



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER:
PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

STATUS REPORT

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May 19, 2025

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Rehire

Project Number: ARPA-2

Grant Term: 12/16/2021-12/16/2023

Eligibility Category: 3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity
3.2: Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,307,561.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$2,307,561.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/30/2022

Project Summary

ARPA funds were used to rehire full-time employees for positions that existed on January 27, 2020, but were either unfilled or eliminated by March 3, 2021. The project aims to restore key positions that were impacted during the pandemic, ensuring the continuity of services and operations. This initiative supports workforce recovery by filling critical roles that were vacant or terminated, helping the city return to pre-pandemic staffing levels and enhance the delivery of services to residents.

Resident Benefits

- **Restoration of Essential Services:** Rehiring employees for positions that were eliminated or left unfilled ensures that crucial city services continue to operate at full capacity. This allows the city to address the needs of residents effectively, minimizing disruptions to daily life and maintaining a high standard of service delivery.
- **Improved Efficiency and Productivity:** Filling vacancies and re-establishing eliminated roles helps the city operate more efficiently. It reduces the workload on remaining staff, preventing burnout and allowing for quicker response times to issues or emergencies.
- **Enhanced Public Safety:** By rehiring employees in critical areas, the city can ensure faster responses to emergencies, enhance crime prevention efforts, and better support the health and safety of residents. This strengthens the overall security and well-being of the community.
- **Economic Recovery and Stability:** Rehiring employees helps stimulate the local economy by putting people back to work, supporting both individual livelihoods and local businesses. With a stabilized workforce, the city's economy can rebound more quickly, benefiting taxpayers by reducing the long-term economic effects of unemployment.
- **Cost Savings in the Long Run:** By re-establishing full staffing levels, the city avoids costly delays, inefficiencies, or the need to hire temporary workers. This reduces the risk of increased overtime, the cost of outsourcing work, or higher costs due to understaffing. It also helps prevent future service gaps that could require additional spending to resolve.
- **Support for City Infrastructure and Development:** With key positions filled, the city can continue planning, developing, and maintaining vital infrastructure projects. This ensures progress on long-term goals such as urban renewal, infrastructure improvements, and public space development, which directly enhance the quality of life for residents and attract future investments.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Operation Compass

Project Number: ARPA-3

Grant Term: 11/1/2021-9/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$474,686.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$524,546.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$510,335.21

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

The allocation of ARPA funds to Operation Compass supports the Fall River Police Department's efforts to combat crime and enhance public safety. This initiative focuses on strengthening key divisions and units within the department, including the Major Crimes Division, Vice Intelligence and Gang Unit, Special Operations' Bicycle Patrols, and Uniform Patrol's Walking Beats.

- **Personnel Support:** Payroll funding for officers assigned to various specialized units and patrols, enhancing on-the-ground presence and proactive law enforcement.
- **Surveillance and Technology:** Investment in pole cameras and Gray Key Cellphone extraction equipment/software to gather critical evidence and intelligence for criminal investigations. Additionally, funding for a computer to monitor the surveillance cameras, ensuring real-time updates and effective oversight.
- **Traffic Enforcement:** The purchase of 20 radar speed display signs to monitor and enforce traffic laws, contributing to safer roadways throughout the city.
- **Support for FAST Team:** Funding for the FAST Team, including necessary equipment/supplies, gasoline, leased autos, and the hiring of clinicians to support community outreach and public safety efforts.
- **Flock Cameras:** The inclusion of flock cameras will enhance surveillance and provide law enforcement with critical data to identify and track criminal activity within the city.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Increased Safety and Crime Prevention:** The deployment of additional officers on specialized patrols, such as bicycle patrols and walking beat, increases the police presence in high-traffic and high-risk areas. This proactive approach helps deter criminal activity, making neighborhoods safer for residents.
- **Enhanced Investigations and Surveillance:** The investment in pole cameras, cellphone extraction tools, and flock cameras allows the police to monitor criminal activity more effectively, leading to faster identification of suspects and resolution of cases. This use of technology aids in solving crimes quickly, reducing the burden on the justice system, and bringing criminals to justice more efficiently.
- **Faster Traffic Enforcement:** The radar speed display signs will help manage speeding in residential and high-traffic areas, improving road safety and reducing traffic accidents. This is particularly beneficial for families, pedestrians, and drivers, creating safer streets for residents.
- **Support for Mental Health and Community Outreach:** Funding for the FAST Team, including clinicians, helps address mental health concerns and provides a holistic approach to public safety. This reduces the strain on emergency services and improves outcomes for individuals experiencing crises, ensuring a more compassionate response to situations that would otherwise overburden police resources.
- **Efficient Resource Management:** Investments in leased vehicles, gasoline, and necessary supplies ensure that officers and units have the resources they need to respond quickly and effectively to incidents, maintaining optimal operational efficiency. This results in more effective law enforcement, which translates into a quicker response time to emergencies and better crime resolution rates.
- **Long-term Economic Benefits:** By reducing crime, improving public safety, and enhancing the overall quality of life in Fall River, these investments help retain and attract residents and businesses, fostering a more stable community. In the long run, this leads to a stronger economy, a more resilient tax base, and lower costs for public services, benefiting taxpayers directly.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Fall River Holiday Parade (2021)

Project Number: ARPA-4

Grant Term: 11/1/2021-11/1/2022

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Behavioral Health

1.12 Mental Health Services

2: Negative Economic Impacts: Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$75,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$61,540.05
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$61,540.05

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/30/2022

Project Summary

The Greater Fall River RE-CREATION Committee, Inc., on behalf of the City of Fall River, is seeking ARPA funds to continue the Annual Children's Holiday Parade, a free, 1.5-mile event that draws 20,000–30,000 attendees each year. Now in its 37th year, the parade is the largest of its kind in New England, featuring over 100 groups including school children, floats, giant balloons, entertainers, and Santa Claus. It is a beloved tradition that unites the community, kicks off the holiday season, and significantly boosts the local economy, supporting struggling downtown businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 parade, highlighting the need for funding to sustain this important event. The parade offers critical mental health benefits to children and families, especially in underserved communities, by providing joy, reducing stress, and fostering a sense of normalcy. Fall River, where over 60% of residents have low-to-moderate income, would greatly benefit from the parade's continuation, supporting both economic recovery and community well-being.

Resident Benefits

- **Boosts Community Spirit:** Parades bring people together, create a shared experience and are a reminder of local traditions and togetherness, especially around the holidays.
- **Supports Local Economy:** Parades bring crowds, which creates more foot traffic for nearby small businesses, shops and restaurants. While local vendors, performers, and event staff are hired to help the local community.
- **Encourages Civic Engagement:** Families, schools, and community groups take part in the parade which strengthens their connection to the community. It promotes volunteerism, as individuals contribute by helping to organize, decorate or manage the event.
- **Creates Safe, Family-Friendly Fun:** Provides a free way to celebrate the holidays and provides children impacted by the pandemic a much-needed moment of joy, reducing stress and bolstering morale within the community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Enhances City Identity and Tourism:** Holiday parades draw not only residents but non-residents from nearby towns which can contribute to building a positive image of the city as a vibrant, family-oriented and festive place to visit.
- **Promotes Inclusivity and Diversity:** Parades often showcase different cultures, traditions, and holiday customs which help residents appreciate the diversity in the city and help to empower marginalized groups. Local organizations can also use the parade as a platform to raise awareness of the needs of the community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Fall River Holiday Parade (2022)

Project Number: ARPA-4A

Grant Term: 10/1/2022-10/1/2023

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Behavioral Health

1.12 Mental Health Services

2: Negative Economic Impacts: Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$63,459.95
- **Amended Budget:** \$22,471.27
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$22,471.27

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/19/2023

Project Summary

The Greater Fall River RE-CREATION Committee, Inc., on behalf of the City of Fall River, is seeking ARPA funds to continue the Annual Children's Holiday Parade, a free, 1.5-mile event that draws 20,000–30,000 attendees each year. Now in its 37th year, the parade is the largest of its kind in New England, featuring over 100 groups including school children, floats, giant balloons, entertainers, and Santa Claus. It is a beloved tradition that unites the community, kicks off the holiday season, and significantly boosts the local economy, supporting struggling downtown businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 parade, highlighting the need for funding to sustain this important event. The parade offers critical mental health benefits to children and families, especially in underserved communities, by providing joy, reducing stress, and fostering a sense of normalcy. Fall River, where over 60% of residents have low-to-moderate income, would greatly benefit from the parade's continuation, supporting both economic recovery and community well-being.

The Holiday Parade in 2021 (ARPA-4) did not expend the allocated funds. Those funds were reallocated to this parade in 2022, however due to weather conditions the parade was cancelled and only a portion of the budget was used, and this was for prepaid and nonrefundable expenses.

Resident Benefits

- **Boosts Community Spirit:** Parades bring people together, create a shared experience and are a reminder of local traditions and togetherness, especially around the holidays.
- **Supports Local Economy:** Parades bring crowds, which creates more foot traffic for nearby small businesses, shops and restaurants. While local vendors, performers, and event staff are hired to help the local community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Encourages Civic Engagement:** Families, schools, and community groups take part in the parade which strengthens their connection to the community. It promotes volunteerism, as individuals contribute by helping to organize, decorate or manage the event.
- **Creates Safe, Family-Friendly Fun:** Provides a free way to celebrate the holidays and provides children impacted by the pandemic a much-needed moment of joy, reducing stress and bolstering morale within the community.
- **Enhances City Identity and Tourism:** Holiday parades draw not only residents but non-residents from nearby towns which can contribute to building a positive image of the city as a vibrant, family-oriented and festive place to visit.
- **Promotes Inclusivity and Diversity:** Parades often showcase different cultures, traditions, and holiday customs which help residents appreciate the diversity in the city and help to empower marginalized groups. Local organizations can also use the parade as a platform to raise awareness of the needs of the community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Fall River Holiday Parade (2023)

Project Number: ARPA-4B

Grant Term: 10/13/2023-10/13/2024

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Behavioral Health

1.12 Mental Health Services

2: Negative Economic Impacts: Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$40,989.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$40,988.68
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$40,988.68

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/10/2024

Project Summary

The Greater Fall River RE-CREATION Committee, Inc., on behalf of the City of Fall River, is seeking ARPA funds to continue the Annual Children's Holiday Parade, a free, 1.5-mile event that draws 20,000–30,000 attendees each year. Now in its 37th year, the parade is the largest of its kind in New England, featuring over 100 groups including school children, floats, giant balloons, entertainers, and Santa Claus. It is a beloved tradition that unites the community, kicks off the holiday season, and significantly boosts the local economy, supporting struggling downtown businesses impacted by COVID-19.

The pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 parade, highlighting the need for funding to sustain this important event. The parade offers critical mental health benefits to children and families, especially in underserved communities, by providing joy, reducing stress, and fostering a sense of normalcy. Fall River, where over 60% of residents have low-to-moderate income, would greatly benefit from the parade's continuation, supporting both economic recovery and community well-being.

The Holiday Parade in 2022 (ARPA-4A) did not expend the allocated funds. Those funds were reallocated to this parade in 2023.

