Belmont Elementary School. North Belmont Elementary School is a Title 1 School, with 44.3% of the students considered disadvantaged.

Results

Mount Holly will be able to share data in their annual Drinking Water Report.

Evaluation

County Environmental Health will have data relative to monitoring the wells in the area for contaminations and low flow.

Equity Impact

The pandemic reminded us that far too many Americans, disproportionately low-income people and people of color, lack the essential components of healthy communities: affordable healthcare, safe parks, clean air and safe drinking water to name a few. Underserved populations and neighborhoods may have the greatest pandemic recovery needs. Funding this waterline project will deliver safe and affordable water to a vulnerable community and their community park.

Project Partners

Gaston County, Mt. Holly, Gaston Park and Recreation

Capacity

Currently there are 3 full time project coordinators. Cary Rodriguez has 20+ years of Local government Project management experience and will be managing the project from design through construction and close out. She is dedicated to managing projects with Federal Funding and works closely with Finance to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is achieved. Her experience with federal funds to date includes CMAQ projects and FTA projects.

Special Considerations

COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of access to safe and reliable water. With Grant funding, and partnership with Mt. Holly, the community would benefit from the water service provided by the proposed line, but also Mt Holly's future CIP waterline serving even more citizens, could be completed in the area.

Which of the County's three strategic focus areas best describes the purpose of this request?

Community health, safety, and wellbeing

Budget

Attachments



North_Belmont_ARPA_Revised_Map.pdf
1.10 MB



Revenues

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues:	Costs Sum				
	\$0.00				

Expenditures

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$300,000.00	\$1,240,000.00			
	\$300,000.00	\$1,240,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures:	Untitled				
	\$1,540,000.00				

Although strict accuracy standards have been employed in the compilation of this map, Gaston County does not make or imply any warranties or assume any responsibility for the information presented on this map or its use. This map is for illustration purposes only.

This map may not be used or otherwise used for trade or commercial purposes without the express written consent of Gaston County, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 152-10.

Created by: Juan G. Garcia - Senior Transportation Planner
Date: December 15, 2021

The 2022 Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) are effective January 1, 2022. The 2022 designations use data from the 2010 Decennial Census tracts.

**Qualified
Census
Tract 310.01**

**Census
Tract
310.03**

**Census
Tract
310.04**

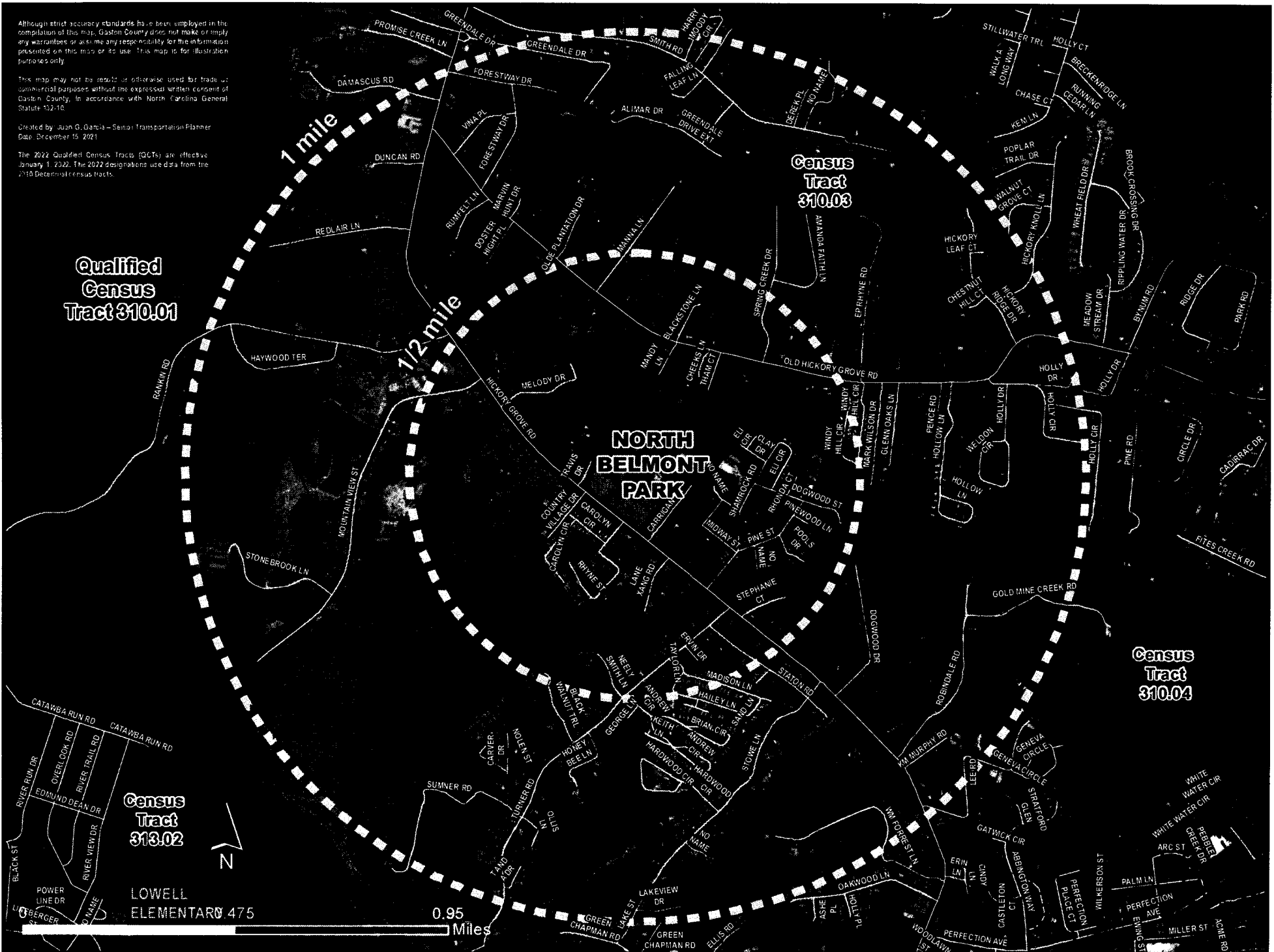
**Census
Tract
313.02**

**LOWELL
ELEMENTARY 475**

**NORTH
BELMONT
PARK**

0.95
Miles

N



Entry #: 12

Date Submitted: 2/18/2022 2:28 PM

About

Gaston County requests proposals from its internal departments for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19.

Gaston County has been awarded \$43,612,126 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Gaston County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Please note that applications must be complete before they will be reviewed by the review committee. The committee will prioritize projects that do not supplant regular operational budgets, cost between \$25,000-\$1,000,000, and clearly address a need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here to read the County's ARPA project selection process, including a project ranking methodology.](#)

[Click here to learn more about compliance.](#)

[Click here to learn more about eligible uses of the County's ARPA funding.](#)

Timeline

- May 2021: County received initial ARPA funding
- August 31, 2021: Began quarterly financial reporting
- December 31, 2022: Second quarterly report
- December 2024: All funds must be encumbered
- December 2026: All funds must be spent

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Submit: When your form is complete and ready for review by the ARPA Project Review Committee, click submit. You will not be able to edit the form after you click submit. If you need make any changes to your form after submission, please contact Budget.

Confirmation Email: When you click submit, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address listed in the "Primary Contact Personnel Email" field. It will include a copy of your entry details in the body of the email, as well as a link for viewing your submission online, which may be shared with anyone.

Questions?

Justin Amos
justin.amos@gastongov.com

Project Name
Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension

Department Name and Number
4265 - Public Works

Primary Contact Personnel
Dan Ziehm

Primary Contact Personnel Email
dan.ziehm@gastongov.org

Location of Project (if applicable)
1500 Power Drive, Lowell, North Carolina 28098

Project Category
5. Infrastructure

Description of Project
Project will design and install new waterline to serve Lowell Elementary School. The park is currently served by McAdenville / Two Rivers water. This project will provide municipal water from Lowell to the school. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC- 5 Infrastructure, 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project also aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.

Project Start Date
1/1/2022

Project End Date
1/1/2023

Project Plan
In accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.31 and following Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures, an RFQ for Professional Architecture/Engineering Design Services was advertised January 2022, and a selection will be made by February 28, 2022. The project will be taken to the Board, as directed, March 22, 2022. A/E Firm will be given NTP April 2022. Project design could take up to 6 months depending on permitting and coordination with Lowell. An Agreement will be executed between Gaston County and Lowell. Gaston County will be the lead agency on the project. Design and Construction could take 12 months.

