

City of Blaine
Request for Council Action
Meeting Date: October 12, 2020

Subject: Interlocal cost sharing agreement related to COVID-19 health crisis

Department: City Manager

Prepared By: _____
(Digital Signature)

Agenda Location: Consent Agenda Council Action Unfinished Business

Attachments:

None

Background/Summary:

The federal government passed the CARES Act and provided funding to Washington State that the state has made available on a per capita basis to cities and counties. A total of \$16.3 million was allocated to Whatcom County and the cities within the county in the initial round of allocations. Blaine is eligible to receive approximately \$162,000 in cost reimbursement from the first allocation. Much of that funding has been used in various COVID-19 response efforts. The state has determined that based on current spending, a second round of allocations will be made. Blaine is eligible for approximately \$81,000 through the second allocation, bringing our total up to approximately \$245,000.

Blaine has used most of our funds for purchase of PPE, retrofitting facilities with protective equipment, filling staffing needs for COVID response (such as extra janitorial), and specific business response (such as outfitting the Peace Portal Drive lane closures for dining). In addition, Blaine contributed \$10,000 to a county-wide grant program for businesses and non-profits, known as the ReStart program.

We anticipate additional expenses related to supplies and equipment, and grants to assist local service delivery partners. This leaves a modest amount of money unallocated. At an administrative and executive level there has been a unanimous, informal commitment by all the local governments to ensure that every dollar of CARES Act funding available to us gets spent locally in Whatcom County. As such, the City Manager proposes that \$10,000 of the City's remaining CARES Act allocation be contributed to the second round of the ReStart grant awards. This will mean our total contribution will be \$20,000. Money will be contributed either through our existing Interlocal agreement or by direct awards to local businesses.

Proportionally, Blaine has been hit harder than most other local jurisdictions due our close connection to the border. This means our contribution is smaller than other communities on a per capita basis.

Through a grant ranking process local communities will have some influence on grant awards.¹ There was not be enough funding to satisfy all eligible requests in round one, and there will most likely not be enough to fund all eligible requests in round two.

¹ A committee was formed by Council to review and rank grant applications. The second round of funding will utilize the same committee.

Budget Implications: Current Budget New Budget Request Non-Budgetary

CARES Act funding was not included in the budget. COVID-19 pandemic response was not included in the budget. The two items will result in unanticipated expense and unanticipated revenue. The contribution to the program is a new budget request of \$10,000 that will be offset by a \$10,000 CARES Act reimbursement from Washington State Department of Commerce.

Recommendation:

The City Manager recommends the Council approve a motion to: authorize the City Manager to expend up to \$10,000 in additional revenue to the ReStart grant program either through an interlocal agreement or direct disbursement to an eligible business.

Reviewed By:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)