Resident Benefits

- **Boosts Community Spirit:** Parades bring people together, create a shared experience and are a reminder of local traditions and togetherness, especially around the holidays.
- **Supports Local Economy:** parades bring crowds, which creates more foot traffic for nearby small businesses, shops and restaurants. While local vendors, performers, and event staff are hired to help the local community.
- **Encourages Civic Engagement:** Families, schools, and community groups take part in the parade which strengthens their connection to the community. It promotes volunteerism, as individuals contribute by helping to organize, decorate or manage the event.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Creates Safe, Family-Friendly Fun:** Provides a free way to celebrate the holidays and provides children impacted by the pandemic a much-needed moment of joy, reducing stress and bolstering morale within the community.
- **Enhances City Identity and Tourism:** Holiday parades draw not only residents but non-residents from nearby towns which can contribute to building a positive image of the city as a vibrant, family-oriented and festive place to visit.
- **Promotes Inclusivity and Diversity:** Parades often showcase different cultures, traditions, and holiday customs which help residents appreciate the diversity in the city and help to empower marginalized groups. Local organizations can also use the parade as a platform to raise awareness of the needs of the community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Water Main Replacement

Project Number: ARPA-5

Grant Term: 11/1/2021-11/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 5: Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: Water and Sewer
5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$8,350,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$13,152,544.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$12,120,091.51

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 11/30/2025

Project Summary

The Water Main Replacement Project includes the replacement of 20,420 feet of water main and 36 lead services. This project would include reconstruction of the roadway and affected sidewalks. The following list of streets has been developed by taking streets that have been identified in our Water Main Replacement Projects, pavement condition and Liberty Utilities gas main work.

Oak Grove Avenue	Locust to New Boston	2,700 feet
Moorland Street	Bay to End	610 feet
President Avenue	Highland to Elsbree	4,300 feet
Cross Street	Merchant to Orchard	450 feet
N. Belmont Street	Hood to Vestal	675 feet
Vestal Street	N. Main to N. Belmont	575 feet
Reading Street	Valentine to Harvard	1,200 feet
Reading Street	Langly to Florence	1,350 feet
Sterling Street	Napolean to Stafford	750 feet
Welcome Street	Napoleon to Stafford	750 feet
Archer Street	Highland to Dead End	2,240 feet
Atlantic Blvd.	Pembroke to Tindal	1,880 feet
Moody Street	Atlantic to Dead End	250 feet
Assonet Street	Atlantic to Dead End	250 feet
Bryan Street	Atlantic to Dead End	250 feet
Duke Street	Atlantic to Dead End	250 feet
Pembroke Street	Atlantic to Dead End	270 feet

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Health and Water Quality:** Upgrading aging water mains ensure a safer and more reliable supply of clean drinking water. This reduces the risk of contaminants entering the water system due to pipe corrosion or breaks, thereby protecting residents from potential health hazards.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have rose .22 cents every year for the next 20 years but for the use of ARPA funds. If you factor in the BCT-23 Water Main Replacement project the tax rate would have increased by .36 cents. A savings of \$19/year for the average household.*
- **Enhanced Infrastructure Resilience:** Replacing outdated water mains reduces the frequency of service disruptions and costly emergency repairs. Modernized infrastructure is better equipped to handle increased demand and withstand environmental stresses, ensuring consistent water service for the community.
- **Economic Development and Job Creation:** Infrastructure projects can stimulate the local economy by creating jobs and attracting businesses. Reliable water infrastructure is a critical factor for businesses considering relocation or expansion, potentially leading to increased economic activity in the City of Fall River.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Investing in water infrastructure now can lead to substantial long-term savings. Preventative maintenance and upgrades reduce the likelihood of expensive emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of the water system, providing financial benefits over time.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Small Business Grant Assistance Program

Project Number: ARPA-6

Grant Term: 1/1/2022-11/30/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Small Businesses
2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$3,260,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$532,533.50
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$532,533.50

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/21/2022

Project Summary

The small business community in the City of Fall River has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many small businesses have closed and the ones currently operating have lost a significant amount of revenue and profit during the pandemic. Small businesses were required to close during quarantine and reopened with reduced operating hours. The Small Business Grant Assistance Program will provide businesses that were negatively impacted by the pandemic with funding. Those currently operating with 5 employees or less would receive \$2,500 and those with 6-10 employees would receive \$5,000.

At the conclusion of the program there were 154 small businesses within the City of Fall River that benefited from receiving funding. Of those, 19 received \$5,000 and 135 received \$2,500.

Resident Benefits

- **Preserves Local Jobs:** By helping small businesses stay open and recover, the program protects jobs for Fall River residents, that are locally owned and staffed.
- **Strengthens the Local Economy:** When small businesses survive and grow, they keep money circulating within the community. Residents benefit from a healthier economy, more local services, and more diverse business options.
- **Promotes Community Stability:** Thriving small businesses help prevent blight and vacant storefronts, which can drag down neighborhood morale and property values. Keeping businesses open supports a vibrant and attractive community.
- **Encourages Entrepreneurship:** Programs like this show that Fall River values its small businesses. This can inspire more residents to start their own businesses, boosting innovation and self-sufficiency in the city.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Med Cat Ambulance

Project Number: ARPA-7

Grant Term: 12/1/2021-12/1/2022

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$298,900.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$298,900.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/28/2022

Project Summary

The Fall River Emergency Medical Services Division (EMS) purchased a Lenco Med Cat Ambulance. The Med Cat will allow the EMS and Police departments to work together during situations of high risk and extreme weather. The unit will be an Emergency Service Unit (ESU) and an ambulance allowing paramedics to treat a victim or team member during the high-risk event safely in the hot zone, ensuring immediate pre-hospital patient care for positive outcomes.

The vehicle is equipped with equipment a medical rescue would carry, including oxygen, trauma kits, 3 med-carts, advanced paramedic equipment, as well as ESU equipment. The unit is armor covered, bullet proof windows, and can be driven in 4 feet of water, roof rescue hatch, and trauma lighting.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Emergency Response and Public Health:** Enhances emergency medical services, especially in high-risk and under-served areas and can provide critical support during public health emergencies. It allows faster response, can be equipped for advanced medical care during disasters, and supports paramedics with tools for on-scene stabilization.
- **Efficient Use of Federal Funds:** Improved services without increasing local taxes or using general fund revenue. This reduces the financial burden on taxpayers, maximizes the value of one-time federal relief funding, and avoids the need for new levies or bond measures.
- **Supports Equity in Health Access:** The vehicle enables better medical service delivery to historically underserved communities. It reaches low-income and marginalized populations, provides mobile healthcare in areas with limited infrastructure, and helps bridge gaps in access to critical services.
- **Boosts Disaster Preparedness and Resilience:** A med cat ambulance strengthens the city's ability to respond to future crises, reducing long-term costs and improving community safety. It increases capacity during pandemics, serves as a mobile command or triage unit, and enhances coordination with other emergency agencies.
- **Economic and Community Stability:** Improved emergency response protects residents and businesses, helping maintain productivity and stability during and after crises. It minimizes disruptions to work and commerce, safeguards workforce health and well-being, and supports faster community recovery and continuity.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Computers/Printers for Police Cruisers

Project Number: ARPA-8

Grant Term: 1/1/2022-12/31/2022

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$220,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$219,796.03
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$219,796.03

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/29/2023

Project Summary

The Fall River Police Department purchased 57 new computers and accompanying docking stations to be installed in patrol cruisers. These upgrades will enhance the department's ability to access real-time information, improve communication, and support digital tools for law enforcement officers while they are in the field. With these new systems, officers will be able to more effectively perform their duties, ensuring public safety through improved efficiency and accuracy in data handling. The installation of docking stations will also ensure that the computers are safely integrated into the vehicles, reducing the risk of damage while in use. This project will ultimately enhance the department's operational capabilities, improve service delivery to the community, and support the ongoing efforts to modernize law enforcement technology.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Emergency Response Time:** Officers can access critical information such as suspect records, license plate data, and real-time mapping directly from their vehicles, allowing them to respond to emergencies more quickly and effectively.
- **Enhanced Public Safety:** Equipped cruisers enable officers to complete reports, issue citations, and perform background checks without returning to the station, keeping them in the field longer and increasing police visibility in neighborhoods.
- **Cost Savings Over Time:** On-site reporting and reduced travel back to the station lead to greater efficiency, which lowers administrative costs and makes better use of existing police staff without requiring additional hires.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Integrated technology supports accurate and timely reporting, while also enhancing tracking and evidence collection, which helps maintain high standards of professionalism and trust in the police force.
- **Better Community Service:** With more time spent in the community rather than at desks, officers are more available to assist residents, mediate conflicts, and provide visible, responsive support in public areas.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Strategic Use of Federal Funds:** ARPA funds allow the city to make necessary, one-time capital investments in public safety infrastructure without placing added financial pressure on local taxpayers, preserving the city's general fund for other priorities.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Crime Prevention Training/Equipment

Project Number: ARPA-9

Grant Term: 1/1/2022-9/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$287,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$309,432.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$267,395.72

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

The allocation of ARPA funds for the Fall River Police Department will significantly enhance public safety capabilities, particularly in response to critical incidents. The purchase includes essential active shooter response equipment, such as ballistic shields, breaching tools, entry kits, and battering rams, which are vital for ensuring officer safety and effective intervention in high-risk situations. The acquisition of a drone will provide superior aerial surveillance and tactical support during emergencies.

In addition, funding will support the purchase of a Horiba AFIS fingerprint computer for the booking room, improving the efficiency and accuracy of criminal identification processes. The department will also acquire Vortex Viper spotting scopes and rifle scopes to enhance precision during high-stakes operations. ESU headsets and communication equipment will improve real-time coordination and response during critical operations, while specialized training will ensure that officers are prepared to utilize this new technology effectively.

These investments reflect a comprehensive approach to enhancing the safety of both officers and the community, ensuring the Fall River Police Department remains equipped to address critical emergencies, threats, and maintain public order.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Safety:** The investment in active shooter response equipment enhances the police department's ability to respond effectively to dangerous situations, reducing potential harm to the community.
- **Enhanced Operational Efficiency:** The acquisition of drones, communication equipment, and the Horiba AFIS fingerprint computer improves the efficiency and precision of police operations, leading to faster crime resolution and better public safety outcomes.
- **Faster and More Effective Responses:** Advanced technology allows officers to make informed, real-time decisions, ensuring quicker response times and more effective intervention during critical incidents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Specialized Training for Officers:** Funding for specialized training ensures officers are fully prepared to utilize the new tools, maximizing their effectiveness and reducing the risk of costly mistakes in high-stress situations.
- **Long-term Fiscal Responsibility:** By investing in advanced equipment and training, the department ensures long-term efficiency in law enforcement, enhancing community safety while supporting taxpayers by utilizing resources responsibly.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Crime Prevention Police Cruisers

Project Number: ARPA 9-1C

Grant Term: 1/1/2021-12/31/2022

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$275,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$266,354.65
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$266,354.65

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 8/24/2023

Project Summary

The City of Fall River has purchased new police cruisers as part of its Capital Improvements Plan. This investment replaced aging and outdated vehicles within the police fleet, ensuring officers have reliable and well-maintained vehicles for daily patrols. The new cruisers enhance officer safety, improve response times, and increase overall efficiency in law enforcement activities.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Emergency Response:** New cruisers help officers respond faster and more reliably to calls for service.
- **Saves Local Tax Dollars:** Using ARPA funds avoids burdening local taxpayers and reduces future repair and fuel costs.
- **Supports Officer Safety:** Modern vehicles come with better safety features and equipment to protect officers and improve service.
- **Builds Community Trust:** A well-equipped, professional-looking fleet improves public perception and strengthens community relations.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Quequechan Rail Trail-Phase IV

Project Number: ARPA-10

Grant Term: 12/230/2021-12/20/2026

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Behavioral Health

1.12 Mental Health Services

2: Negative Economic Impact: Other

3.9: Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$4,000,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,000,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/2026

Project Summary

The Quequechan Rail Trail Phase IVA project involves the development of a bike and walking path extending from Quequechan Street easterly to Father Travassos Park. This phase will connect existing residents, as well as new residents in the recently developed and renovated mills, to the broader trail system and bring them closer to the edge of the downtown core. By providing a significant new amenity, this project is designed to encourage additional development and enhance the quality of life for both current and future residents.

The Quequechan Rail Trail Phase IVB, which extends from Quequechan Street westerly to Britland Park, will be paused due to time constraints associated with the ARPA funding and the complexity of permitting and land acquisitions required for the project.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Health Improvement:** Trails promote physical activity such as walking and biking, which helps reduce obesity, chronic illnesses, and improve mental health by providing access to outdoor spaces and natural settings.
- **Enhanced Connectivity and Transportation:** Trails serve as safe and affordable alternatives to driving, helping residents complete short trips while easing traffic congestion and reducing air pollution.
- **Economic and Community Development:** Trails can increase foot traffic to local businesses, raise nearby property values, and support jobs through their construction and ongoing maintenance.
- **Equity and Accessibility:** Trails provide inclusive, no-cost recreation and transportation options, benefiting all residents, particularly those who are unable to drive, such as youth, seniors, and low-income individuals.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Jerry Lawton Plaza Rehabilitation Project

Project Number: ARPA-11

Grant Term: 12/20/2021-12/20/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

3.13 Social Determinants of Health: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$300,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$271,967.80

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 7/2025

Project Summary

This project focuses on the renovation of “Jerry Lawton Plaza,” a neglected public space at the corner of South Main Street and Anawan Street in the downtown business district. Originally developed as a small urban pocket park in the late 1970s, the plaza has significantly deteriorated over time, now posing safety risks, failing to meet accessibility standards, and detracting from the vitality of the surrounding area.

The renovation aims to restore the plaza as a safe and accessible pedestrian route connecting South Main Street with the nearby parking garage. Improvements will include repairing damaged brickwork, enhancing lighting for safety and aesthetics, and revitalizing the landscape with new plantings and an irrigation system. These changes will transform the space into a welcoming feature that contributes to the overall appeal and functionality of the downtown area.

Importantly, this plaza is the only outdoor public space serving residents of nearby low-income and elderly housing in the downtown core. Its restoration will provide critical access to a safe, attractive, and accessible outdoor environment for these populations, who may have limited mobility and few alternatives for outdoor recreation or social connection.

In addition to restoration, the project envisions a flexible use of the plaza to host temporary public events such as art installations, music performances, pop-up retail, and outdoor dining. To support these uses, select trees will be removed to create open space, utility connections will be added, and a secure storage facility will be built for event equipment.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Public Health and Safety:** The current condition of the plaza poses safety hazards such as trip risks and inadequate lighting. Renovation will bring the space into compliance with ADA standards, reduce the risk of injuries, and discourage illicit activity, creating a healthier, safer environment for all.
- **Supports Vulnerable Populations:** As the only outdoor public space serving nearby low-income and elderly housing, the restored plaza will provide a critical space for rest, recreation, and socialization for populations that often lack access to such amenities.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Stimulates Downtown Revitalization:** A well-maintained and attractive public space encourages foot traffic, supports local businesses, and enhances the overall appeal of the downtown area. This contributes to economic development and increases the likelihood of private investment.
- **Encourages Community Engagement and Events:** By creating a flexible space for art, performances, pop-up shops, and outdoor dining, the plaza can become a hub for cultural and community events that improve quality of life and strengthen social ties.
- **Protects Past Public Investment:** Restoring the plaza prevents further decay of a public asset where funds were already invested decades ago, ensuring that earlier public spending is not wasted and that the space remains usable and valuable.
- **Reduces Long-Term Costs:** Proactive renovation with ARPA funding eliminates the need for emergency repairs and reduces future maintenance burdens, saving taxpayer money over time.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Kennedy Park Design

Project Number: ARPA-12

Grant Term: 3/7/2022-12/23/2024

Eligibility Category: 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$60,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$42,500.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$42,500.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 8/10/2023

Project Summary

The City of Fall River engaged William Starck Architects to provide predesign and schematic design services for a proposed renovation of Kennedy Park. These architectural services were intended to explore upgrades including new splash pads, restroom renovations, improved park amenities, and the potential transformation of the existing fountain into an outdoor ice-skating rink. The scope of work also included evaluating existing buildings for potential repairs and conceptual planning for park-wide improvements. The funding supported the design and planning phases. Due to the high estimated project costs, the city decided to utilize these plans in the future.

Resident Benefits

- **Value to Residents and Taxpayers Despite Pivoting Away from the Project:** Using ARPA funds to pay for the pre-design and schematic design phase allowed the City to thoroughly explore the feasibility, scope, and costs of a major park renovation project without committing local tax dollars. This upfront planning provided critical information and transparency, helping the city make informed, fiscally responsible decisions.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Abbott/North/Lafayette Skate Park Design

Project Number: ARPA-13

Grant Term: 3/7/2022-12/31/2024

Eligibility Category: 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$44,135.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$61,655.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$61,655.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/9/2023

Project Summary

The City of Fall River utilized ARPA funds to cover architectural and design services for the planned renovation of three city skateparks: Abbott Court, North Park, and Lafayette Park. William Starck Architects was contracted to develop schematic designs, construction documents, and provide bidding assistance for these projects. The scope includes replacing outdated skate ramps with new precast concrete features, repaving damaged asphalt surfaces, and upgrading fencing where needed.

Ultimately, the city decided to proceed on renovating Lafayette Park, which is centrally located within the City of Fall River in an Environmental Justice neighborhood and Qualified Census Tract. This project is ARPA-57 Lafayette Skateboard Park Restoration. The plans for Abbott Court and North Park will be utilized in the future when funding becomes available.

Resident Benefits

- **Value to Residents and Taxpayers Despite Project Scaling:** Using ARPA funds for the design of the Abbott Court, North Park, and Lafayette Park skateparks allowed the City to assess the full scope, cost, and feasibility of improving all three facilities without relying on local tax dollars. This up-front investment in schematic design and construction documents helped the city make data-driven, fiscally responsible decisions.

When cost estimates revealed that renovating all three parks would exceed budget, the city was able to pivot strategically and prioritize the most viable site. As a result, resources were focused on where they would have the greatest impact, centralized location, and creating a larger park that would better serve the community.

The design work completed for the other two skateparks is not wasted. These plans remain valuable assets the City can use to seek future funding, apply for grants, or revisit the projects when financial conditions change.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Salaries & Wages

Project Number: ARPA-14

Grant Term: 6/26/2023-6/26/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$4,500,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$4,500,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/30/2023

Project Summary

DEPARTMENT

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE SALARIES	1%	\$29,853.84
AUDITOR'S OFFICE SALARIES	1%	\$34,927.37
BRISTOL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL	1%	\$39,100.18
CEMETERIES SALARIES	1%	\$31,898.25
CITY ADMINISTRATION SALARIES	0%	\$13,952.85
CITY CLERK SALARIES	1%	\$31,713.02
CITY COUNCIL SALARIES	0%	\$20,351.45
CODE ENFORCEMENT SALARIES	2%	\$77,552.41
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE SALARIES	1%	\$30,679.25
COMPUTER ROOM SALARIES	1%	\$32,009.54
COUNCIL ON AGING SALARIES	0%	\$10,925.47
DIRECTOR OF CITY OPERATIONS	0%	\$11,240.97
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES SALARIES	0%	\$11,933.73
ELECTION COMMISSION SALARIES	1%	\$26,005.50
ENGINEERING SALARIES	0%	\$22,071.72
F.R. EMERG MANAGEMENT SALARIES	0%	\$2,208.05
FACILITIES SALARIES	2%	\$80,052.03
FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES	31%	\$1,403,993.15
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SALARIES	1%	\$32,246.64
LAW DEPARTMENT SALARIES	1%	\$34,370.14
LIBRARY SALARIES	2%	\$75,801.69
LICENSE BOARD SALARIES	0%	\$3,955.38
MAYOR'S OFFICE SALARIES	1%	\$24,217.06
PARKS SALARIES	1%	\$63,229.72

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

PERSONNEL DEPT SALARIES	1%	\$25,796.98
PLANNING DEPT SALARIES	0%	\$15,551.48
POLICE DEPARTMENT SALARIES	43%	\$1,955,651.15
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	0%	\$19,411.54
SNOW REMOVAL SALARIES	0%	\$ 8,430.73
SOLID WASTE SALARIES	1%	\$29,750.38
STREETS AND HIGHWAY SALARIES	4%	\$196,608.94
TRAFFIC & PARKING SALARIES	1%	\$46,129.88
TREASURER'S OFFICE SALARIES	0%	\$20,441.46
TREES SALARIES	0%	\$13,494.22
VETERANS BENEFITS SALARIES	1%	\$24,443.88
	100%	\$4,500,000.00

Resident Benefits

- **Preserves General Fund Flexibility:** By covering salaries with ARPA funds, the city can redirect its general fund toward other urgent needs or strategic investments that benefit the community.
- **Prevents Cuts or Layoffs:** Ensures city staff remain employed and essential services continue uninterrupted, avoiding reductions in quality of life.
- **Stabilizes Local Taxes:** Reduces pressure to raise property taxes or fees, helping maintain affordability for residents.
- **Enables Long-Term Investments:** Allows the city to fund one-time capital projects or bolster reserves, supporting future financial stability.
- **Supports Economic Recovery:** Keeps local government operations stable during economic uncertainty, sustaining jobs and community spending.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Teen Room Center

Project Number: ARPA-15

Grant Term: 6/5/2023-8/31/2025

Eligibility Category: 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$100,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 8/2025

Project Summary

To better serve teens and meet growing program demands, the Club is expanding its Teen Center by renovating 3,000 square feet of a previously unused adult program space. This expansion addresses space limitations that hinder small group programming, privacy, and exclusive access for teen members. The project directly supports the Club's mission by fostering youth development, promoting academic success, and encouraging responsible citizenship.

Renovations include the demolition of outdated locker rooms, bathrooms, showers, steam room, and sauna to create a more functional and welcoming teen environment. The HVAC system will be replaced, acoustic treatments added to reduce noise, and new windows installed to bring in natural light. The former exercise area and handball courts will be transformed into a large, open, multifunctional program space for group presentations and activities. The space will also feature a teen-only gym area with glass-walled handball courts that can be used for basketball, volleyball, racket sports, dance, yoga, and other physical activities.

Additional improvements will include two dedicated classrooms for small group and specialized programs, an exercise area, office and meeting space, two single-stall bathrooms, a laundry facility for teens experiencing housing instability, a kitchenette, and storage space.

The renovated Teen Center will provide a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environment for 300–400 teens annually, enhancing their experience through targeted programs, greater privacy, and increased access to life skills and workforce development opportunities.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Safety and Crime Prevention:** Teen Centers provide structured, supervised environments that keep young people engaged in positive activities during critical after-school hours. Reducing idle time and increasing access to mentorship and support helps lower juvenile crime rates, which benefits public safety and reduces strain on law enforcement and justice systems.
- **Workforce Development and Economic Mobility:** By offering job training, skills, and academic support, the Teen Center prepares youth for future employment, helping to build a

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

stronger local workforce. This investment can reduce future dependence on public assistance and increase economic contributions through employment and taxes.

- **Support for Families:** Providing a safe space for teens allows working parents and caregivers to maintain employment and stability, knowing their children are in a positive, enriching environment. This reduces economic stress on families and supports overall household stability and productivity.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Early investment in youth development prevents more costly interventions later, such as involvement with the criminal justice system, public health issues, or long-term unemployment. Prevention is significantly more cost-effective than remediation.
- **Community Cohesion and Equity:** The Teen Center promotes inclusion, equity, and access to opportunities for youth from underserved or historically marginalized communities. This helps close opportunity gaps and contributes to a healthier, more cohesive, and resilient community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: RCC/Patriot Property Software

Project Number: ARPA-16

Grant Term: 3/7/2022-6/30/2022

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$360,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$360,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 7/26/2024

Project Summary

The Assessor's Office is undertaking two key initiatives to enhance its valuation and certification processes for both personal property and real estate tax assessments.

1. **Contract Extension with RRC:** A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated to extend the contract with RRC for an additional two years. RRC will continue its work on the physical valuation of approximately 1,008 personal property accounts, ensuring compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's (DOR) personal property tax certification requirements.
2. **Purchase of Patriot Properties Software:** An investment of \$350,000 has been allocated for the purchase of Patriot Properties software. This software will be used to measure and list approximately 10,000 properties to meet Massachusetts DOR's real estate tax certification standards. The software will improve accuracy, efficiency, and overall effectiveness in property assessments.

These initiatives are crucial to maintaining compliance with state regulations and enhancing the Assessor's Office's operational capabilities.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Efficiency in Tax Assessments:** The new software will streamline the process of measuring and listing properties, significantly reducing the time and manpower required for assessments. This efficiency leads to faster processing of property tax information, ensuring that tax assessments are completed accurately and on time.
- **Enhanced Accuracy:** Patriot Properties software will improve the accuracy of real estate valuations. With precise data, property assessments will be fairer and more equitable, reducing the risk of over- or under-valuations. This ensures that property owners are taxed fairly based on the actual value of their properties.
- **Cost Savings:** By investing in technology that enhances efficiency and accuracy, the Assessor's Office may reduce the need for manual labor and other costly processes. This can ultimately lead to long-term cost savings, freeing up resources that could be used for other community services or investments.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Transparency and Trust:** Accurate and efficient assessments foster transparency in the property tax system, building trust among residents. When taxpayers feel that their assessments are based on fair, reliable data, they are more likely to feel confident in the local government's management of resources.
- **Compliance with State Requirements:** By using ARPA funds to purchase the software, the Assessor's Office ensures it meets the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's certification requirements for both personal property and real estate taxes. Compliance helps maintain the integrity of the tax system, benefiting all taxpayers by ensuring that the system functions smoothly.
- **Better Resource Allocation:** With more accurate and timely assessments, the town or municipality can better allocate resources for public services, including education, public safety, and infrastructure. This ensures that residents receive the maximum benefit from their tax dollars.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Nearmap Software Purchase

Project Number: ARPA-17

Grant Term: 3/11/2022-9/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$50,204.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$100,204.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$57,648.50

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

The City of Fall River's Assessors' Office is initiating a project to update outdated and inaccurate Assessor Maps W, X, Y, and Z, which have not been revised in several years. This update became critical during the COVID-19 pandemic when remote assessment tools like NearMaps were used due to restrictions on physical site inspections. The current maps contain inaccuracies that hinder fair property tax assessments.

Resident Benefits

- **Fair and Accurate Property Taxation:** Residents benefit from equitable and up-to-date property assessments, ensuring everyone pays their fair share based on accurate data without placing the cost burden of updates directly on taxpayers.
- **Improved Government Efficiency:** Accurate digital maps streamline the work of the Assessors' Office, reducing time and resources spent on correcting outdated or incorrect data.
- **Better Planning and Development:** Updated maps support informed decisions for zoning, infrastructure projects, and emergency response, leading to smarter growth and safer neighborhoods.
- **Increased Property Value Confidence:** Homeowners and potential buyers are more confident in property records, supporting stable or rising home values and smoother real estate transactions.
- **Enhanced Transparency and Trust:** Modern, accessible property data helps the public understand assessments and reinforces trust in how tax dollars are determined and used.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** A one-time investment avoids future costs associated with legal challenges, inefficiencies, or emergency updates, ultimately saving money for the city and its taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Equipment for Community Sailing Program

Project Number: ARPA-18

Grant Term: 6/1/2022-6/31/2023

Eligibility Category: 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$75,155.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$75,155.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 2/1/2023

Project Summary

This initiative aims to improve programming quality, safety, maintenance, and long-term sustainability, ultimately supporting public health and youth development in Fall River. The program serves primarily youth aged 9–18, as well as families and retired adults, and is in one of the city's lowest-income census tracts, where over 60% of residents are classified as low-to-moderate income.

Funding will be used to replace aging sailboats with new, state-of-the-art models, upgrade the safety boat fleet, and acquire essential maintenance equipment. The program provides year-round educational and recreational opportunities that promote physical activity, leadership, teamwork, and emotional well-being—critical needs in the wake of COVID-19's disproportionate impact on the mental and social health of underserved youth and families. This investment supports equitable access to healthy, skill-building experiences that foster resilience and long-term wellness in a historically underserved community.

Resident Benefits

- **Youth Mental and Physical Health:** Provide safe, structured outdoor activities that support recovery from the emotional and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly among underserved youth.
- **Public Health Cost Reduction:** By promoting healthy lifestyles and early intervention through recreational programming, the initiative can help lower long-term public health expenses related to mental health, inactivity, and social isolation.
- **Community Engagement and Resilience:** The program fosters leadership, teamwork, and social skills, strengthening community ties and building a more connected, resilient population.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Serving a low-income and disproportionately impacted area, the program ensures equitable access to recreational and developmental opportunities for all residents, regardless of socioeconomic status.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Capital Improvements Traffic Signals & Cameras

Project Number: ARPA-19

Grant Term: 1/31/2023-1/31/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$75,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$224,884.11
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$224,884.11

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/29/2025

Project Summary

Fall River is investing in two key areas to enhance public safety and improve infrastructure. The funding will be used to purchase 10 cameras, strategically positioned in high-crime areas throughout the city. These cameras will assist the police in addressing the recent increase in crime, providing crucial surveillance to help identify suspects and improve public safety by aiding in the swift removal of offenders from the streets.

Additionally, this project includes critical upgrades to the City's traffic signal infrastructure. The Signal Division, responsible for maintaining 60 traffic signals, 5 intersection flashing signals, and 26 school zone signals, will address the aging condition of the traffic lights. The current LED modules, which typically have a 15–20-year lifespan, have begun to fail due to age and budget constraints. Replacing them with reused old LEDs has resulted in dimming lights that are less visible, posing a significant safety risk to both pedestrians and motorists. The project also includes replacing traffic signals that are at risk of detachment, as well as upgrading the system to include Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at 34 intersections that currently lack them, ensuring compliance with ADA accessibility standards.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Safety Enhancement:** The installation of surveillance cameras in high-crime areas will assist law enforcement in identifying and apprehending suspects, leading to safer neighborhoods and a reduction in crime. This improves residents' sense of security and promotes a safer environment for all.
- **Traffic Signal Upgrades:** Replacing aging and dimming traffic signals with new LED lights enhances visibility for both pedestrians and motorists, improving safety and reducing the risk of accidents, particularly in high-traffic and school zones.
- **ADA Accessibility Improvements:** Upgrading with Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) ensures compliance with ADA standards, making the city's streets safer and more accessible for individuals with disabilities.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** The improvements will help prevent costly emergency repairs and maintenance, ensuring the city's infrastructure remains functional and efficient, which ultimately reduces long-term costs for taxpayers.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** The APS upgrades foster a more inclusive community by providing safe and accessible crossings for individuals with disabilities, enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Capital Improvements Police Cruisers

Project Number: ARPA-19A

Grant Term: 1/31/2023-1/31/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$413,266.40
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$413,266.40

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Completion Date:** 4/22/2025

Project Summary

The objective is to support the Capital Improvement Plan and replace frontline marked police cruisers that have aged out and been filtered from Uniform Division to other units in the department (School Resource Officers, Motor Vehicle Unit, and Special Operations Division). Of the approximate 20 marked police cruisers in department, 17 are categorized as old or tired. The updated cruisers are less expensive to maintain, safer, and help to boost morale within the department. Further, the fleet of unmarked cruisers, which is currently sustainable and maintained as they are not used 24/7 or used under demanding circumstances as marked cruisers, does require 2 unmarked cruisers as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Funding also includes the purchase of two motorcycles which would update the current older fleet of motorcycles.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Emergency Response:** New cruisers help officers respond faster and more reliably to calls for service.
- **Saves Local Tax Dollars:** Using ARPA funds avoids burdening local taxpayers and reduces future repair and fuel costs.
- **Supports Officer Safety:** Modern vehicles come with better safety features and equipment to protect officers and improve service.
- **Builds Community Trust:** A well-equipped, professional-looking fleet improves public perception and strengthens community relations.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: On Stage Tuition Assistance

Project Number: ARPA-20

Grant Term: 6/1/2022-6/30/2023

Eligibility Category: 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$30,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$30,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/30/2022

Project Summary

The mission of On-Stage Theatrical Production's "Give Kids a Chance" program is to provide underserved children of Fall River a safer place for personal and technical growth through instruction and performance opportunities in the performing arts; and to create a community of peers, moderated and supported by experienced mentors, where children feel comfortable exploring their own creativity and striving for achievement.

Children participating in the performing arts benefit greatly-those benefits are often denied to children from families who struggle financially and cannot afford enrichment activities such as music or dance lessons. "Give Kids a Chance" provides lessons, practice clothing and shoes, costumes, and performance opportunities free of charge to children ages 6-18 from Fall River's low socio-economic backgrounds.

At On Stage, working professionals and long-time educators guide an extensive program of dance (ballet, tap, jazz), drama (public speaking, theater studies), music (voice and piano), and musical theater classes, setting high expectations for personal responsibility and commitment.

Funding provided scholarships to 30 children.

Resident Benefits

- **Community Enrichment:** Provides opportunities for underserved children to explore and develop their talents in the performing arts, fostering personal and artistic growth. This enriches the cultural landscape of Fall River and enhances the quality of life for all residents.
- **Access to Educational Opportunities:** By offering free lessons, costumes, and performance opportunities, the program ensures that children from low-income families have access to enriching educational experiences they otherwise might not afford, reducing barriers to participation in creative arts education.
- **Youth Development:** The program helps instill personal responsibility, discipline, and a sense of achievement in children. These skills can lead to positive life outcomes such as improved self-confidence, social skills, and academic performance.
- **Stronger Community Connections:** By creating a supportive environment where children from diverse backgrounds come together, the program fosters social cohesion and strengthens community ties. It encourages civic engagement and pride in local cultural initiatives.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Economic Impact:** Investing in youth programs like this one can contribute to the long-term economic health of the city. Children who have access to personal growth opportunities through the arts may develop into well-rounded adults who contribute positively to the local workforce and economy.
- **Reducing Social Inequality:** By offering these opportunities free of charge to children from low socio-economic backgrounds, the program addresses inequality and helps level the playing field for all children, giving them the chance to succeed regardless of their financial situation.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Retirement Buyout

Project Number: ARPA-21

Grant Term: 4/19/2023-4/19/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$270,361.71
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$270,361.71

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/3/2023

Project Summary

The retirement buyout for the Police Chief covers 80 hours of employment, recognizing his service from September 14, 1987, to January 6, 2023.

Resident Benefits

- **Fulfillment of Contractual and Ethical Obligations:** This cost is essential because it ensures the city meets its obligations to long-serving employees, demonstrating respect for their years of service.
- **Support for Workforce Morale:** By funding this buyout, the City reinforces its commitment to employees, which fosters positive morale among the workforces.
- **Preservation of the City's Credibility:** Funding this buyout upholds the City's reputation for honoring personnel agreements, ensuring trust in its management practices.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Improvements to Fall River Library

Project Number: ARPA-22

Grant Term: 6/14/2022-9/30/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$816,925.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$119,867.80

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2026

Project Summary

The Fall River Public Library is undertaking two key improvement projects: Water Infiltration Repairs and Boiler Replacement, aimed at maintaining and enhancing library services for the community, especially following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Water Infiltration Repairs:

- **Repointing Work:** Removal and reinstallation of proper masonry grout on the western façade.
- **Parapet Cornice Work:** Reinstallation of flashing, cornice stone, and cap.
- **Interior Work:** Removal of moisture-damaged plaster and installation of moisture mitigation measures.

2. Boiler Replacement:

- **Replacement of the outdated boiler system,** which is inefficient and requires constant repairs, to improve energy efficiency and ensure continued operations.

Resident Benefits

- **Enhanced Building Infrastructure:** The Water Infiltration Repairs and Boiler Replacement will address critical structural issues in the library, ensuring the building remains safe and functional for public use. These repairs will prevent further damage, reducing future maintenance costs and preserving the library's historical value.
- **Improved Energy Efficiency:** The Boiler Replacement will upgrade the heating system, making it more energy efficient. This will lower energy consumption, ultimately reducing operational costs and helping the city save taxpayer money in the long run.
- **Continued Access to Essential Services:** These improvements will allow the library to maintain its essential role as a community hub, offering free services and resources such as e-books, audiobooks, educational programs, and meeting spaces. Ensuring the library remains open and functional supports local education and lifelong learning for all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Support for Low-Income Families:** Fall River has a high percentage of low-to-moderate-income households, and these improvements directly benefit those most in need. By keeping the library in operation, residents have continued access to valuable resources, such as books, digital media, and community programs, all at no cost to them.
- **Stability and Growth of Public Services:** The improvements ensure the library can continue offering services to all residents. This stability supports local education, health, and welfare programs, benefiting vulnerable populations who rely on public services.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** By addressing the library's aging infrastructure now, the city can avoid more costly repairs and potential service disruptions in the future. Investing in these improvements helps ensure that taxpayer money is spent efficiently, benefiting the community in both the short and long term.
- **Continued Library Accessibility:** The library is the only one serving the City of Fall River. These improvements ensure the library remains accessible and functional for all residents, ensuring equitable access to library resources and services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: South Coast Creative Arts Lab

Project Number: ARPA-23

Grant Term: 7/25/2022-6/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$199,360.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$119,867.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 6/2025

Project Summary

The South Coast Creative Arts Lab (SCCAL) is a hands-on out-of-school program designed to support Fall River youth, particularly those from low-income households, by providing safe, arts-based learning opportunities. The program, running from September to May, will engage 7th-8th grade students from Fall River's middle schools in visual and performing arts, including art, music, and dance. Held at The Narrows Center for the Arts, SCCAL offers a structured, two-hour session twice a week, led by professional educators. Students will gain confidence, enhance communication skills, and improve academic performance through interactive, creative lessons that foster critical thinking and problem-solving.

The program aims to provide accessible arts education to youth who otherwise lack exposure to such opportunities, particularly in high-need communities. Participants will also benefit from a supportive, inclusive environment designed to boost self-esteem and build a love for learning.

The program will be free for students, with transportation and meals provided. Over two years, SCCAL will positively impact the mental health, creativity, and academic engagement of participants, fostering lasting benefits into adulthood.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Educational Outcomes:** SCCAL promotes creativity and critical thinking, boosting students' academic performance and school engagement. These enhanced outcomes help build a more educated and skilled workforce, reducing strain on the public education system and benefiting the community in the long term.
- **Support for Low-Income Families:** By offering free arts education to low-income youth, SCCAL addresses the gap in access to quality learning opportunities, promoting equity and helping families who may otherwise struggle to afford such programs.
- **Strengthened Community Engagement:** The program offers a safe, inclusive space for youth to connect, fostering a sense of belonging and reducing social isolation. This contributes to safer neighborhoods, lower crime rates, and increased civic involvement, which ultimately benefits taxpayers by reducing social and public safety costs.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Long-Term Economic Benefits:** Through the development of critical skills such as problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration, SCCAL prepares students for future careers in diverse industries. This strengthens the local workforce and makes Fall River a more attractive location for businesses, contributing to long-term economic growth.
- **Reduced Strain on Other Social Services:** By addressing the academic and mental health challenges that youth face, especially post-pandemic, SCCAL helps prevent the need for other social services such as mental health counseling or after-school programs, reducing the overall burden on taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: New Food Pantry Delivery Truck

Project Number: ARPA-24

Grant Term: 8/1/2022-8/1/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$70,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$70,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 2/16/2023

Project Summary

The objective is to replace the old, high maintenance truck with a new refrigerated, insulated truck that meets the Boston Food Bank's dock height requirement. As a result, VABC will be able to pick up significantly more food each week and therefore able to provide more veterans and their families with food. The truck being purchased with these funds will allow VABC to meet the increasing demand for food from veterans and their families.

The total number of veterans and families served in 2022 was 3932 and the number served in 2023 rose to 4479.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Service Capacity:** The new truck allows VABC to pick up more food each week, which helps meet the increasing demand from veterans and their families. By improving food distribution, the program ensures that more individuals receive essential support, reducing food insecurity in the community.
- **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** This initiative directly addresses the needs of a vulnerable population. By ensuring veterans and their families have reliable access to food, the program enhances public health and well-being, which ultimately reduces strain on other social services, benefiting taxpayers.
- **Cost Efficiency:** The new refrigerated truck is more efficient and has lower maintenance costs than the old vehicle. This improves operational efficiency, reducing long-term costs for the organization and ensuring that more of the resources go directly to serving veterans and their families.
- **Strengthening the Community:** By providing consistent and reliable food distribution, the program contributes to community stability and reduces the social strain caused by food insecurity. This benefits taxpayers by supporting a healthier, more stable population and reducing the need for emergency social services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Retro Pay

Project Number: ARPA-25

Grant Term: 6/30/2022-6/30/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$800,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$803,786.51
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$803,786.51

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/13/2024

Project Summary

Retro pay is compensation that an employee receives for work they have already performed but were underpaid due to delays in reaching a collective bargaining agreement. Funding was used to cover FY22 backpay that accrued during contract negotiations for collective bargaining agreement. 339 city employees were compensated from these funds.

Resident Benefits

- **Reduced Financial Burden on the City Budget:** Using federal funding avoids the city from having to dip into budget or increase taxes to pay the back wages. Thus, helping to maintain fiscal stability and credit ratings, which can reduce borrowing costs in the long term.
- **Avoid Cuts to Services:** using federal funds ensures that the city does not need to cut services to cover the cost of labor. Thus, allowing for all services provided by the city to continue without interruption and disruption to the residents.
- **Maintains Workforce Morale & Stability:** Paying back wages helps to preserve a fair and respectful relationship with public employees. A satisfied and stable workforce means better public safety, improved city services, and less turnover in employees.
- **Promotes Equity & Labor Fairness:** Ensures that city employees are fairly compensated for the time worked, which aligns with values of fairness and justice in public employment. Further, it prevents future legal liabilities or lawsuits related to unpaid wages. It demonstrates that the city is committed to honoring its agreements and treating workers justly, which builds trust among employees and residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Influenza Vaccines

Project Number: ARPA-26

Grant Term: 9/27/2022-9/27/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$8,265.39
- **Amended Budget:** \$7,434.39
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$7,434.39

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 9/27/2022

Project Summary

The funds were used to purchase 2022/2023 seasonal influenza (flu) vaccines (high dose for 65+ and traditional dose) and supplies necessary to distribute vaccines, for the use by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic protecting healthcare system capacity has been and continues to be paramount. As we move forward in the pandemic, viruses such as influenza will continue to circulate alongside COVID-19. It is therefore critical, that as our COVID-19 vaccinations continue as a community, the city also prioritize easy access to the flu vaccine. Receiving the flu vaccine is the best way reduce illness and hospitalization, doctors' visits, and loss of work. This is particularly important for individuals 65+ and those who may be at risk for severe disease. As The purchase of seasonal flu vaccines for the 2022/2023 season will allow for our City Public Health Nurses to provide onsite vaccinations at the four Fall River Council on Aging locations. In addition, we will also offer vaccines for City Employee's and the public as supply allows.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Health:** Providing flu vaccines helps reduce the spread of illness, especially for vulnerable groups like those aged 65+ and high-risk individuals, easing pressure on local healthcare facilities.
- **Lower Healthcare Costs:** Flu vaccinations prevent doctor visits, hospitalizations, and medical treatments, saving money for both individuals and taxpayers by reducing healthcare expenses.
- **Enhanced Workforce Productivity:** Offering flu vaccines to city employees helps keep essential workers healthy and reduces absenteeism, ensuring continued public services and fewer disruptions.
- **Economic Stability:** Making vaccines available at multiple locations, including Council on Aging sites, reduces illness and minimizes lost productivity, benefiting the local economy.
- **Stronger Community Health:** Prioritizing easy access to the vaccine boosts public health and trust in health programs, helping to keep the community safer from both flu and COVID-19.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Listen to your Art

Project Number: ARPA-27

Grant Term: 9/29/2022-9/29/2024

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Other

1.14 Other Public Health Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$12,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$12,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 8/15/2023

Project Summary

"Listen to Your Art" is an art therapy program designed to support the mental health and well-being of Fall River youth, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. With increased mental health concerns among students, including anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, the program uses artistic expression to help youth explore their emotions, build coping skills, and strengthen their sense of self.

The program will offer art classes led by local artists, providing students with supplies and instruction. Classes will include a social-emotional learning component to help students connect with their emotions and challenges. Students will engage in creative projects that encourage self-expression, aimed at reducing anxiety, stress, and depression. At the end of the program, an exhibit will showcase the students' work at The Narrows Center for the Arts.

This initiative not only supports youth mental health but also provides local artists with a meaningful opportunity to teach and earn income. By combining art, emotional support, and community engagement, "Listen to Your Art" aims to make a positive impact on the well-being of Fall River's youth.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Youth Mental Health:** The program helps students manage stress, anxiety, and depression through creative expression, addressing the growing mental health concerns exacerbated by the pandemic. By providing an outlet for emotional expression, the program improves overall well-being, which can lead to reduced long-term mental health care costs for the community.
- **Stronger, Healthier Community:** By supporting local artists and integrating art with social-emotional learning, the program creates a sense of community and well-being. It strengthens the social fabric by fostering resilience in youth, reducing the likelihood of future social and behavioral issues, and promoting healthier future generations.
- **Support for Local Artists:** The program provides financial opportunities for local artists, helping to sustain the local economy and support cultural enrichment in the community, which can have lasting economic benefits for residents and taxpayers.
- **Educational Benefits:** The program helps students improve their emotional well-being, which leads to better behavior and focus on school. When students are better able to manage their

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

emotions, they are less likely to struggle with issues like absenteeism, disruptions, or disciplinary actions. This results in fewer resources needed for intervention programs, counseling, and special education services. By preventing these issues, the program helps reduce the overall costs associated with managing behavioral and emotional challenges in the school system.

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Project Name: Electric Vehicles

Project Number: ARPA-28

Grant Term: 11/15/2022-11/15/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provisions of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$47,480.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$47,622.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$47,621.70

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 11/28/2022

Project Summary

Funding used to buy out the lease on four Electric Nissan 2019 Vehicles to be used by the Fire Department.

Resident Benefits

- **Cost Savings:** The buyout prevents the city from continuing to pay ongoing lease costs, resulting in long-term savings. By owning the vehicles outright, the city avoids future leasing expenses, which can free up funds for other essential public services.
- **Environmental Benefits:** The use of electric vehicles reduces the city's carbon footprint, aligning with sustainability goals and improving air quality. This is particularly beneficial for residents who are concerned about environmental impacts and public health.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Electric vehicles offer lower maintenance costs compared to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. With fewer moving parts and the absence of oil changes or exhaust systems, the Fire Department can save on maintenance and repair costs, ensuring more funds are allocated to vital public services.
- **Improved Public Safety:** Having a dedicated fleet of electric vehicles enhances the Fire Department's ability to respond quickly to emergencies, reducing response times. Additionally, with electric vehicles, noise levels are reduced, which can be beneficial in residential areas.
- **Taxpayer-Friendly Investment:** By utilizing ARPA funds for this purchase, the city avoids raising taxes or diverting funds from other critical services to cover the cost of leasing or purchasing new vehicles.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Tasers

Project Number: ARPA-29

Grant Term: 10/6/2022-10/6/2026

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$122,925.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$122,925.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/27/2023

Project Summary

The objective is to upgrade thirty-three tasers to allow officers a safety benefit in dangerous situations and not requiring them to reload. Further, upgraded tasers are compatible with body cameras and automatically activates “record” mode, whenever taser is powered on. Additionally, the equipment can plot geographical data where a deployment occurred.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Officer & Civilian Safety:** Tasers can help to de-escalate situations where verbal negotiation fails, and physical restraint would be risky to both officers and suspects.
- **Reduction in the Use of Deadly Force:** Tasers offer non-lethal alternatives to firearms, reducing the likelihood of fatal encounters and improving community safety.
- **Enhanced Public Trust:** Residents may view the use of tasers as a more compassionate method of law enforcement thus improving police-community relations. Taser use is documented and reviewed promoting transparency.
- **Cost-Effective Long-Term:** Non-lethal encounters are less likely to result in lawsuits or settlements for wrongful death or excessive force. While taser-related medical costs tend to be less compared to gunshots or physical injuries.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Premium Pay

Project Number: ARPA-30

Grant Term: 10/1/2022-10/1/2023

Eligibility Category: 4: Premium Pay
4.1 Public Sector Employees

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,036,500.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,991,871.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$1,991,871.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/19/2023

Project Summary

Premium Pay Guidelines

AFSCME Local 3177 *(also followed by non-union/management employees)*

In recognition and appreciation of the work performed by unit members during the pandemic, the City will remit a one-time payment to each member of the bargaining unit in the amount of two thousand five-hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) payable upon verification of eligibility. This shall be paid to any member of the unit who was a member anytime between March 10, 2020 and May 3, 2021, and who was still actively employed and working on July 1, 2022, or retired.

AFSCME Local 1202

In recognition and appreciation of the work performed and health risks incurred by unit members during the pandemic; the City will remit a one-time payment to each member of the bargaining unit in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) payable upon verification of eligibility. This shall be paid to any member of the unit who was a member anytime between March 10, 2020 and May 3, 2021, and who was still actively employed and working on July 1, 2022, or retired.

General Teamsters Local 251

In recognition and appreciation of the work performed by unit members during the pandemic, the City will remit a one-time payment to each member of the bargaining unit in the amount of two thousand five-hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) payable upon verification of eligibility. This shall be paid to any member of the unit who was a member anytime between March 10, 2020 and May 3, 2021, and who was still actively employed and working on July 1, 2022, or retired.

LAW Local 124

In recognition and appreciation of the work performed by unit members during the pandemic, the City will remit a one-time payment to each member of the bargaining unit in the amount of two thousand five-hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) payable upon verification of eligibility. This shall be paid to any member of

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

the unit who was a member anytime between March 10, 2020 and May 3, 2021, and who was still actively employed and working on July 1, 2022, or retired.

Fall River Police Association, MCOP Local 1854

Officers employed as a Fall River Police Officer at any time from March 1, 2020, through March 1, 2021, shall receive a one-time stipend of \$3,000.00 in recognition of the officers' continuing to perform their duties as front-line workers, who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors. To be eligible for said payment, employees must either be on active status as of the funding of this agreement or have retired from the Fall River Police Department in good standing prior to said date, and be receiving pension payments pursuant to General Laws, c. 32.

The Parties further agree that if the City agrees to pay members of the Fall River Police Superior Officers' Association, MCOP Local 1844 or the Fall River Firefighters, Local 1314, a one-time premium bonus for service during the COVID-19 Pandemic in excess of three thousand dollars, this Agreement shall be reopened for the sole and limited purpose of bargaining over such premium or bonus for the members of this Union.

Superior Officers MCOP Local 1844

In recognition and appreciation of the work performed and health risks incurred by unit members during the pandemic; the City will remit a one-time payment to each member of the bargaining unit in the amount of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars payable in the payroll following funding of this MOA by the City. This shall be paid to any member of the unit who was a member anytime between March 10, 2020 through the funding of this Agreement.

The Parties further agree that if the City agrees to pay members of the Fall River Police Association, MassCop 1854, or the Fall River Firefighters, Local 1314 a one-time premium or bonus for service during the COVID-19 Pandemic in excess of three thousand dollars, this Agreement shall be re-opened for the sole and limited purpose of bargaining over such a premium or bonus for the members of this Union.

Resident Benefits

- **Retention and Support of Essential Workers:** Premium pay helps to retain essential workers in critical roles during the pandemic. By offering extra compensation, employees feel valued, turnover is reduced, and the city maintains experienced and skilled personnel, which leads to better services for residents.
- **Improved Public Services:** When employees are motivated and compensated, they are more inclined to provide consistent, high-quality services which directly impacts residents by maintaining/improving the quality of life in the city.
- **Morale and Public Trust:** Recognizing essential employees with premium pay can increase morale and demonstrate that the city values their contributions. Thus, building trust between residents and the administration.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Strategic Tourism Plan

Project Number: ARPA-31

Grant Term: 9/9/2022-9/9/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Non-Profits
2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$670,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$582,306.40
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$582,306.40

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 9/17/2024

Project Summary

The City of Fall River utilized ARPA funds to hire an external consultant to develop a comprehensive Strategic Tourism Plan. This plan aims to enhance the city's economic vitality by focusing on targeted marketing and promotional strategies designed to attract visitors, stimulate local businesses, and improve the overall tourism infrastructure. Key initiatives within the plan include developing a cohesive city brand, promoting local events, and improving key tourist assets, all contributing to the city's growth and public image.

Following the hiring of the consultant, data was collected in key areas such as visitor spending patterns, local business performance, and infrastructure needs. This data was carefully analyzed to make informed decisions about where to focus efforts, including prioritizing improvements in transportation, public amenities, and event planning. By using this data-driven approach, the city identified target areas for economic growth, ensuring that investments were made in ways that benefit both residents and visitors.

Ultimately, the Strategic Tourism Plan will not only enhance Fall River's tourism and economic development but also strengthen local businesses, improve community identity, and foster sustainable growth in the city's tourism sector.

As a result of this funding, the following was accomplished:

COLLATERAL:

- Creation of "Embrace Fall River" tourism brochure in 3 languages. Local distribution to over 50 area attractions and restaurants with a prominent kiosk inside the carousel building. Printed and distributed 20,000 brochures in 2 years (via CTM Media: Upper Cape, TF Green Airport, Rhode Island Hotels, Southern MA Southcoast Hotels, South of Boston & Seacoast Hotels, Off Cape Plymouth, Eastern CT)
- Creation of 3 Focused Rack Cards (includes culinary, recreation and attractions/history). Printed and distributed 4,000 Focused Rack Cards, locally and at events and tradeshow.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

ADS:

- SEMA Visitors Guide (2 Years)
 - 50,000 copies distributed throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
- USA Today – Northeast Travel Guide (2 Years)
 - 100,000 copies distributed throughout the Northeastern United States
 - 100 million monthly impressions USATODAY.com
- The Bay Summertime Guide (1 Year)
 - 60,000 circulations
- National Geographic UK “USA Special 2024 Supplement” (1 Year)
 - Print reach 150,000+
 - Magazine subscribers 20,000+
 - Newsletter subscribers 44,000+
- Bon Appetite (1 Year)
 - Targeted sub copies (Boston, Hartford, New Haven, New London) 17,000 copies for the May and June 2024 issues
- Yankee Magazine (2 Years)
 - Co-op ad
 - 1.3M print audience
- Cape Cod Visitors “Best Read” Guide (1 Year)
 - Cape-wide coverage 125,000 copies
- New England Visitor Fun Map (1 Year)
 - New England 80,000 copies

MEDIA:

- Boston Commuter Rail
 - 2 Sheet Interior Posters (Attleboro and Middleboro Lines)/South Station Posters
- 30 Minute Episode “Explore New England”
 - A regional travel & tourism television series (released on NESN, Roku & YouTube)
- Radio Spots
 - 92PRO FM, LITE105, FUN107, The Public’s Radio (NPR), CAT Country
- TV/Digital
 - WJAR-10, WPRI-12
- GoogleAds
 - General advertising for tourism
- Digital Billboards
 - Located north of Boston
 - “See More off 24”
- Social Media Ad Campaigns
- Newsletter Advertising
- Print Media via Press Outreach

TROLLEY:

- Creation of a 12-stop route with wayfinding signage and audio tours with detailed landing pages for a full 360 experience
- 1 on-board audio tour for a complete loop experience
- 6 walking audio tours accessed using a QR code on stop signage, allowing people to learn the history of each neighborhood and accessible attractions

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

WEBSITE:

- Comprehensive inventory of all food establishments and area businesses in specific categories, that is easily searchable
- Extensive blog and video content
- Self-guided itineraries for different traveler segments
- See More Off 24 “Hidden Gems” campaign and webpage
- Latin American Food Tour and Ice Cream Tour

RESTAURANT WEEK:

- Doubled the number of restaurants from the first year
- Average of 20,000 page views (each year) for 2023-2024
- Extensive promotional/media efforts and regional visibility

PRESENCE AT TOURISM CONFERENCES AND EVENTS:

- The Big E – with the MA Office and Travel & Tourism
- Governor’s Conference on Travel & Tourism
- Discover New England International Tour Operator Showcase

Resident Benefits

- **Economic Development and Job Creation:** Investing in a strategic tourism plan helps stimulate local businesses and create job opportunities. The development of new roles, as well as increased activity during tourism-focused events, supports local employment and strengthens the local economy, which benefits residents through job growth and improved business opportunities.
- **Increased Local Revenue:** A targeted tourism strategy attracts more visitors to the area, boosting spending in local businesses such as restaurants, retail, and accommodations. This increased activity contributes to the city's tax revenue, directly benefiting taxpayers and supporting the city's economic health.
- **Enhanced City Identity and Public Pride:** A well-defined tourism plan helps to enhance the city's image and public perception, drawing attention to its unique culture, history, and attractions. This not only attracts visitors but also fosters local pride, as residents see their city gain recognition as a desirable destination.
- **Improved Infrastructure and Resources:** Tourism investments often lead to improvements in public spaces and infrastructure, such as enhancing key assets and ensuring the city is more accessible and welcoming. These upgrades benefit both residents and visitors, improving the overall quality of life and the city's long-term viability as a tourist destination.
- **Sustainability and Long-Term Growth:** By focusing on a variety of tourism segments and developing year-round campaigns, the city can attract a steady flow of visitors throughout the year. This promotes long-term economic stability and reduces reliance on seasonal tourism, benefiting both the local community and taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Administration of Strategic Tourism Plan

Project Number: ARPA-31A

Grant Term: 10/1/2024-12/11/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Non-Profits
2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$271,500.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$53,314.04

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/11/2026

Project Summary

ARPA-31 Strategic Tourism Plan, funded through APRA, allowed the City of Fall River to successfully create and implement a Strategic Tourism Plan. The contract, which was signed in September 2022, created an Event Coordinator position within the City of Fall River and employed a Project Lead to oversee the contractual obligations of ARPA-31. The grant agreement term expired in September 2024.

The Strategic Tourism Plan was impactful to the City of Fall River and the administration recognized the importance of creating meaningful events throughout the city, engaging the community, while drawing in those from outside the city, and the necessity of outreach through social media management, digital content creation, visitor services, and press relations.

To ensure the continued success of the Strategic Tourism Plan and allow for events to continue and new creative signature events and marketing can be created and implemented, it is imperative that funding be used to continue to administer the plan. The Event Coordinator position assists vendors, by helping to navigate the process to register for approval to host events and/or participate in events. The position which was created in April 2023 also is responsible for planning and organizing all the events offered by the city each year. The Project Lead will segway into a Visitor Engagement/Tourism Consultant that will be responsible for continuing develop a “Tourism Roadmap,” marketing and promotion, press relations/visibility, relationship building, infrastructure development, manage an advertising campaign for the City of Fall River.

