



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00426

Agenda Date: 5/27/2025

Agenda Item Name:

City of Archer Request for Special Consideration of Joint Partnership Project Surtax Funds for Water and Wastewater Projects

Presenter:

Deanna Alltop, Interim Archer City Manager

Description:

City of Archer Request for Special Consideration of Joint Partnership Project Surtax Funds for Water and Wastewater Projects

Recommended Action:

If the Board desires to approve Archer's two applications for Other Infrastructure Partnership Grant funding, one for the planning, design, permitting and construction of a wastewater collection system and the other for the planning, design, permitting and construction to replace aging portions of Archer's potable water distribution system, then the Board must allocate the remaining \$253,333 in available surtax grant funding between the two projects, find that the projects constitute a permissible use of surtax funding and also find that each project has countywide significance, and then authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute a grant agreement for each project using the form grant agreement (Attachment 5); however, the Board should deny Archer's request for advanced payment of any surtax grant funding awarded by the County.

Prior Board Motions:

May 13, 2025 – Authorize late agenda item request from the City of Archer for special consideration of Joint Partnership Project Surtax Funds for their water and wastewater projects

Fiscal Note:

\$253,333 is unencumbered from the Infrastructure Surtax funds set aside for the City of Archer.

Strategic Guide:

Infrastructure

Background:

The City of Archer has submitted two applications to the County for award of surtax grant funding pursuant to the County's Non-Recurring Municipal Partnership Program established by Ordinance 2022-08 (Attachment 2). The grant program provides up to \$333,333 in WSPP Grant Funding and up to \$333,333 in Other Infrastructure Grant funding to each municipality within Alachua County. Archer has already been awarded is full allocation of WSPP grant funding and has already been awarded

\$80,000 of Other Infrastructure Grant funding. Archer's remaining allocation surtax grant funding is limited to \$253,000 for Other Infrastructure Projects. The program requires matching funds from the municipality and must be paid on a cost reimbursement basis. In order to award grant funding under this program, the Board must determine the following: (1) the project is eligible to use surtax funding; and (2) that the project has "countywide significance."

Archer's application for a new Wastewater Collection System (Attachment 3): Archer seeks an award of an unspecified amount of Other Infrastructure surtax grant funding for its wastewater project. Subsequent information communicated to County staff clarify that the application pertains to the planning, design, permitting and construction of a wastewater collection system that will connect homes, that are currently using septic tanks and drain fields, to a new sewer system that will convey wastewater to Newberry's proposed new Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility to be located at Newberry's Environmental Park. Archer expects that approximately 50% of its residents will be served by this project. The proposed use constitutes a permissible expenditure of Other Infrastructure surtax revenue under §212.055(2), Florida Statutes and Alachua County Ordinance 2022-08. This project is part of a larger joint Archer - Newberry initiative to construct a new regional Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility at Newberry's Environmental Park.

Archer's application to replace 14,100 linear feet of its potable water distribution system (Attachment 4): Archer seeks an award of an unspecified amount of Other Infrastructure surtax grant funding to the planning, design, permitting and construction to replace approximately 14,400 linear feet of existing ductile iron piping, 15 hydrants, and all associated valves and meters to remedy leaks and fix breaks in the city's potable water lines. The Project will also install approximately 9,250 linear feet of additional potable water pipe to add system loops. These improvements are expected to reduce system losses and, correspondingly, reduce the total amount of groundwater the City pumps from the aquifer. The full scope of this project is set forth in Exhibit A to Archer's MOU with Suwannee River Water Management District (Attachment 6).

Either application request a specific amount of grant funding, but Archer's letter dated May 12, 2025 (Attachment 1), requests that the Board award the remaining \$253,333 in surtax grant funding to these two projects. A representative from Archer will attend the Board meeting and should be asked how Archer wants the remaining \$253,333 to be allocated between the two projects. Archer's letter also requests that the County advance the full amount of any surtax grant awarded for these projects so that Archer can pay its engineering consultant, Kimley-Horne, amounts currently due for the projects. It appears that the amount Archer currently owes Kimley-Horne exceeds the total amount of surtax grant funding available to Archer.

While approval of either or both of the surtax grant applications is permissible if the Board determines that the projects are surtax eligible and have countywide significance, Ordinance 2022-08 prohibits the County from advancing the surtax grant funding because such awards are "reimbursement" grants and are payable only after the projects have achieved "final completion". Archer does not expect to achieve final completion of the wastewater project until December 31, 2026 and does not expect to achieve final completion of the potable water project until November 30, 2026.