



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 25-1050, **Agenda Item #:** 61.

6/5/2025

### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20240814-007) to accept and appropriate \$1,447,322 of Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance grant funds from the Texas Department of Emergency Management for COVID-19 and Winter Storm Mara expenses. Funding: \$1,447,322 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A City match of \$258,828 is required for the Winter Storm Mara award and was provided by the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budgets of various departments.

### **Lead Department**

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$1,447,322 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A City match of \$258,828 is required for the Winter Storm Mara award and was provided by the Fiscal Year 2023-24 operating budgets of various departments. A fiscal note is attached.

### **For More Information:**

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Garrison Leinberger, Program Manager, HSEM, [garrison.leinberger@austintexas.gov](mailto:garrison.leinberger@austintexas.gov).

### **Additional Backup Information:**

On March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by Mayor Adler to have the City take measures to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the City and County. On March 13, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 created an immediate threat to the health and safety of the general public, requiring emergency response and protective measures. FEMA Public Assistance grant awards reimburse City departments for expenses incurred for carrying out COVID-19 public health responses from January 20, 2020, to May 11, 2023.

Winter Storm Mara occurred between January 30 and February 2, 2023. The freezing temperatures and ice accumulation caused widespread damage across the city and immediately threatened the life and safety of the general public. On February 3, 2023, Mayor Watson and Travis County Judge Brown issued local disaster declarations. On April 22, 2023, President Biden issued a major disaster declaration for the counties affected by the severe winter storm. The City utilized labor, materials, equipment, rented equipment, and contracts to help assist and aid with the threat of the storm. The FEMA Public Assistance grant awards will reimburse City departments for expenses incurred for carrying out Winter Storm Mara emergency response and repairs from January 30, 2023, to October 21, 2024.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be

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denied.

Project	FEMA Reimbursement	City Match	Total Project Value
COVID-19 PW 1574	\$412,010	\$0	\$412,010
WS Mara PW 148	\$1,035,312	\$258,828	\$1,294,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,447,322</b>	<b>\$258,828</b>	<b>\$1,706,150</b>