Resident Benefits

- **Smarter Investments in Local Infrastructure:** By understanding where tourists and residents spend money, city leaders can improve key areas like transportation, beautification, and safety. Additionally, hosting city-wide events can attract visitors and boost local spending, creating a vibrant atmosphere that benefits both residents and tourists. These events help foster a sense of community, encourage spending in local businesses, and enhance the overall quality of life for everyone.
- **Economic Development & Job Creation:** Data-driven tourism strategies can attract more visitors and keep them in the city longer, boosting local business revenue. This growth often

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

means more job opportunities for residents, increased support for small businesses, and expansion of local services.

- **Enhanced Community Pride & Identity:** A well-crafted tourism strategy often involves promoting the unique character, history, and culture of the city. Residents may gain a deeper appreciation for their community, while also enjoying improved cultural and recreational offerings.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Medical Rescue Vehicle

Project Number: ARPA-32

Grant Term: 9/6/2022-9/6/2024

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$366,660.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$366,660.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 9/27/2022

Project Summary

The goal of this project is to replace the outdated medical rescue vehicle at the Globe Street Station, ensuring a more reliable and efficient response to 911 medical emergencies. The new vehicle will be equipped with a state-of-the-art HEPA filter air purification system, designed to filter out COVID-19 and other pathogens. This advanced system enhances safety by protecting both patients and medical personnel, reducing the risk of virus transmission within the patient compartment.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Emergency Response Times:** A new medical rescue vehicle means faster and more reliable response times to emergencies, which can save lives by ensuring residents receive care more quickly.
- **Enhances Public Health and Safety:** Provides on-site care during emergencies, thus, reducing the strain on hospitals by stabilizing patients before arrival and supporting the ability to respond during public health crisis.
- **Long-Term Cost Benefits:** Helps reduce long-term EMS costs by replacing an aging unit prone to mechanical failures and costly repairs. Requires less maintenance, has advanced technology that improves operational efficiency, and enhances the overall reliability of the fleet. This leads to lower repair expenses, fewer service interruptions, and better resource allocation for EMS, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent more effectively over time.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Storefront Façade Improvement Reimbursement Program

Project Number: ARPA-33

Grant Term: 10/1/2022-7/1/2025

Eligibility Category:

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$300,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$878,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$837,634.21

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 5/2025

Project Summary

The purpose of this program, which may be prioritized year-to-year, is to support maximum private investment in Fall River properties, and includes:

- Maximizing the total private and public investment in the City's downtown and neighborhood commercial districts.
- Restoring downtown storefronts and beautifying downtown properties.
- Planning and implementing public physical improvements, such as general signage, wayfaring, and/or street furniture, consistent with downtown zones.
- Strengthen local business.
- Reduce vacancies in storefronts and upper floors.
- Provide a catalyst for others to improve their buildings, signs and awnings.

Resident Benefits

- **Maximizing Private and Public Investment:** Funding this program increased private and public investment in the Flint neighborhood commercial district, driving economic growth and revitalization.
- **Restoring and Beautifying Downtown Properties:** By restoring storefronts and beautifying properties, the program enhances the visual appeal of the Flint area, making it more attractive to both businesses and visitors.
- **Strengthening Local Businesses:** This program strengthens local businesses by reducing storefront vacancies and improving the business environment, leading to long-term sustainability and growth in the community.
- **Encouraging Additional Improvements:** Providing a catalyst for others to enhance their properties, including buildings, signs, and awnings, promotes a ripple effect of improvements across the area, further boosting property values and local economic activity.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Tree Planting and Stump Removal Program

Project Number: ARPA-34

Grant Term: 10/24/2022-10/24/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households:
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,200,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$801,106.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$607,331.81

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 10/2026

Project Summary

The purpose of the program is to remove stumps from parks, sidewalks, and other areas throughout the city and plant 350 trees throughout the city, as well as enhancing the City's urban tree canopy by planting additional trees during four planting seasons on private property within 20 feet of the public right of way.

The benefit of planting trees throughout the City is not only to beautify public/private property, but they provide shade, aid in the remediation of the heat island effect, assist in traffic calming, mitigate water runoff, and enhance property values.

Resident Benefits

- **Beautification:** Freshly planted trees and cleared spaces make neighborhoods look cleaner, greener, and more inviting.
- **Property Values:** Areas with healthy trees and attractive streetscapes often see higher property values.
- **Environmental Health:** New trees help improve air quality by filtering pollutants and producing oxygen.
- **Climate Resilience:** Trees offer shade that cools the city, reducing the "heat island" effect and lowering energy costs.
- **Stormwater Management:** Trees and their roots absorb rainwater, reducing runoff and lowering the risk of floods.
- **Wildlife Habitat:** Trees support local wildlife, from birds to pollinators, boosting urban biodiversity.
- **Public Safety:** Removing old stumps eliminates trip hazards and can deter pests that like to live in decaying wood.
- **Community Pride:** Residents often feel a stronger sense of pride and ownership in areas that are green, well-maintained, and thriving.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: GovInvest Software

Project Number: ARPA-35

Grant Term: 1/5/2023-5/5/2025

Eligibility Category: 3.5: Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$94,375.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$66,875.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$66,875.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 9/18/2024

Project Summary

Technology infrastructure to assist municipal governments in forecasting revenues and expenditures and provide real-time projections to allow for informed decisions for years to come. The platform provides accurate analysis with enhanced transparency. This technology elevates and expedites the whole process of planning, forecasting and budgeting by eliminating old outdated systems, increasing accuracy for decision making, automating the forecasting and scenario planning process, increasing transparency and trust across departments with visual graphs, and projecting labor costs with instant analysis and measuring changes in workforce.

The technology was not as helpful to the finance team as they had hoped and understood it to be. To ensure that funds could be reallocated to another project that would provide more support and greater value to the City of Fall River this contract was amended and reduced.

Resident Benefits

The intent in purchasing GovInvest software was to improve how the City handles municipal planning, budgeting, and financial analysis. Thus, benefiting residents in a few important ways:

- **Smarter Use of Taxpayer Money:** Software allowing city officials to make better decisions through clear, detailed models of future expenses, allows for planning budgets more accurately with less waste and more effective use of residents' taxes.
- **Better Long-Term Planning:** Software allows city officials to forecast years into the future and see how decisions made in one fiscal year will impact finances over time. This leads to more stable services without surprise budget cuts down the road.
- **Increased Transparency:** Software allows for the sharing of simplified reports that can be shared with the public, allowing residents to see budget, thus building trust between the city and community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: COVID Healthcare Expenditures

Project Number: ARPA-36

Grant Term: 12/20/2022-12/20/2023

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
1.6 Medical Expenses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$602,224.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$602,224.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$602,224.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/22/2022

Project Summary

The City of Fall River is contracted with the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) to insure the City's public employees. During the COVID-19 pandemic BCBSMA provided documentation of expenditures that the City of Fall River funded to pay COVID related healthcare expenses during FY22. These expenditures were related to employees, retirees, and family members covered under the City's healthcare plan. ARPA Funds were used to compensate the City of Fall River for the unexpected COVID costs to BCBSMA. The funding covered 38% of the COVID related healthcare expenses during FY22.

Resident Benefits

- **Stable Public Services:** By preventing budget shortfalls in essential city departments, services that residents rely on remain uninterrupted.
- **Avoiding Tax Increases:** If the city absorbs these costs using available funds, it may reduce the need for sudden tax increases or additional fees that would otherwise be passed on to residents.
- **Stronger Public Workforce:** Supporting the healthcare needs of public employees ensure they stay healthy, reducing absenteeism and maintaining an efficient workforce that serves the community.
- **Economic Stability:** By managing these unexpected costs responsibly, the city can prevent cuts to local programs, business incentives, or infrastructure projects that contribute to economic growth.
- **Public Health Benefits:** Ensuring that city workers have adequate healthcare during a public health crisis helps prevent further disease spread, indirectly protecting residents.
- **Maintaining City Creditworthiness:** If the city manages its budget effectively without excessive borrowing, it preserves its credit rating, which helps secure future funding for important projects at lower interest rates.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Municipal Website Project

Project Number: ARPA-37

Grant Term: 11/30/2023-11/30/2024

Eligibility Category: 3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity
General Provisions

3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$50,349.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$30,378.17
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$30,378.17

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/26/2024

Project Summary

The City of Fall River underwent a complete redesign of the municipal website. The focus was to rebrand and redesign the website to make it more welcoming, user friendly, accessible to all, easy to navigate and to streamline processes online.

During the pandemic when employees were forced to work from home and residents throughout the city remained isolated at home and unable to come to Government Center, that if more information was provided online, in different languages and processes were put in place, that could be accomplished remotely, the employees and residents of the City of Fall River would be benefit immensely.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Access to Information:** Residents can easily find important updates (road closures/emergency alerts) and public services are available 24/7.
- **Convenience and Efficiency:** Online payments for utilities, taxes and permits save time and reduce the need for in-person visits. Digital forms and applications streamline processes for licenses, permits, and events. As well as requests for graffiti removal, street light outages and public records requests.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** A centralized events calendar helps to keep residents informed of local events.
- **Better Communication:** A user-friendly design ensures that residents of all ages can navigate the site with ease.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Access to city council meetings, agendas, and budgets improve government transparency and allows residents to be fully informed.
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Features like screen reader compatibility, translation options, and mobile responsiveness ensure accessibility for all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Non-Profit Assistance Program

Project Number: ARPA-38

Grant Term: 11/30/2022-11/30/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Assistance to Non-Profits
2.34: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,000,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$307,732.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$306,685.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 11/4/2024

Project Summary

The purpose of the Non-Profit Assistance Program was to help the City of Fall River's non-profit organizations that faced significant challenges due to the pandemic. This includes the increased demand of services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations/fees. Non-profit organizations eligible for these funds that are up to \$50,000, are those that experienced negative economic impact or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "non-profit"-specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.

The program funded the following eight non-profit organizations within the City of Fall River:

1. Children's Museum of Greater Fall River
ARPA-38A
Revenue Restoration
\$50,000.00
2. Angel's Anonymous
ARPA-38B
Food Pantry Stabilization
\$32,732.00
3. YEAH Corps Inc.
ARPA-38C
Creative Pathways to Success for Fall River Youth
\$50,000.00
4. On Stage Productions, Inc.
ARPA-38D
Leap and Learn Program
\$20,000.00

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

5. Forever Paws
ARPA-38E
Fence Improvement Project
\$28,955.00
6. Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
ARPA-38F
Food Pantry Assistance
\$50,000.00
7. Creative Art Network, Inc.
ARPA-38G
Hortensia Project-Hydrangea Planting
\$24,988.58
8. U.S.S. Massachusetts Memorial Committee, Inc.
ARPA-38H
ADA Accessible Virtual Tour
\$50,000.00

Resident Benefits

- **Preserves Essential Services:** Non-profit organizations lost revenue during the pandemic, and as result, many had to cut programs, staff, and services. Restoring their financial health allows organizations to continue or even expand services that residents depend upon.
- **Maintains Jobs:** Non-profits organizations employ residents, including not only administrative staff, but also social workers, counselors, artists, and program coordinators. Assisting financially helps to project the jobs and income brought to local families.
- **Keeps Community Support Strong:** When non-profits organizations have stable funding, they can respond quickly to future emergencies. This helps make sure residents still have access to these services and resources.
- **Boosts the Local Economy and Quality of Life:** Non-profits organizations contribute to the city's cultural life through art, music, and history programs. They also attract visitors and donors. A lively cultural scene and strong social services make the city a better place to live, work, and raise a family which benefits all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Air Quality Improvements

Project Number: ARPA-39

Grant Term: 2/1/2023- 5/1/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention
1.4: Prevention in Congregate Settings

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$234,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$340,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$233,490.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/31/2025

Project Summary

The objective is to improve air quality for the first responders within the fire department. Specifically, by upgrading to a mini-split AC unit system in Stanley, Candeias, Niagara, and Central stations, there will be significant improvements to the indoor air quality and will decrease the risk of illness in first responders. The system will filter out materials such as dirt, dust, debris, mold spores, and various other harmful bacteria and allergens. Furthermore, the funding will include breathing air compressors for Center, North and Flint stations to have quality respiratory protections for first responders.