Please explain both the NC state and federal legal authority to undertake this program.
The County does have the authority to construct water infrastructure, but the County's Attorney will need to verify if NCGS 160A, Article 16 and NCGS 153A, Article 15 are the correct statutes.

Link to COVID-19
Since the early outbreak of COVID, health, hygiene, and safety have become more obvious priorities. Hand washing as a tool to slow the spread of the virus has reinforced the importance of access to safe and reliable water at Lowell Elementary.

Statement of Need

Lowell Elementary School currently receives water from McAdenville/Two Rivers Utilities. The existing dead-end line is a 2" line. It has been found that the old line is corroding, and water quality and water pressure is being compromised due to age of current infrastructure. The line needs to be replaced. The School is 1500 feet from the last customer on the line. McAdenville does not receive enough revenue from this line to justify the replacement or repair of the line. Lowell cannot monitor the water from McAdenville or make repairs efficiently if there is a problem. Therefore Lowell would like to supply their Elementary School with their known, reliable clean water source.

Population Served

Lowell Elementary is a Title I school that serves 485 students. 60.1% are considered Economically Disadvantaged. The school is located adjacent to QCT 310.01, where the diversity index is 47.

Results

Gaston School should be able to compare operations/maintenance costs before and after the waterline extension to Lowell

Evaluation

If the water is provided by Lowell, they will be able to provide data from their annual drinking water quality report as well as any new connections made to the constructed system and the revenue they collect.

Equity Impact

Funding this waterline project will deliver safe and affordable water to a vulnerable community and the elementary school that serves it.

Project Partners

Gaston County, Gaston County Schools, and City of Lowell

Capacity

Currently there are 3 full time project coordinators. Cary Rodriguez has 20+ years of Local government Project management experience and will be managing the project from design through construction and close out. She is dedicated to managing projects with Federal Funding and works closely with Finance to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is achieved. Her experience with federal funds to date includes CMAQ projects and FTA projects.

Special Considerations

The lifespan of a waterline can be up to 100 years. The waterline proposed to Lowell Elementary will serve the school for many years to come.

Which of the County's three strategic focus areas best describes the purpose of this request?

Community health, safety, and wellbeing

Budget

Attachments



A_Lowell_ES_ARPA_Map.pdf
1.93 MB



Revenues

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues:	Costs Sum \$0.00				

Expenditures

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$5,000.00	\$55,000.00			
	\$5,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures:	Untitled \$60,000.00				

Although not intended as a substitute for a professional survey, this map is intended for use in the compilation of census tracts. The user is responsible for the accuracy of the information presented on this map. The user is responsible for the information presented on this map. The user is responsible for the information presented on this map.

This map may not be used for any other purpose without the express written consent of the State of North Carolina. The user is responsible for the information presented on this map. The user is responsible for the information presented on this map.

Created by: Juan G. Garcia - Senior Transportation Planner
Date: December 15, 2021

This 2022 Qualified Census Tract (QCT) is based on the 2022 designations of the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2022 designations are based on the 2020 Census of census tracts.

