

**City of Blaine**  
**Request for Council Action**  
**Meeting Date: August 8, 2022**

**Subject:** Use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

**Department:** City Manager

**Prepared By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Digital Signature)

**Agenda Location:**  Consent Agenda  Council Action  Unfinished Business

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**Action Needed:**

City Council must direct City staff on where to allocate ARPA funds.

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**Attachments:**

1. None

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**Background/Summary:**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Congress passed ARPA. Part of this legislation allocated money to various governments to use in response to the pandemic. Half of the money was received by the City in 2021, while the other half was received in 2022. In total, the City received approximately \$1,570,000.

While City Council has already directed City staff to expend funds from the first tranche (the first allocation of ARPA funds), there still remains roughly \$700,000 the City will need to expend by the end of 2024. Unlike the CARES Act, ARPA funds have far less restrictions on what this money can be used on.

While there are many different projects and items that could be benefited by this money, there are several items City Council may want to consider:

1. Downtown Revitalization Projects
  - a. Façade improvement grant program (see [here for an example from Port Angeles](#))
  - b. TIP: Peace Portal Alley (this will be spendy because of the anticipated enviro clean up, and it will help activate those properties on the water-side of Peace Portal)
2. Food Bank Donation
3. Water Utility Oriented Projects
4. Sewer Utility Oriented Projects
5. Increase services to the community through increase in staffing capacity and staff retention
6. Marine Drive Repair Project
7. Marine Park Beach Improvements
8. Various Street Repairs
9. Consultant support for critical City projects (that are hard to commit to with all of the day-to-day responsibilities)
10. Software to increase safety of City personnel
11. Securing the Finance front counter area
12. Equipment for police to respond to riots and major public safety events (shields and helmets)
13. Consultant support for critical City projects. These can include developing a Strategic Plan, as well as updating the City's Sewer and Park plans (which have not been updated in roughly 20 years).

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**Budget Implications:**  Current Budget  New Budget Request  Non-Budgetary

Depending on the direction City Council takes, there will almost certainly be a new budget request.

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**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends City Council discuss and ultimately direct City staff to expend the ARPA funds on specific programs or projects prior to the 2024 deadline.

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**Reviewed By:**

City Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Finance Director \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
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