

**Council Q&A for ARPA Budget Reconciliation 2/2/2022**

**Table 1 of the ARPA report footnotes the difference in costs for the 3 ARPA positions between what the city council approved by budget amendment and what staff estimates now is needed for these positions. I'd appreciate a breakdown, by position and benefits, and by year. (Dyballa)**

The total increase due to the reflection of the full costs of these positions (as noted in the Table 1 footnote) is \$745,000. That amount includes one year of salaries for the IT Software Analyst, ARPA Manager, and Payroll and Accounting Specialist as well as fringe benefits for the ARPA Manager (50K per year) and the Payroll & Accounting Specialist (\$35K per year) which were excluded from the original table. See table below.

<b>ARPA Funding Use</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
IT Software Developer - ORIGINAL	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 480,000
ARPA Coordinator - ORIGINAL	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 480,000
Payroll & Accounting Specialist - ORIGINAL	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
<b>IT Software Developer - REVISED</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,000</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 580,000</b>
<b>ARPA Coordinator -REVISED</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 875,000</b>
<b>Payroll &amp; Accounting Specialist - REVISED</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 110,000</b>	<b>\$ 550,000</b>

**For the atrium, I'd like to see a cost comparison between what was in the capital budget and the current request, along with a comparison of physical changes and uses, for it seems to me that the project has grown in scope (and perhaps that is a good thing, but I want to understand it). (Dyballa)**

There is no change in scope. The dollar figure included in the ARPA recommendation is an estimate, partially informed by the experience of cost increases in material for the Library project. The actual cost will not be known until the project goes out to bid.

**Now that I have seen a summary of the final ARPA eligibility rule changes, including the required justification statement for capital projects over \$1 million, I am concerned about the potential eligibility of some proposed projects, in particular the library and atrium at those dollar levels proposed. Please expand on their eligibility under ARPA rules. (Dyballa)**

See attached memo on the library eligibility.

**Apologies for adding one more question--on broadband--I've received questions from several residents about the possibility of municipal "hotspots" at other city facilities and parks, and what the relative costs and logistics of that are, compared to the proposal. (Dyballa)**

Please reference the "Free Wi-Fi Zones" proposal in the [ARPA Proposal Inventory](#).

**Thank you again for the presentation on the guaranteed income. One thought that came to mind for me is the possibility of wrapping the guaranteed income program as a component of the social service coordination work. Can you a proxy for the number of single mothers in the City by AMI and race? Single mothers are a target population that I think would be really good to focus on. Also, I would be interested in knowing whether this approach would**

**align with the original proposal for the social service coordination work. (Searcy) What is the long-term impact of a guaranteed income or direct assistance program? (Searcy)**

See attached memo on guaranteed income. For the reasons outlined in the report, staff recommend that instead of direct cash assistance via a one-time payment, the City work to provide assistance through a combination of intensive community outreach (Community Connectors) and RFP/grant distributions to local nonprofits for various services impacting the most vulnerable.

**One of the things we discussed earlier with regard to ARPA was the inflation increase and potential for challenges with rent stabilization increases this year. Is this something that you have looked into and have some further info or thoughts on? Thanks. (Kostiuk)**

[Takoma Park Code Section 6.20.050](#) states "The (Housing and Community Development) Department shall calculate an annual rent stabilization allowance equal to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from March in the preceding year to March in the current year.", and landlords are able to increase their rent once in a 12-month period up to that percentage increase. We have looked into this request and determined that it would not be feasible to do on a one-off basis, and that if there are concerns about the contents of the law those concerns should be approached legislatively.

**The piece that is significantly missing for me at this point is more detail on the library project. I understand that we may not have the newest project estimates at the moment. I would love for us to get those if possible before the ARPA vote. In the meantime, I think it's important to see the cost estimates in some kind of table/spreadsheet format because I'm having trouble wrapping my head around the current estimate and the revenue sources. Seeing it all in a comparison table or just a table showing the different sources of money, including the cable funds, ARPA, grants, general fund, etc., would really help. (Kostiuk)**

See attached memo on the library project status update.

**And as we did discuss Wed. eve., I'd like to see a set of estimated costs (by category) and revenue (by source) comparing current estimates to previous ones. I'm distressed that cable monies set aside for the library may have been reallocated to other uses. (Dyballa)**

See attached memo on the library project status update.