Census Tract 313.01

Census Tract 310.04

Census Tract 313.02

Qualified Census Tract 310.01

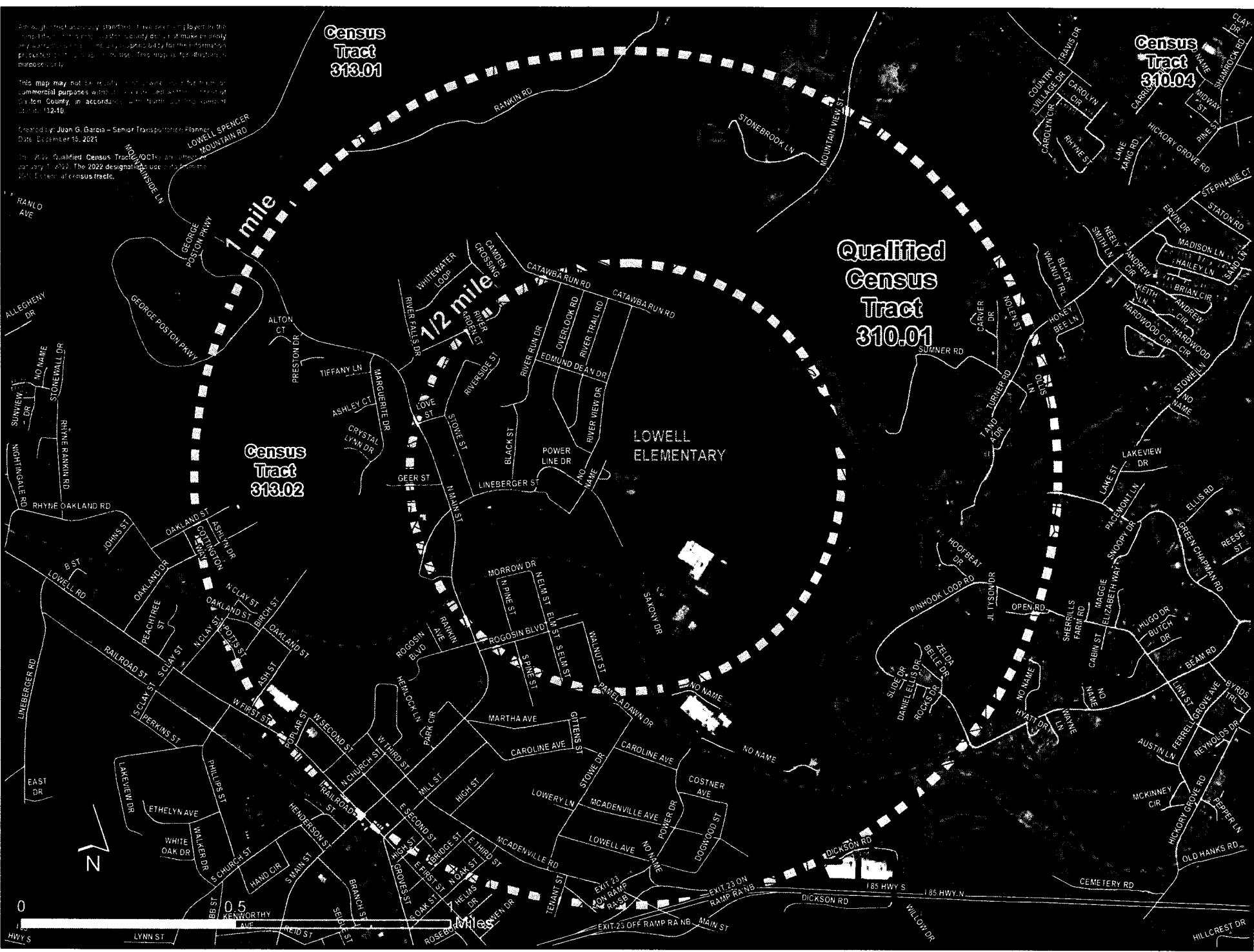
LOWELL ELEMENTARY

1 mile

1/2 mile

0 0.5 Miles

N



Entry #: 7

Date Submitted: 2/11/2022 3:40 PM

About

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[Click here to read the County's ARPA project selection process, including a project ranking methodology.](#)

[Click here to learn more about compliance.](#)

[Click here to learn more about eligible uses of the County's ARPA funding.](#)

Timeline

- May 2021: County received initial ARPA funding
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Questions?

Justin Amos
justin.amos@gastongov.com

Project Name
Chapel Grove Waterline Extension

Department Name and Number
4265 - Public Works

Primary Contact Personnel
Dan Ziehm

Primary Contact Personnel Email
Dan.Ziehm@gastongov.com

Location of Project (if applicable)
Chapel Grove Community, 5201 Lewis Rd., Gaston County, North Carolina 28052

Project Category
5. Infrastructure

Description of Project
Project will design and install approximately 10,000 LF of new 10" waterline along Chapel Grove Road, from Chapel Grove Elementary School to Linwood Road to serve the health needs of the existing Chapel Grove Community currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. The new line will tie into Two Rivers Utilities existing system at Linwood Road. Two Rivers has been contacted about this project, and they are open to entering into an Agreement to provide public water service to this community. The Chapel Grove Waterline project has been on the County CIP since FY '13. The project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety and Well-Being Focus Area. The Project falls under the EC- 5 Infrastructure, 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project also aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.

Project Start Date
1/1/2022

Project End Date
6/30/2024

Project Plan
In accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.31 and following Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures, an RFQ for Professional Architecture/Engineering Design Services was advertised January 2022, and a selection will be made by February 28, 2022. The project will be taken to the Board, as directed, March 22, 2022. A/E Firm will be given NTP by April 4, 2022. Project design could take up to 6 months depending on possible right of way acquisition, and coordination with Two Rivers Utilities. An Agreement will be executed between Gaston County and City of Gastonia / Two Rivers Utilities will provide water service to the community. Gaston County will be the lead agency on the project. Right of Way acquisition, permitting and Construction could take 12 months.

