



FY 2023 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 30

BUDGET QUESTION: What is our \$26.5M direct American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation being used for?

RESPONDING DEPARTMENT/OFFICE: Budget & Grants

RESPONSE: As you are aware, the County received a one-time \$26.5 million allocation from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Through previous action taken by the Board, \$426,294 was designated and used for Sheriff’s Office bonuses in November 2021. Staff was directed to consider a bonus for other County staffers as part of the FY 2023 Budget development process, and we have included such a bonus in the Recommended Budget for the balance of the General Fund workforce, as well as for those funded in the other, non-General Fund funds, making use of an additional \$1.9 million of the ARPA funds.

After the ARPA funds are used for the bonuses for staff other than the sworn Sheriff’s Office employees who received the bonus in FY 2022, an ARPA balance of \$24,122,722 remains. The Recommended Budget proposal allocates those remaining funds to broadband expansion and to the Motts Water Treatment Plant expansion/upgrade project in a manner that is proportionate to the populations served by each of those projects. Approximately 31.5% of the County’s population resides in the Berkeley and Livingston districts where we are focusing the broadband funds, and as such, 31.5% or \$7,600,000 of the ARPA balance is designated within this budget for broadband. Approximately 69.9% of the County’s population is served by our municipal water/sewer system and the remainder of the ARPA balance - \$16,522,722 (68.5%) is planned in the CIP for use on the Motts project. The use of this combined \$24.1 million in federal funds allows us to complete these necessary projects without having to take on \$24.1 million in additional debt for them; avoiding an estimated \$13.5 million in interest costs over 25 years.

Planned Use of County’s Direct Allocation of Federal ARPA Funds	
<i>Action Previously Taken by the Board:</i>	
11/9/2021 - \$3,000 bonuses for full-time, Public Safety scale employees in the Sheriff’s Office	\$426,294
<i>Recommended for FY 2023:</i>	
Motts Water Treatment Plant Expansion/Upgrade Project	\$16,522,722
Broadband	\$7,600,000
\$3,000 bonus for employees meeting certain criteria who did not receive a bonus as part of the action for Sheriff’s Office employees in FY 2022. Prorated for regular, part-time employees.	\$1,909,151
Total	\$26,458,167

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Budget Question

ESTIMATE OF STAFF TIME SPENT ON RESPONSE: This narrative information was previously provided as part of the Budget Message within the budget document. 10 minutes was spent adding the table and formatting this response within the template.