

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Faye Stewart, Public Works & Development Director

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE LANE COUNTY EPA GRANT SUBMISSION FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE COMMUNITY CENTER EMERGENCY SHELTER

DATE: February 7, 2024

Background

For the past several years the Cottage Grove Community Center has been used as a shelter for community members needing a safe place to be during emergencies. The Community Center has been used as an overnight warming shelter, a shelter from smoke and unhealthy air conditions, and a place of relief from excessive heat and or cold weather. The Red Cross has designated the site as an emergency shelter and provided staff for operations when it is activated as a shelter.

Over the past 3 years the City made substantial improvements to the Community Center. A new roof was installed and remodeled the entire interior by upgrading lighting, new paint, carpet, access control, and security system upgrades. To improve the use of the facility as an emergency shelter the Community Center needs a backup generator to power the site when the primary power supply is interrupted. It also needs a new HVAC system to provide smoke filtration and improved climate control during high heat and extreme cold conditions.

Lane County is applying for funding to improve and or create Community Resilience Hubs throughout the county. A grant request will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for resiliency hubs. Lane County's grant request would include funding for the backup generator, HVAC system, a seismic analysis, a solar energy study, and supplies to improve the Community Center as an emergency shelter/resiliency hub.

The attached Resolution is required by the EPA to show the City's commitment to the proposed improvements and use of the Community Center as a resiliency hub/shelter. The improvements are needed to improve the overall day to day operation of the facility and allow the facility to operate as a shelter when power is lost during a natural disaster. The ice storm on January 13th caused a 6 day power outage and the Community Center was unable to open as a shelter. This grant would provide the funding necessary for the improvements to allow the Community Center to operate during a power outage.

To become a qualifying Collaborating Partner on the EPA Community Change Grant Lane County is asking the City to agree to the following criteria;

- Enter into a subcontract with Lane County to receive EPA funds (which will pass along federal requirements to the City) and manage any construction needed (project management costs can be included in the construction budget);
- Certify that the project is “shovel-ready”, and all improvements can be completed within three years;
- Certify that the long-term operations and maintenance plan for this facility will include any improvements funded as part of this project;
- Certify that the facility is currently insured against damages caused by natural hazards and that insurance will be updated to include the new improvements;
- Provide information to Lane County staff to perform any required activities related to the National Historic Preservation Act;
- Allow the facility to be used for overnight shelter during a disaster;
- Allow the facility to be used for daytime shelter during smoke or heat/cold weather events;
- Participate in future regular meetings with the other resilience hubs and additional community engagement meetings to create a resilience network;

Staff has no objections to the criteria. The above requirements are incorporated in the proposed Resolution.

Recommendation

The City Council approve the Resolution to participate in the Lane County EPA grant application to include the Cottage Grove Community Center Emergency Shelter. The request is for funding to purchase an emergency backup power generator, a new smoke grade HVAC system, a solar power feasibility study, and a seismic analysis.

Cost

None at this time.



Mike Sauerwein, City Manager



Faye Stewart, Public Works &
Development Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING APPROVAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LANE COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE EPA'S COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE COTTAGE GROVE COMMUNITY CENTER EMERGENCY SHELTER PROJECT AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT THE PROJECT TO LANE COUNTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE COUNTYWIDE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for the Community Change Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Lane County will partner with a community-based organization to apply for the EPA grant to create resilience hubs throughout Lane County; and

WHEREAS, Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities augmented to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life. Resilience Hubs can meet a myriad of physical and social goals by utilizing a trusted physical space such as a community center, recreation facility, or multi-family housing building as well as the surrounding infrastructure such as a vacant lot, community park, or local business; and

WHEREAS, Lane County's strategy for this grant application is to focus on: funding retrofits to improve resilience of publicly owned buildings (4-6 across Lane County); supporting and collaborate with a local community-based organization to bolster emergency preparedness through education, supplies, programming and otherwise working to build the resilience of the communities they serve; and community engagement and collaborative planning; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has identified capital projects in several communities based on their "shovel readiness," and the magnitude/cost of needed retrofits to provide services during an emergency such as cleaner air (e.g., smoke-grade HVAC system, weatherization, air purifiers), power availability (e.g., generator, microgrid), water availability and food storage, and sheltering; and

WHEREAS, the Cottage Grove Community Center facility is owned and operated by the City of Cottage Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Community Center has been identified by local emergency management personnel as a location for use during an emergency, for either members of the public or emergency management personnel depending on the incident need; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has identified the need for a Cottage Grove area location for smoke, heat, and/or cold weather events to provide respite shelter during these events. The Community Center could provide for that need with the proposed rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation plans for the facility include installation of a new smoke grade HVAC system, backup emergency power generator, a solar power feasibility study, and a seismic analysis; and

WHEREAS, if funded, the rehabilitation plans may also be modified to also include solar and/or wind powered lighting, emergency generator, solar panels, HVAC upgrades for smoke filtration, and electric vehicle charging stations; and

WHEREAS, this capital project is dependent on the City of Cottage Grove's desires to participate in this grant program to the greatest extent possible as a means of enhancing the resiliency of the Cottage Grove area through partnerships with Lane County; and

WHEREAS, if successful, Lane County will contract with the City of Cottage Grove to disperse the funds to the City and execute the capital project final engineering and construction following the guidelines and timelines of the grant; and

WHEREAS, should the grant be awarded, a supplemental budget would be required to both receive the grant funding from Lane County and expend the funds on the project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cottage Grove will provide adequate funding for on-going maintenance of the facilities should the grant funds be awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The City Council demonstrates its support for the City's participation in the Lane County submittal of a grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency for the Community Change Grant Program to the Cottage Grove Community Center and Resiliency Hub.
2. This Resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS ____ DAY
OF _____, 2024.

Candace Solesbee, Mayor

Dated: _____

ATTEST:

Mindy Roberts, City Recorder

Dated: _____

RESOLUTION NO. ____

Page 2