

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN TASKFORCE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021 5:00 PM
Jackson County Sheriff's Office Conference Room

Call to Order (5:00 PM)

Members Present: Basden II, Comparato, Larkin, Mueller, Peterson and Rendleman
Members Absent: Snyder

Also present: Brian Chapman, Jennifer Lindsey, Josh Barringer, Emily Mirabella, Bart Hagston, Dollean York-Anderson, Liz DeRuntz, Jennifer Lindsey, Stephanie Brown, Lee Spradling, Bill Verstraten, Jeff Grubbs, Jennifer Paulson, Jennifer Rouinson, Leah Maciell, Carolin Harvey, Chastity Mays, William Orrill

Approval of Minutes

- I. [21-6545](#) Approval of October 14, 2021 Minutes
A motion was made by Basden II, seconded by Comparato, to approve the October 14, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
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Old Business

- II. [21-6547](#) Broadband Coordinator
The County Administrator commented on the fact that the request for a Broadband Coordinator had been on the list since the beginning of the ARP meetings. Larkin commented on the positive impact Broadband could have for the County. Rendleman questioned the salary to which Larkin replied that it was based on a skill set and the requirements the job will entail. Larkin also noted that this would be a temporary full-time position that would be paid out of ARP funds and that his hope was to have a large pool of candidates that could be narrowed down by the interview process.
A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Mueller, to approve recommendation to the full Board to authorize the County Administrator to begin the interview and hiring process of a Broadband Coordinator based on the current job description. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
- III. [21-6548](#) Application for Funding
A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Rendleman, to approve recommendation to the full Board to approve the application for funding as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
- IV. [21-6550](#) Water District Updates
The County Administrator commented that the Resource Coordinator had reached out to the water districts and put together a list of their asking amounts. There was a brief discussion of water infrastructure, funding available from other sources, and the specifics of what the ARP funds could be used for. The consensus of the committee was to wait for more available information about the recent infrastructure bill that had passed and other possible funding sources before the committee made any decisions about funding for the water districts.
- V. [21-6546](#) Release of \$315,000 of ARP Money to Health Department for FY22 Personnel and Advertising
This item was discussed before the Other Funding discussions took place. Rendleman questioned Hagston about the request and what the money would be used for. Hagston noted
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that this request had already been approved by the committee and that it needed to be passed to the full Board.

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Mueller, to approve recommendation to the full Board the release of \$315,000 of ARP Money to the Health Department for FY22 Personnel and Advertising. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. [21-6551](#)

Other Funding Discussion

Larkin began discussing other funding by beginning with the Ambulance request for new ventilators. Peterson commented that she agreed that this was a great use for Covid relief funds and that it seemed necessary for a County owned entity.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Comparato to recommend to the full Board the release of \$88,843.43 of ARP funds to the Ambulance Department for 12 new ventilators. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Larkin continued discussion intended expenses with the committee.

A motion was made by Basden and seconded by Peterson to recommend to the full Board the release of \$20,000 and \$750,000 of ARP funds to the Highway Department and the Courthouse, respectively for new HVAC systems. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Comparato and seconded by Basden to recommend to the full Board the release of \$50,000 of ARP funds for the Highway garage ventilation system. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Barringer commented on the GIS system request and what it could do for the County. Comparato questioned the long term commitment and how this would be funded after ARP funds are no longer available.

A motion was made by Basden and seconded by Larkin to recommend to the full Board the release of \$270,000 of ARP funds to Computing Services for a GIS program. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mueller to recommend to the full Board the release of \$50,000 of ARP funds to the Ambulance Department for Job Training. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Basden and seconded by Mueller to recommend to the full Board the release of \$29,000 of ARP funds to the State's Attorney Office for Technology for Zoom Court. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Comparato and seconded by Basden to recommend to the full Board the release of \$671,405 of ARP funds for 2022-2026 salary reimbursements. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Larkin began a quick discussion of voting machines for the County Clerk's office. He asked the Resource Coordinator to work with the County Clerk to see if there were other state funds available to use for purchasing new equipment.

A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mueller to recommend to the full Board the release of \$635,000 of Lost Revenue ARP funds to the County Clerk's office for new voting machines pending the option of no State funds. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The committee discussed the County Clerk's request of funds for media conversion. The Committee had questions that could not be answered without the County Clerk being present like what documents were being converted, how much conversion the request will pay for, and how much storage space the conversion would need on the server. The consensus of the committee was to leave the item on the request list for now until more information could be gathered.

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A motion was made by Peterson and seconded by Mueller to recommend to the full Board the release of \$115,000 of ARP funds to the County Clerk's office for media conversion. The motion failed by the following vote: Yes (2): Peterson, Mueller No (3): Basden, Rendleman, Comparato
The Vaccine Incentive Program was removed from the request list by a consensus of the committee.

Barringer discussed cyber security and the problem IT has been facing recently with the security attacks on the County's system. He commented that the requested funds would pay for upgrades to the system and provide network support for 10 years. Mirabella suggested using Lost Revenue funds for this request. Rendleman requested a list of required criteria for cyber security for the December meeting.

A motion was made by Basden and seconded by Rendleman to recommend to the full Board the release of \$380,000 of Lost Revenue ARP funds to Computing Services for Cyber Security. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The next item up for discussion was a request for virtual meeting equipment. The committee discussed the topic in detail including the fact that the County's by-laws would need to be changed to allow for remote meetings if this topic was passed to the full Board. Comparato commented that the topic had been brought to the Legislative committee twice this year and had been voted down. Larkin requested that the request stay on the list for now and that he would look into what would need changed with the by-laws and the procedures that would be required.

Larkin then began a discussion on the \$5,000,000 Broadband request to provide Broadband to the entire County and the long term investment it would have for the County. Rendleman questioned what the \$5,000,000 would specifically be used for. Peterson questioned the large dollar amount and commented that maybe it would be more beneficial to work with the local internet companies and use some of the requested money for other things like repairs to the Courthouse. The BLIP representative commented that they were more than willing to work with the County on the Broadband request and that it was more likely to reach 95% of all Jackson County residents versus 100%.

A motion was made by Comparato and seconded by Basden to restrict \$5,000,000 of ARP funds for future Broadband use. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes (5): Basden, Comparato, Rendleman, Mueller, Larkin No (1): Peterson

At the end of the meeting, Larkin allowed new nonprofit requests to be heard. He commented that the committee was requesting an introduction and the request amount from the agency. He also commented that at the next meeting the committee would be reviewing all nonprofit requests. The nonprofits that introduced themselves were Food Works, Community Wide Model for Restorative Justice, Southern Illinois Collaborative Kitchen, and the Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District.

New Business

Executive Session

Adjourn (6:51 PM)

Basden moved and Comparato seconded to adjourn, motion carried.
