

STAFF REPORT

Date: November 20, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding the allocation of \$450,000 in State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act for improved public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure utilizing Flock Safety gunshot detection and surveillance systems and potential authorization of the interim City Manager to execute the contract. (ARPA Fund)

From: Kathryn Nance, Chief of Police

Department: Police Department

Summary:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The City of Reno received \$51,519,997 from the SLFRF and began allocating funds to critical projects on August 25, 2021. To date, the City has allocated funding to over 60 projects, which have either begun or completed their activities. All SLFRF funds must be allocated and contracted to specific projects by December 31, 2024.

Currently, \$450,000 remains available for allocation to new or existing projects that can meet the December 31, 2024 contracting deadline. Staff seeks direction on allocating \$450,000 to the current ARPA project that seeks to improve public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure. The funding will be used to utilize Flock Safety gunshot detection and surveillance systems.

Flock Safety's Raven gunshot detection system will be deployed in a one-square-mile area within the downtown district. Raven's acoustic sensors detect gunfire, providing real-time alerts with precise locations to law enforcement for rapid response and evidence collection. Additionally, Flock Safety's surveillance technology would support crime prevention by capturing data across 31 cameras downtown, 10 along major thoroughfares and enhancing investigative capabilities.

By enabling data sharing with other Flock-using agencies, Reno can strengthen regional crime-

solving efforts. This represents a strategic step to reduce crime in Reno, aligning with nearby communities utilizing similar technology to improve public safety.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

October 26, 2022 – Council approved \$6,000,000 in SLFRF funding to be used for improved public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure

January 26, 2022 – Council allocated \$24,499,998.50 across seven priority categories, funding projects such as Wastewater Surveillance of COVID-19, Remote Work Equipment, and Oxbow Park (Ward 1).

August 25, 2021 – Council accepted SLFRF funds, directed a public engagement process to identify potential projects, and allocated \$1,260,000 to urgent projects, including COVID-19 coordination, hybrid meeting technology, and shelter operations.

Background:

ARPA established the SLFRF, providing funding to state, county, and local governments for COVID-19 recovery efforts. Council set priority categories based on Treasury guidelines, community feedback, the City’s Strategic Plan, and Council goals. These categories are:

- Access to Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Community Projects
- Pandemic Response
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Safety
- Senior Support

On October 26, 2022, Council approved \$6,000,000 in SLFRF funding to be used for improved public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure.

Discussion:

According to the SLFRF final rule, all funds must be allocated and contracted by December 31, 2024. As this deadline nears, staff is monitoring potential risks in meeting timelines for certain projects. During a previous discussion, Council raised concerns about the feasibility of implementation related to recreation improvements at the Pembroke site. As an alternative, staff proposes allocating that \$450,000 to a current ARPA project which seeks to improve public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure. The funding be for utilizing Flock Safety

gunshot detection and surveillance systems.

Flock Safety's model for deploying surveillance and gunshot detection units provides several benefits compared to other providers. Flock Safety handles the installation and maintenance, reducing the Reno Police Department's operational burden.

Data sharing with neighboring agencies, who currently utilize Flock Safety, is another significant advantage, as it facilitates regional crime-solving efforts. Data from other jurisdictions using Flock Safety indicate reductions in violent crime. This project represents an essential step toward enhancing safety in Reno and aligning with neighboring cities adopting similar technologies.

Financial Implications:

These projects will be funded through SLFRF. Future funding of projects using these funds will follow standard City purchasing and contracting policies and procedures.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. Funds will be allocated and spent in compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act, Department of Treasury Final Rule, and City purchasing policies and procedures.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that Council approve the allocation of \$450,000 in SLFRF funds received through ARPA to improve public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure utilizing Flock Safety gunshot detection and surveillance systems and authorize the interim City Manager to execute the contract.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve the allocation of \$450,000 in SLFRF funds received through ARPA to improve public safety through enhanced technological infrastructure utilizing Flock Safety gunshot detection and surveillance systems and authorize the interim City Manager to execute the contract.

Attachments: