

STAFF REPORT

Date: January 22, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Energy, State and Community Programs Office, to install two (2) electric vehicle fast chargers for fleet use at the Public Safety Center, in the amount of \$280,500, with authorization to repurpose any unspent funds toward other projects aligning with the grant's purpose.

From: Suzanne Groneman, Sustainability and Utility Relations Manager

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the City of Reno \$280,500 under the Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant (EECBG) program. The grant funds will be used to install two fast-charge electric vehicle stations at the Public Safety Center (PSC) for fleet use. The chargers are located behind the fence on the north side of the property. In anticipation of these funds, staff built some of the necessary electrical infrastructure into the design of the PSC. The period of performance is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		x
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		x
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?		x
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	<1%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

On November 15, 2021 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law. The bill provided \$550 million for the EECBG program. The City of Reno was allocated formula funds in the amount of \$280,500.

In November, 2022, Staff briefed Council on the program and sought ideas and feedback on concepts that aligned with the eligible use types. Staff was directed to align the request with the current sustainability goals of the City. Staff then sought feedback from department directors or their appointees. The selected eligible use type was “Financing energy efficiency, renewable energy and zero-emission transportation (and associated infrastructure), capital investments, projects and programs for leveraging of additional public and private sector funds” in install fast charging at the PSC.

In 2024, Staff applied for the funds to be used at the PSC for fleet charging.

Discussion:

Installing two DC fast chargers for the City’s fleet at the Reno Public Safety Center will significantly enhance operational efficiency and environmental sustainability. These chargers will enable rapid recharging of electric vehicles (EVs), ensuring our fleet remains ready to respond to critical public safety needs with minimal downtime. Compared to Level 2 charging, DC fast chargers provide a critical advantage for police fleet operations by significantly reducing charging times. While Level 2 chargers typically take 4 to 8 hours to fully charge a vehicle, DC fast chargers can recharge EVs to 80% capacity in just 30-60 minutes. This rapid charging capability ensures that police vehicles remain operational and ready for service around the clock, minimizing downtime during emergency responses or high-demand periods. By integrating DC fast charging, the city of Reno can maintain the reliability and responsiveness of its public safety fleet without compromising performance or availability.

Transitioning to EVs also supports Reno’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the city’s sustainability and climate action goals. Furthermore, the fast chargers will serve as a foundational investment in modernizing infrastructure to support future EV adoption, demonstrating leadership in clean energy initiatives while reducing long-term fleet operating costs. This project strengthens Reno’s position as a forward-thinking, resilient, and environmentally responsible city.

Grant funds will also be used to procure necessary warranties and maintenance contracts.

Financial Implications:

The \$280,500 in funds will be used for project and contractual costs only. Grant funds will not be used to cover staff time or associated costs.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the grant in the amount of \$280,500 from the U.S. Department of Energy, State and Community Programs Office, to install two (2) electric vehicle fast chargers for fleet use at the Public Safety Center, and authorize the City Manager to sign related grant documents.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve the acceptance of the grant in the amount of \$280,500 from the U.S. Department of Energy, State and Community Programs Office, to install two (2) electric vehicle fast chargers for fleet use at the Public Safety Center, and authorize the City Manager to sign related grant documents.

Attachments:

1. Assistance Agreement
2. Special Terms and Conditions