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# American Rescue Plan Act Policies & Procedures, Proposed Funding Priorities

Commissioner's Meeting – May 2, 2022  
Presented by: Haynes Brigman, Deputy County Manager

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# ARPA Policies & Procedures

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- On January 6, 2022, the US Treasury Issued its Final Rule implementing the ARPA/CSLFRF funding to qualifying organizations
- ARPA/CSLFRF funds must be spent in the following categories:
  1. Supporting public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic
  2. Address negative economic impacts in the community caused by the public health emergency
  3. Replacing lost public sector revenue and utilizing funding to provide government services that may have been affected or reduced by the pandemic
  4. Provide premium pay for essential workers who worked to continue critical services during the pandemic
  5. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, provide access to clean drinking water, support wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expand access to broadband internet

# ARPA Policies & Procedures

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- Brunswick County is required to fully implement and comply with ARPA Award Terms and Conditions and Uniform Guidance. The County has revised its existing policies, as well as created new policies to ensure compliance
- Staff used templates and guidelines developed by the UNC School of Government to generate the Policies & Procedural Manual presented
- Modifications and tweaks to the Manual were made to ensure the policy complied with internal County policies, and outlined specific requirements and parameters for ARPA funding eligibility and project execution
- We anticipate that additional detail, including additional flexibility in ARPA qualifying projects, may come in the near future, which may require additional policy updates, and/or the opportunity to consider additional funding priorities that have not yet been considered

# Staff Request

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*Request approval of the Resolution and supporting ARPA Policies & Procedures for the expenditure of ARPA funds*

# Proposed Funding Priorities

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- The County is expected to receive \$27,741,111 in ARPA funding
- Commissioners approved a preliminary funding priority list for ARPA funds on September 2, 2021. Those priorities included:
  - Water & Sewer Projects
    - Capital expansion and replacement projects
  - Community Investment and Enhancement
    - Small Business Grants, Non-profit Grants, Housing and Weatherization program, Mental Health Grants, Lead & Copper Remediation, Parks & Recreation Improvement projects, Library Service Enhancements, and BCC parking lot improvements
  - County Improvement Projects
    - Capital construction expense for new HHS building, IT improvements, Essential Worker compensation, Air purification system for County buildings
  - Administrative Expenses
    - Administration and reporting expenses
  - Set aside funds for Future Projects not yet determined

# Proposed Funding Priorities

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- Within the Final Rule, organizations were provided a “standard allowance” of \$10 million as revenue replacement for general government services. The County will utilize this allowance by claiming expenses for general government services already provided
- The “standard allowance” will allow the County to redirect General Fund dollars previously spent on the above referenced general government services to new project priorities
- Using the guidance of the Final Rule, staff has generated a refined project list
- Projects were prioritized using feedback from County staff, County stakeholders and partners, members of the public, local small business owners, and non-profit organizations
- Staff is asking for guidance and feedback on the proposed list, but is not asking for formal approval at this time

# Proposed Funding Priorities

ARPA Eligible Projects		
Use	Amount	Purpose
Water/Sewer Projects	\$8,000,000	Capital expenses for expansion and/or replacement of the water and sewer utility to improve
Health & Human Services Building Construction	\$1,000,000	Portion of building cost related to public health service expansion and COVID-19 response
Parks & Recreation Projects**	\$2,000,000	Capital projects at parks in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) throughout the County
Lead and Copper Programs	\$1,400,000	Lead and Copper mitigation program funding
Employee Pay**	\$2,369,543	Essential Employee and premium pay for employees
Air Purification System for County Campus Buildings	\$650,000	Install air purification systems throughout campus to reduce opportunities for the spread of airborne illnesses
Cyber security improvements & Audio/Video Upgrades	\$500,000	Make cyber-security and internet connectivity enhancements across County Campus/Facilities
Library Service Enhancements	\$250,000	Capital and program funding to address digital literacy and improve community internet access
Personal Protective Equipment	\$50,000	Purchase PPE for respective departments to ensure future inventory
Administrative and Reporting Expenses	\$150,000	Maintain for administrative or reporting expenses that may be incurred
Future Projects Yet to Be Identified (Remainder)	\$1,371,568	TBD
<b>Subtotal ARPA Project Expense</b>	<b>\$17,741,111</b>	<b>** Previously approved</b>

Revenue Replacement Projects		
Use	Amount	Purpose
Radio Upgrades	\$3,417,000	Mandatory Radio upgrades needed for Sheriff/Public Safety Departments
Non-Profit Community Assistance	\$1,000,000	Open pool of funds to prioritize for local non-profits serving the community
Small Business Assistance Programs	\$1,000,000	Small Business Grants for local businesses impacted by COVID-19
Warehouse/Storage Building	\$1,500,000	Construct or purchase storage/warehouse facility for County-wide use as space constraints impact facility effectiveness
Mobile Command Vehicle (Sheriff)	\$700,000	Replace existing aged vehicle
Ambulances (3)	\$900,000	Purchase three new ambulances to better respond to service demand
Western Shelter (2)	\$300,000	Purchase 2 portable shelters for multi-purpose use, including emergency/disaster response
Housing Improvement & Weatherization	\$350,000	Funding to address minimum housing, weatherization issues and derelict structures throughout the County
Pitbull Vehicle (Sheriff)	\$333,000	Used for evacuation and recovery. Can be deployed during emergencies
Upgrade Commissioner Chamber Technology	\$150,000	Upgrade A/V system and security cameras in Chambers
Community Improvement Program Funding	\$250,000	Invest in removal/cleanup of dilapidated structures throughout Brunswick County
Brunswick CC Parking Lot Improvement (Vaccine Site)	\$100,000	Parking lot improvement for mass vaccination site
<b>Subtotal Rev. Replacement Proj. Expense</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>**Project dependent upon funding availability</b>
<b>**Mobile Medical Outreach Unit</b>	<b>\$500,000**</b>	Mobile Outreach Vehicle to provide pandemic response services to rural areas of the County

# Funding Priorities

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- Once the funding list has been approved, each individual project will come back before the Board for approval once additional detail, cost estimates, and program policies have been implemented
- Staff will keep the Board aware of any significant changes in ARPA guidelines or additional flexibility for project funding
- Future approval of the priority project list will be requested



# Questions and Comments