Please explain both the NC state and federal legal authority to undertake this program.
The County does have the authority to construct water infrastructure, but the County's Attorney will need to verify if NCGS 160A, Article 16 and NCGS 153A, Article 15 are the correct statutes.

Link to COVID-19

Stay at home orders and business shutdowns stemming from the early outbreak of COVID have made health, hygiene, and safety a more obvious priority. Residential water usage has increased. However, vulnerable households still lack reliable access to water. Unexpected events from droughts to floods, and social disruptions like COVID, have highlighted the need to bolster the reliability, resilience and sustainability of the water system in this area to provide critical water services under more variable and uncertain conditions. The threat of ground water depletion is more present since the pandemic, and the associated increased residential water usage. Protecting the ground water dependent ecosystems should be considered. This project will provide the community that maintains their own water supply with a protective action for future disruptions and help preserve the natural ecosystem.

Statement of Need

The Chapel Grove Community, along with Chapel Grove Elementary School, is currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. Per the City of Gastonia's Southwest Plan, Two Rivers Utilities may not address this area's need for public water until 2040-2050 CIP Budget. Past droughts have resulted in a shortage of sufficient drinking water and, subsequently, many drinking wells have low pressure or have gone dry. In addition, the elementary school serving this community does not currently have a municipal source of water for reliable clean water. Currently the school tests the drinking water for contaminants daily. In this project area, there are three known or previously known contamination sites. The safety and quality of private well water is the responsibility of the owners. If there is a Duke Energy power outage in the community, the well pumps will not function, and the school, businesses and residents will be without water.

Population Served

The project will serve portions of the 2022 Census Tracts 317.04 (Diversity Index 40, which has increased by 12 since 2010) and 317.03 (Diversity Index 64, up by 17 since 2010), adjacent to the Qualified Census Tract 332.04. Chapel Grove Elementary School is a Title I school, located in Census Tract 317.04 in Gaston County. 80% of this census tract is white (down 11% from 2010), and 9% black (up 31% from 2010). Chapel Grove Elementary School is part of Gaston County Public Schools in Gastonia, N.C. and serves approximately 430 children in grades PK-5. 52.6% of the students are considered economically disadvantaged. Census Tract 317.04 was considered a QCT in 2021. The total population of 3,681 has dropped 0.2% since 2010. The US Census Bureau reports that the Median Household Income for Gaston County is \$56,595. The 2021 Median Family Income for tract 317.04 is \$58,075. This is considered slightly higher than moderate income.

Results

Gaston County Environmental Health reports that there are numerous private wells in the area within a 1-mile radius of Chapel Grove Elementary School. The subdivisions along Lewis Road and Chapel Grove Rd are served by up to eight community wells. The private wells, that serve 1 or 2 houses, do not have to meet state or federal drinking water standards and are not required to be sampled except at the time of installation. Community wells are sampled on a regular basis and are required to be chlorinated and meet state and federal drinking water standards. In this same area, there are three known or previously known contamination sites. Gaston County will partner with Two Rivers Utilities to waive tap fees and educate residents on public water. Master meters may be installed for the residents on community wells. Historically, community well water rates are higher than Two Rivers' rates.

Evaluation

Two Rivers Utilities will be able to provide data in their annual drinking water quality report as well as any connections made to the constructed system and the revenue they collect. Gaston Schools can provide current contamination data for comparison. County Environmental Health will have data relative to monitoring the wells in the area for contaminations. A Performance Target in the County's Strategic Plan directs staff to develop a method of analysis reflecting the number of projects and miles of water and sewer extensions funded by the County and its stakeholders.

Equity Impact

The pandemic reminded us that far too many Americans, disproportionately low-income people and people of color, lack the essential components of healthy communities: affordable healthcare, safe parks, clean air and safe drinking water to name a few. Underserved populations and neighborhoods may have the greatest pandemic recovery needs. Of the 29 public elementary schools in Gaston County, Chapel Grove Elementary and one other elementary school is served by well water. Funding this waterline project will deliver safe and affordable water to a vulnerable community and the elementary school that serves it.