**What projects can be funded using the infrastructure bill? Can other funds be used for the Library project (funds other than ARPA/maybe grant from the Infrastructure Bill) (Smith)?**

The infrastructure bill will not cover the library capital investment. Staff also do not think based on an initial review that the Maple Avenue project or any stormwater interventions – public or private – will be covered by the infrastructure bill grant programs that have been activated so far.

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Nov 2021): Stormwater projects** are eligible for grant funds under the recently passed Infrastructure Bill (Public Law [PL] 117-58). However, please keep in mind that actual grant programs with attached dollars have not been established as of yet:

- **Stormwater Control Infrastructure Project Grants** - Subject to availability of appropriations, grants will become available for competition to carry out stormwater control infrastructure projects that incorporate new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control technologies. Planning and development grants, and implementation grants may become available. The amount of a single planning and development grant will not be more than \$200,000. The amount of a single implementation grant will not be more than \$2,000,000. No date has been announced or forecasted for this program to be activated.
- **National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program** - Subject to availability of appropriations, grants will become available for competition on an annual basis for projects for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that (1) would meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish; and (2) with respect to weirs, may include (a) infrastructure to facilitate fish passage and (b) weir improvements. No date has been announced or forecasted for this program to be activated.

The only funded grant program resulting from the passage of the Infrastructure Bill is the RAISE grant program (being administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation). The funding opportunity notice was issued on January 14, 2022. Stormwater projects are not eligible for funding unless they are projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff **for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species** while advancing the goals of the RAISE program.

The infrastructure bill provides the following descriptions of what constitute eligible projects:

(a) **Capital Projects** - Eligible projects for RAISE grants are surface transportation capital projects within the United States or any territory or possession of the United States that are: (1) highway, bridge, or other road projects eligible; (2) public transportation projects; (3) passenger and freight rail transportation projects; (4) port infrastructure investments (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry); (5) the surface transportation components of an airport project; (6) intermodal projects; (7) projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species while advancing the goals of the RAISE program; (8) projects investing in surface transportation facilities that are located on Tribal land and for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in the Federal Government; and (9) any other surface transportation infrastructure project that the Secretary considers to be necessary to advance the goals of the program.

(b) **Planning Projects** Activities eligible for funding under RAISE planning grants are **related to** the planning, preparation, or design— for example environmental analysis, equity analysis, community engagement, feasibility studies, and other pre-construction activities-of **eligible surface transportation capital projects** and may not result in construction with RAISE FY 2022 funding.

All projects, including planning projects, have minimum award amounts with **the minimum award for urban projects at \$5 million.**

**FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance** – \$3.5 billion from this existing FEMA program can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. The application period for FY21 applications closed on January 28th, 2022. Applications for FY22 are expected to open no later than September 30th, 2022. Communities will apply as sub-applicants under their states. However, the Director of the Public Works Department has noted that "the 100 year floodplain in the city is not included on the FEMA maps. It has been identified on local maps, but not the FEMA maps. That may be an issue. There are only 2 areas of the City within the 100 year floodplain: Maple Ave from Philadelphia to Sligo Creek Parkway and on 4th Avenue near Poplar Avenue. It also requires the property to be insured in the National Flood Insurance Program".

We would also note that unlike ARPA, competitive BIL grants must be applied for and come with more federal reporting requirements, which will be a challenge with limited staff capacity in the Public Works Department.

**Is there a structure for keeping mental health counselors separate from the Police Dept? (Kostiuk)**

A review of how mental health services are provided to communities in other cities shows that these services should be through the Police Department. The program would not just involve staff from the police department. Other city departments, HCD and recreation, would be involved in assisting with services related to the program. Sworn officers would provide the response to calls and referral of services. Other components of the program would be handled by civilian staff; mental health counselors, our victim witness coordinator, HCD staff, and county DHHS staff.

**If the mental health related project includes services to young people, would more dollars have to be added to this category? (Stewart)**

If the City were to add mental health specific projects geared towards young people additional funding would be required. These services may be best provided through MCPS. City management will request that the Police Department have discussions with MCPS to learn more about programs they may have to support the mental health of our youth.