

## Mayor's Update:

1. **Emergency Management Summit** was held on April 15th; Disasters Don't Plan Ahead-YOU CAN. The session on Roles & Responsibilities of Elected Officials further highlighted for me the need to have the Council trained in ICS (Incident Command Center) standardized approach, assigned roles & responsibilities, and use of NIMS (National Incident Management System). The City Emergency Management Policy is outdated and will review current Emergency Management materials kept at the Fire Hall. Would recommend Council members take the FEMA ICS-100 online course, Introduction to the Incident Command System. The course can be found at [training.fema.com](https://training.fema.com).  
I had served on Incident Command Centers during the floods in Fargo and see the importance of understanding ICS and NIMS to be effective. Will plan to schedule a training with Patrick Waletzko Emergency Management Director, OTC
2. On May 14<sup>th</sup> I did a **ride along with the Otter Tail County Sheriff**. It was very informative and provided an opportunity to experience firsthand how law enforcement is performed. The opportunity is available to others. Let me know if interested and will get you connected.
3. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Update** was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Though many components, the below summary focuses on non-entitlement units of local government- cities with population less than 50,000.

Major take away talking points:

- Overall more flexibility, far reaching, and longer window of time to use than the CARES funding.
- Early June anticipate the certification process to begin in distributing funds for non-entitlement local governments by the Minnesota Management and Budget. The state has up to 30 days to distribute 50% of the funds and 50% one year later. Can request extension for 60 days, which Minnesota was looking at doing.
  - Minnesota has the most local units of government in the nation with over 2,000. Non-entitlement Units of Local Government in Minnesota has an allocated amount of \$376,932,399.00
- Estimated distribution to Vergas would be \$105 per resident. Based on 2019 population of 363, anticipate \$38,115. (One caveat is the distributed funds can't exceed 75% of city budget established for 2020- not issue for Vergas).
- General Categories of Eligible Uses include (not all inclusive):
  - Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts
  - Address Negative Economic Impacts- replace revenue losses. (very broad) \* more information coming on how to calculate. There is no requirement to prove. Is assumed to be COVID related.
  - Serving the Hardest Hit- i.e. housing & neighborhoods, childcare, health, education
  - Improving Access to Infrastructure- necessary investments water, sewer & broadband
- The spending timeline is 3/3/2021-12/31/2024. Cost incurred means obligated and not necessarily spent, i.e. could have contract in place for 2 years thru 2026.
- Non-entitlement units of local government will receive funds and certify through the State of Minnesota. Larger cities and counties are with the US Treasury.
- If local government does not want or is unable to spend the money, it goes back to the US Treasury. There are transfer opportunities between entities.
- There are other funding initiatives that are state and federally administered that would be available to consider that includes capital projects, housing, small business assistance, individual assistance, unemployment, tax change and more.
- Approaching- Assess community needs, identify partners and collaborate, plan short & long term needs, think creatively. Don't spend all immediately or wait until end of funding.
- City needs- SWIFT ID, provide 2020 budget to confirm funds do not exceed 75% of budget, 2 points of contact with phone and email, city resolution to accept funds, and annual reports Oct 31 each year.

\*Recorded Webinar is available on the LMC site.

\*Excellent guide and FAQ's on US Department of Treasury website: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, under Policy tab.