Project Partners

Gaston County will pursue an Agreement with Two Rivers, and Gaston Schools to partner in a successful project that provides the community with safe clean drinking water.

Capacity

Currently there are 3 full time project coordinators. Cary Rodriguez has 20+ years of Local government Project management experience and will be managing the project from design through construction and close out. She is dedicated to managing projects with Federal Funding and works closely with Finance to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is achieved. Her experience with federal funds to date includes CMAQ projects and FTA projects.

Special Considerations

COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of access to safe and reliable water. With Grant funding, and partnerships with Gaston County Schools and Two Rivers Utilities, the County can prioritize addressing the lack of infrastructure in disadvantaged areas. COVID related impacts on residential water usage may begin to reach pre-COVID levels, but there could be long term impacts if more people continue to work from home, or unemployment remains high.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

The Department of Treasury Compliance & Reporting Guidance Part 1, C.2.d Investments in Water Sewer and Broadband indicates that recipients may use SLFRF award funds to cover costs incurred for eligible projects planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by SLFRF award funds are incurred after March 3, 2021. Furthermore, Part 1 D.8 directs recipients to follow Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327.

The EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Eligibility Handbook identifies six broad categories of eligible projects. This project falls under Category 2 – Transmission and Distribution: New water main extensions to serve existing residents not served by a safe supply of potable water (this includes installation of the service line up to premise plumbing). THE DWSRF also states that "Eligible costs include actual pre-construction (planning and design, including costs associated with obtaining project authorization and issuance/execution of the loan) and construction costs that are directly associated with the project and issuance of the loan." And, "Costs for acquiring land are eligible only if the land is needed to locate eligible project components and the land is acquired from a willing seller."

Gaston County's average household size is 2.6, with a Federal Poverty Guideline of \$18,810.

Which of the County's three strategic focus areas best describes the purpose of this request?

Economic development and planned growth

Budget

Attachments



A_Chapel_Grove_ES_ARPA_Map.pdf
1.68 MB



Revenues

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total Revenues: Costs Sum
\$0.00

Expenditures

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Capital	\$472,000.00	\$3,000,000.00			
	\$472,000.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Total Expenditures: Untitled
\$3,472,000.00

Entry #: 8

Date Submitted: 2/11/2022 4:59 PM

About

Gaston County requests proposals from its internal departments for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19.

Gaston County has been awarded \$43,612,126 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Gaston County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Please note that applications must be complete before they will be reviewed by the review committee. The committee will prioritize projects that do not supplant regular operational budgets, cost between \$25,000-\$1,000,000, and clearly address a need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here to read the County's ARPA project selection process, including a project ranking methodology.](#)

[Click here to learn more about compliance.](#)

[Click here to learn more about eligible uses of the County's ARPA funding.](#)

Timeline

- May 2021: County received initial ARPA funding
- August 31, 2021: Began quarterly financial reporting
- December 31, 2022: Second quarterly report
- December 2024: All funds must be encumbered
- December 2026: All funds must be spent

Form Instructions

Availability: This form will not close. Submissions will be reviewed in the order they are received.

Save and Resume Later: Clicking the Save button (bottom right of form) will save your progress and allow you to either copy or email a personalized link to your in-progress entry. This link may be shared with others. Anyone who has the link to the saved form entry can pick up where you left off and complete your submission.

Submit: When your form is complete and ready for review by the ARPA Project Review Committee, click submit. You will not be able to edit the form after you click submit. If you need make any changes to your form after submission, please contact Budget.

Confirmation Email: When you click submit, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address listed in the "Primary Contact Personnel Email" field. It will include a copy of your entry details in the body of the email, as well as a link for viewing your submission online, which may be shared with anyone.

Questions?

Justin Amos
justin.amos@gastongov.com

Project Name
Tryon Waterline Extension

Department Name and Number
4265 - Public Works

Primary Contact Personnel
Dan Ziehm

Primary Contact Personnel Email
dan.ziehm@gastongov.com

Location of Project (if applicable)
Bessemer City, 2620 Tryon Courthouse Rd, Bessemer City, North Carolina 28016

Project Category
5. Infrastructure

Description of Project
Project will design and install new waterline to serve the Tryon Community, and Tryon Elementary School, Tryon Park and Recycling Center. Water service could connect to Cherryville or Bessemer City existing service lines. A third option is to tie into a possible future City of Gastonia/Two Rivers Utilities line along Hwy 279/ Dallas Cherryville Hwy. The selected Design Firm will need to assess the alternatives. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The project also aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution. The Project falls under the ARPA EC- 5 Infrastructure, 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution.

