



Meeting Date: April 17, 2017

Report No. CC-17-56

Agenda Item No. 7-d

Status: Public Hearing

Purpose: Receive public input regarding potential projects for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) State Small Cities Set Aside application and request Council authorization for the grant application.

Background Summary: The CDBG State Small Cities Set Aside program provides funding for projects that benefit low to moderate income residents. If awarded, the City of Stillwater will receive funding from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) in an amount not less than \$97,500. By adding the required 1:1 match, the total project funding is at least \$195,000. In accordance with the City of Stillwater's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan, public input meetings were held on February 24 and March 4, 2017.

Input from the public included requests for:

- * ADA and connected sidewalks in various locations
- * Skate park and playground equipment improvements at Strickland Park
- * Repairs to the Community Center and the Senior Activity Center
- * A pedestrian bridge by the railroad track
- * New water lines in various locations (offered by citizens as well as city water department)
- * Nature center and pavilion at Sanborn Lake
- * Parking lot at Lake McMurry (Funding has been acquired by Friends of McMurry through a grant)
- * Charging stations in Public transit (bus stop) huts
- * Winterized restrooms in the parks

Other projects were suggested that did not meet the requirements of the grant. The three projects below are deemed eligible and the required match identified.

1. ADA Sidewalks – This project proposes 2.6 miles of ADA sidewalk, curb and ramp improvements, making a continuous loop including sections of E. 12th Avenue, S. Lewis Street, E. 3rd Avenue, E. 6th Avenue, S. Perkins Road, E. 8th Avenue and S. Burdick Street. This loop would connect low income neighborhoods to health care, grocery, shopping, police, restaurants, city hall, downtown, and Lincoln Academy. The Green and Scarlet Bus Routes are also along this path. Stillwater Housing Authority is located along this route and serves a large number of differently abled persons who rely on sidewalks and public transit. It will improve life for all through safer surfaces and increased mobility options. Construction of this project is estimated at \$450,780.

2. Strickland Park Improvements – This project has been requested by the public for the past two years and has been a priority for the parks department as well. According to park staff, Strickland Park is the most used park in Stillwater. The current playground equipment, installed in 2005, is no longer safe. This project proposes to build, improve, and/or expand the playground equipment and the skate park in Strickland Park. A 4936 sq. ft. area is available for new playground equipment and additional space to build onto the skate park. Playground equipment plus the labor costs to tear out and install the new equipment is expected to cost around \$240,000. Improvements/additions to the skate park are estimated to be approximately \$140,000. The total project is estimated to cost between \$350,000 and \$380,000.

3. Water Line Replacements – The Water Department has 8 potential projects of priority that could be used for the 2017 CDBG grant. They have narrowed that to a top contender based on the area being lower income, the number of beneficiaries, estimated cost for construction, and the design of the project. The area is along 9th Avenue from Adams to Washington, Monroe from 7th to 9th and Jefferson from 7th to 9th. This area currently has deteriorating cast iron water lines, which often leak and require repairs. Design is currently under contract as a part of the hospital Phase 2 project boundaries. The construction estimate is approx. \$500,000. By adding engineering, contracting, and construction oversight, the total project is estimated to be \$600,000.

Budget Impact: If awarded, funding from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce for the 2017 CDBG State Small Cities Set Aside grant will not be less than \$97,500. The City of Stillwater will provide matching funds not less than \$97,500 to complete the selected project. A Resolution of Leverage will be on a future agenda.

Prior Council Action or Part of an Approved Project: No

Alternatives and Recommendation: Staff recommends the selection of the Strickland Park improvements project and authorization for the Mayor to sign all application documents. Alternatives to staff's recommendation include:

1. Selection of one of the other identified eligible projects;
2. Selection of a project that does not have match funds identified;
3. Fund a combination of suggested projects;
4. Request staff to research and suggest a different project;
5. Do not apply for CDBG funds for 2017.

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Reviewed by: Melissa Reams, CFO

Submitted by: Norman McNickle, City Manager