



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-1325, Agenda Item #: 6.

3/26/2026

### Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20250813-005) to accept and appropriate Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance grant funds from the Texas Department of Emergency Management in the amounts of \$6,352 for COVID-19 expenses and \$385,361 for flood expenses related to the 2015 Halloween Flood. Funding: \$391,713 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A City funding match is not required for the COVID-19 expenses. A City funding match of \$96,341 is required for the flood expenses.

### Lead Department

Austin Emergency Management.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$391,713 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A City funding match is not required for the COVID-19 expenses. A City funding match of \$96,341 is required for the flood expenses.

### For More Information:

Sara Henry, Chief Administrative Officer, AEM, 512-974-0470; Lupe Rios, Finance Manager, AEM, 512-974-0493; Garrison Leinberger, Program Manager, AEM, 512-974-0488.

### Additional Backup Information:

#### **DR-4245 2015 Floods**

The 2015 Halloween Flood was a Presidentially Declared Disaster affecting the City and Travis County that began during the pre-dawn hours of October 30, 2015. Unlike the 2013 Halloween Flood, which resulted from rain falling west of the City and travelling down the watershed, the 2015 Halloween Flood resulted from rainfall that fell directly on the City, creating spontaneous and unpredictably hazardous conditions. The resulting response led to a full activation of the Austin/Travis County Emergency Operations Center, Shelter, a Flood Assistance Center, and a Volunteer Resource Center. The City and Travis County submitted a Disaster Declaration on October 30, 2015. President Barack Obama approved Federal flood assistance for Austin-area residents and businesses on November 25, 2015.

Public Assistance enabled the City to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to obtain funding to bring City-owned and maintained facilities and infrastructure back to pre-disaster conditions. The funds flow to the City through the Texas Department of Public Safety. Austin Emergency Management (AEM) has coordinated the gathering and submittal of debris removal, emergency protective measures, and infrastructure projects.

#### **DR-4485 COVID**

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.

The city utilized force account labor, materials, equipment, rented equipment, and contracts to help assist and aid with the threat of these disasters. 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.

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 denied.

Project	FEMA Reimbursement	City Match	Total Project Value
DR-4245 PW 368	\$385,361	\$96,341	\$481,702
DR-4485 PW922	\$6,352	\$0	\$6,352
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$391,713</b>	<b>\$96,341</b>	<b>\$488,054</b>

DEPT_CD	DEPT_NM	Total
1500	Austin Resource Recovery	\$ 385,361
5000	Nondepartmental Revenue/Expenses	\$ 6,352