Project Start Date
1/1/2022

Project End Date
6/30/2024

Project Plan
In accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.31 and following Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures, an RFQ for Professional Architecture/Engineering Design Services was advertised January 2022, and a selection will be made by February 28, 2022. The project will be taken to the Board, as directed, March 22, 2022. A/E Firm will be given NTP as directed by the Board in April 2022. Project design could take up to 12 months depending on possible right of way acquisition, and coordination based upon the preferred alternative. An Agreement will be executed between Gaston County and the water service provider. Gaston County will be the lead agency on the project. Right of Way acquisition, permitting and Construction could take 12+ months.

Please explain both the NC state and federal legal authority to undertake this program.
The County does have the authority to construct water infrastructure, but the County's Attorney will need to verify if NCGS 160A, Article 16 and NCGS 153A, Article 15 are the correct statutes.

Link to COVID-19
Stay at home orders and business shutdowns stemming from the early outbreak of COVID have made health, hygiene, and safety a more obvious priority. Residential water usage has increased. However, vulnerable households still lack reliable access to water. Unexpected events from droughts to floods, and social disruptions like COVID, have highlighted the need to bolster the reliability, resilience and sustainability of the water system in this area to provide critical water services under more variable and uncertain conditions. The threat of ground water depletion is more present since the pandemic, and the associated increased residential water usage. Protecting the ground water dependent ecosystems should be considered. This project will provide the community that maintains their own water supply with a protective action for future disruptions and help preserve the natural ecosystem.

Statement of Need

The Tryon Community, along with Tryon Elementary School, is currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. Past droughts and mining activities in the area have resulted in a shortage of sufficient drinking water and, subsequently, many drinking wells have gone dry. With a new proposed mining operation, this issue may become worse for the community. A nearby subdivision has at least one well that exceeds the nitrate level of 10 mg/L. This area was farmland for many years. There are still seven large chicken houses located less than 1/2 mile from the school and the subdivision. There is no room on the school property for another well to service the school. The school has had to create water storage on site, and transport it in from other locations for school usage. Currently the school tests the drinking water for contaminants daily. The safety and quality of the private well water is the responsibility of the owners. If there is a Duke Energy power outage in the community, the well pumps will not function, and the school, businesses and residents will be without water.

Population Served

Tryon Elementary School is located on Tryon Courthouse Road, between Bessemer City and Cherryville. Tryon Elementary School is a Title I school and serves approximately 345 children in grades PK-5. 51.1% of the students are considered economically disadvantaged. The Community and school are located in 2022 Census Tract 305.02. Population is 3581 down 4%.

Results

Gaston County Environmental Health reports that there are numerous private wells in the areas within a 1-mile radius of Tryon Elementary School. The private wells, that serve 1 or 2 houses, do not have to meet state or federal drinking water standards and are not required to be sampled except at the time of installation. Community wells are sampled on a regular basis and are required to be chlorinated and meet state and federal drinking water standards. In this same area, there are three known or previously known contamination sites with underground tank incidents. Gaston County will partner with either Cherryville, Bessemer City or City of Gastonia to waive tap fees and educate residents on public water.

Evaluation

If the water is provided by Two Rivers Utilities, they will be able to provide data from their annual drinking water quality report as well as any new connections made to the constructed system and the revenue they collect. County Environmental Health will have data relative to monitoring the wells in the area for contaminations. Cherryville or Bessemer City will also be able to provide information depending on where the water comes from.

Equity Impact

The pandemic reminded us that far too many Americans, disproportionately low-income people and people of color, lack the essential components of healthy communities: affordable healthcare, safe parks, clean air and safe drinking water to name a few. Underserved populations and neighborhoods may have the greatest pandemic recovery needs. Of the 29 public elementary schools in Gaston County, Tryon Elementary and one other elementary school is served by well water. Funding this waterline project will deliver safe and affordable water to a vulnerable community and the elementary school that serves it.

Project Partners

Gaston County will pursue an Agreement with the water provider and possibly Gaston Schools to partner in a successful project that provides the community with safe clean drinking water.

Capacity

Currently there are 3 full time project coordinators. Cary Rodriguez has 20+ years of Local government Project management experience and will be managing the project from design through construction and close out. She is dedicated to managing projects with Federal Funding and works closely with Finance to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is achieved. Her experience with federal funds to date includes CMAQ projects and FTA projects.

Special Considerations

COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of access to safe and reliable water. With Grant funding, and partnerships with Gaston County Schools and Two Rivers Utilities, the County can prioritize addressing the lack of infrastructure in disadvantaged areas. COVID related impacts on residential water usage may begin to reach pre-COVID levels, but there could be long term impacts if more people continue to work from home, or unemployment remains high.

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Which of the County's three strategic focus areas best describes the purpose of this request?

Community health, safety, and wellbeing

Budget

Attachments



A_Tryon_ES_ARPA_Map_2.pdf
1.38 MB



Revenues

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues:	Costs Sum				
	\$0.00				

Expenditures

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$500,000.00	\$1,979,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures:	Untitled				
	\$2,479,250.00				



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Finance Board Action

File #: 22-177

Commissioners Brown, Fraley, Hovis, Keigher and Worley - Finance - To Amend Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 to Approve and Appropriate Project Funding for four Waterline Extension Projects (\$1,277,000) and amend the budget for the Grants Manager Position (\$33,341)

STAFF CONTACT

Mrs. Tiffany Murray - Finance - 704-866-3032

BUDGET IMPACT

Increase revenues and expense in the General Fund by \$33,341.

Increase revenues and expense in the Capital Improvement Fund & County Multiyear Capital Projects Fund by \$1,277,000

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

Minimal change to the Budget Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 created new Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Act sets aside \$65.1 billion to be allocated to counties based on population and sent directly from the Department of Treasury. Gaston County is expected to receive \$43,612,126 million over two years. Pursuant to Section 13. 2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Gaston County Grant Project Ordinance 2021- 264 for the Gaston County Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was adopted in Regular Session by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners on September 28, 2021. This Board Action, if approved, amends Section 2 of the Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance and accepts and appropriates funds for the following project:

- 1. **Grants Manager Position - Budget Amendment (\$33,341):** This project/position was originally approved by the Board 12/14/2021. This amendment is to revise the budget to adjust for salary and benefits for the position and to add operating expenditures lines for administering the grant.

(Continued on Page 2)

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKelgher	TPMilleck	RWorley	Vote
2022-141	04/26/2022	TK	TP	A	AB	A	AB	A	A	A	U

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Commissioners Brown, Fraley, Hovis, Keigher and Worley - Finance - To Amend Gaston County ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264 to Approve and Appropriate Project Funding for four Waterline Extension Projects (\$1,277,000) and amend the budget for the Grants Manager Position (\$33,341)

Page 2

- 2. North Belmont Park Waterline Extension (\$300,000):** Project will design new waterline to serve the community around North Belmont Park, west of Mt. Holly. The community is currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC-5 Infrastructure 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.
- 3. Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension (\$5,000):** Project will design new waterline to serve Lowell Elementary School. The project will provide Municipal water from Lowell to the school. The school is currently served by McAdenville/Two Rivers Water. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC-5 Infrastructure 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.
- 4. Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension (\$472,000):** Project will design and install approximately 10,000 LF of new 10" waterline along Chapel Grove Rd, from Chapel Grove Elementary School to Linwood Road to serve the health needs of the existing Chapel Grove Community currently served by groundwater wells or community well systems extracting drinking water from the groundwater table. The new line will tie into Two Rivers Utilities existing system at Linwood Road. Two Rivers has been contacted about this project and they are open to entering into an Agreement to provide public water service to this community. The Chapel Grove Waterline project has been on the County CIP since fiscal year 2013. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC-5 Infrastructure 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.
- 5. Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension (\$500,000):** Project will design new waterline to serve the Tryon Community, and Tryon Elementary School, Tryon Park and Recycling Center. Water service could connect to Cherryville or Bessemer City existing service lines. A third option is to tie into a possible future City of Gastonia/Two Rivers Utilities line along Hwy 279/Dallas Cherryville Hwy. The selected Design Firm will need to assess the alternatives. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC-5 Infrastructure 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- Amended ARPA Grant Project Ordinance 2021-264;
- Proposals
 - o North Belmont Park Waterline Extension
 - o Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension
 - o Chapel Grove Elementary Waterline Extension
 - o Tryon Elementary Waterline Extension
- BCR