Resident Benefits

- **Health Benefits for First Responders:** Cleaner air reduces the risk of respiratory illnesses and long-term health issues among firefighters; many of whom are residents of the city they serve.
- **Community Benefits:** Keeping firefighters healthy ensures faster emergency response times, higher quality of service, and a stronger sense of community, as many first responders also live in and care deeply about the neighborhoods they protect.
- **Facility and Equipment Protection:** Improved air quality will preserve the integrity of the fire stations and extend the lifespan of critical emergency equipment.
- **Financial Benefits for Taxpayers:** Funding the upgrades through ARPA, as opposed to city's general budget, avoids additional costs to local taxpayers and protects city resources for other essential services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: City Docks

Project Number: ARPA-40

Grant Term: 1/31/2023-1/31/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$9,500.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$9,500.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/10/2023

Project Summary

The purchase of eight wooden floating docks allowed the City of Fall River to extend the existing docks located in the waterfront at Bicentennial Park. This allowed boaters to have the ability to safely attach to docks and create an active and convenient waterfront.

Resident Benefits

- **Recreational Opportunities:** Allow activities like boating, kayaking, fishing, which make the area more attractive for leisure and exercise.
- **Economic Boost:** Docks attract visitors, increasing business for local restaurants, shops and tourism-related industries. This can lead to job creation and a stronger local economy.
- **Improved Water Access:** Public docks allow more residents to engage with the water, even those who do not own waterfront property, promoting inclusiveness.
- **Community Engagement:** Waterfront docks create spaces for social events, festivals, and gatherings, strengthening community bonds.
- **Increased Property Values:** A vibrant and accessible waterfront can make nearby properties more desirable, leading to higher real estate values.
- **Transportation and Connectivity:** Docks supporting water taxis can ease traffic congestion and provide an alternative commuting option.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Full Plate Project

Project Number: ARPA-41

Grant Term: 2/8/2023-2/8/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households

2.1: Household Assistance: Food Programs

2.34: Assistance to Nonprofits: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$100,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$100,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 3/25/2025

Project Summary

Since the pandemic began, YMCA Fall River teamed up with the Greater Boston Food Bank to distribute food to its community members and address food insecurity in the Southcoast region via the Full Plate Project. This program has increased year upon year. In 2021 at the Fall River YMCA, fresh, healthy food was distributed to 11,277 individuals, 27% of whom were children. By October 2022, the Fall River YMCA had distributed fresh, healthy food to 11,201 individuals, 28% of whom were children. During the grant term, the Full Plate Project served 22,656 individuals. Funding this program assisted in addressing food insecurity within the community.

Resident Benefits

- **Immediate Food Support:** Helps fight hunger by giving residents access to free, healthy food, especially those struggling due to job loss, inflation, or other economic stresses.
- **Healthier Community:** Promotes better physical and mental health through improved nutrition, reducing healthcare costs and improving overall well-being.
- **Trusted Local Partner:** The YMCA is a well-known and trusted organization, making it easier to quickly set up, reach more people, and deliver services effectively.
- **Economic Relief:** Reduces the financial burden on families, allowing them to use their limited resources for other essential needs like rent, utilities, and transportation.
- **Community Resilience:** Strengthens the city's ability to recover from crises like the pandemic, by providing a strong local support system.
- **Job Creation and Volunteer Opportunities:** Creates opportunities for employment and civic engagement through staffing and volunteer roles.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Route 79 Corridor Improvements

Project Number: ARPA-42

Grant Term: 4/4/2023-4/4/2025

Eligibility Category: 5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer:

5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,000,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,430,527.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$1,430,527.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/15/2024

Project Summary

MassDOT collaborated with the City of Fall River on the Route 79 – Davol Street Corridor Improvements project, which is located within the City Pier and President Avenue watersheds, since 2014. MassDOT determined that there were several project features, not typically included in highway Transportation projects, that are necessary to be included but are considered non-participating items. These items, which are being funded through this project, include a Stormwater Conveyance System.

The City's wastewater collection and treatment system is primarily a combined system with more than 200 miles of sewers that transport both sanitary and stormwater flows to the Fall River wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) or one of the 17 CSO's that discharges to the Taunton River or Mount Hope Bay. Sewer age and development over time have resulted in capacity and condition issues that must be addressed as part of infrastructure renewal projects.

The City Pier and President Avenue watersheds are some of the most developed areas of the city and required significant separation of the sewer system over many years to mitigate wet-weather impacts. The stormwater conveyance system has been designed to convey the projected stormwater flows of future sewer separation projects from within the watersheds, above the proposed Route 79-Davol Street Improvements Corridor, ultimately discharging them into the Taunton River.

By constructing this downstream stormwater infrastructure as part of this much larger project, the corridor will not need to be revisited down the road, which will have already been revitalized with multimodal transportation, residential and commercial developments, as well as public access to the beautiful Fall River Waterfront.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Flood Prevention & Climate Resilience:** A stormwater corridor collects and channels rainwater to reduce urban flooding, protects infrastructure by diverting excess water, and improves drainage to prevent overwhelming sewer systems.
- **Environmental & Ecosystem Benefits:** Natural filtration through vegetation improves water quality, green corridors create habitats for wildlife, and surrounding green spaces help reduce the urban heat island effect.
- **Quality of Life Improvements:** Stormwater corridors can double as recreational spaces, enhance waterfront aesthetics, and support mental health by providing greater access to nature.
- **Economic & Development Incentives:** Attractive green corridors raise property values, encourage developer investment, and reduce long-term city costs by preventing flood damage and lowering water treatment expenses.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .17 cents for the next 20 years but for ARPA Funds for this project and included in this is BCT-12 Stormwater Corridor. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: For Youth Initiative

Project Number: ARPA-43

Grant Term: 5/13/2023-1/31/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households:

2.24: Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

2.25: Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Small Businesses:

2.33: Enhanced Support to Microbusinesses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,000,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,508,922.42
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$1,508,922.42

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 2/27/2025

Project Summary

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic low-income families struggled to afford basic needs for housing, utilities, food, and medical care. There was no ability to afford extra-curricular activities for their children and the City of Fall River has worked with organizations to offer opportunities for low-income families to participate in various programs.

However, because of the pandemic, the City of Fall River, much like other areas of the State and Country, has seen a shrinking in the middle class, resulting in a swelling in the number of families struggling with poverty. Families that prior to the pandemic were able to afford extra-curricular activities for their children, were forced to re-evaluate their spending and tighten their household budget as result of loss of employment, inability to work, and financial uncertainty. There were strains on marriages due to hardships and emotional distress, and a result an increase in the divorce rate across the United States.

The effects of the hardships and emotional distress suffered by parents directly contribute to their children's stress, mental health, anxiety, and overall wellbeing. Children that were once able to participate in extracurricular programs like music, dance, boxing, and mixed martial arts, were no longer able to attend due to the family's inability to afford it any longer. These children whose families have never been able to afford, or now no longer can afford these programs are spending their time inactive using devices, playing video games, or watching television. The children in Fall River need to be able to access these extra-curricular activities to relieve stress, lower levels of anxiety and symptoms of depression.

Children's participation in extra-curricular activities have shown to be instrumental in building mental resilience, self-confidence, help to build friendships, and build skills such as communication, teamwork, organization, problem solving, time-management, it also provides structure and improves their physical health.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

In addition to helping improve the lives of young people in Fall River, this program also benefits the small businesses in the city that due to the pandemic were forced to close for a time being due to executive orders of the State and City and when reopened continued to suffer as residents were still limiting their in-person appearances.

At the conclusion of the program 1119 youth and 28 vendors benefited from the program.

Resident Benefits

- **Revitalization of Local Businesses:** This initiative directly benefits small businesses that have suffered from the pandemic. By partnering with youth-serving organizations and offering financial support for each Fall River youth that enrolls in their programs, businesses can generate a steady stream of revenue, helping them recover from past losses and stay operational. This creates a win-win scenario where youth programs thrive, and businesses stay afloat, fostering long-term economic recovery in the community.
- **Increased Access to Educational and Developmental Opportunities:** Youth in the City benefit from this program through access to valuable educational, social, and developmental opportunities that may not have been available otherwise. By supporting local youth programs, the initiative ensures that children and teens in the area have safe, constructive spaces to grow and learn, helping them build essential life skills, overcome pandemic-related challenges, and stay engaged with their community.
- **Strengthening the Local Economy:** Small businesses and non-profits in the City recover by providing financial support for each youth enrolled in their programs. This allows businesses to stay open, retain or hire staff, and improve services. As businesses stabilize, they reinvest in their operations, creating a stronger and more resilient local economy. This also encourages new investment and attracts more opportunities for growth, benefiting the entire community.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** The program encourages youth and families in the city to become more involved in their community. By collaborating with local businesses, non-profits, and youth programs, residents work together to support and mentor the next generation. This fosters a sense of unity and pride within the community, strengthening connections among residents and creating a more engaged, supportive environment.
- **Return on Investment for Taxpayers:** By helping local businesses grow and providing opportunities for youth, the program improves the overall quality of life in Fall River. This investment can reduce future costs related to unemployment and disengaged youth, which may also lead to less crime. As businesses and residents thrive, the city's tax base becomes more stable and prosperous, benefiting taxpayers in the long run.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Silent Dispatch System

Project Number: ARPA-44

Grant Term: 3/28/2023-3/28/2024

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$64,978.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$64,978.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 7/19/2023

Project Summary

The Silent Dispatch System allows for private dispatches to rescue communications, and dispatch details. The system will alleviate radio congestion, and confusion in dispatch location. The 12 monitors and mounts have been placed in all the medical rescues in the City of Fall River. Dispatch will send the “9-1-1” call information directly to the mounted units, the crews would acknowledge directly and respond with no radio communication. There is a critical need for interoperability during large scale incidents (i.e. active shooter) when on air communication increases the risk to public safety and the citizens of Fall River. Additionally, private residents requesting “9-1-1” will remain private.

Resident Benefits

- **Reduced Panic and Public Disturbance:** Keeps emergency response communications discreet, silent dispatching prevents unnecessary panic among the public, especially in crowded or high-tension situations.
- **Faster Emergency Response:** These systems use digital notifications, GPS tracking, and automated routing to dispatch responders more efficiently, reducing response times.
- **Enhanced Officer and Responder Safety:** By avoiding open radio communications, silent dispatching helps prevent suspects from monitoring emergency responses, reducing the risk of ambushes or interference.
- **More Discreet Medical and Fire Responses:** In sensitive cases such as domestic violence, mental health crises, or active threats, silent dispatching allows responders to arrive without alerting potential perpetrators or escalating the situation.
- **Less Noise Pollution:** traditional radio chatter can be disruptive in urban environments. Silent dispatching minimizes unnecessary sirens or loud announcements, improving quality of life.
- **Better Coordination and Data Sharing:** Digital dispatch systems integrate with real-time mapping, traffic monitoring, and resource allocation, ensuring that the right personnel and equipment are deployed efficiently.
- **Improved Record-Keeping and Analytics:** Silent dispatch systems often log all communications, making it easier to analyze response times, optimize routes, and improve emergency management strategies.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Travassos Park Splash Pad Restoration

Project Number: ARPA-45

Grant Term: 4/1/2023-4/1/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$132,351.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$132,350.32

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/29/2023

Project Summary

The Travassos Park Splash Pad is the largest in the City of Fall River and located in an extremely low disproportionately impacted neighborhood. Due to significant damage, including separation and cracking, it needed to be repaired. These repairs ensured the splash pad was safe for youth to use before the warm summer months.

Resident Benefits

- **Provides a Safe, Fun Environment:** A well-maintained splash pad offers a safe and enjoyable place for kids and families to cool off during hot summer months.
- **Encourages Outdoor Activity:** it promotes physical activity and social interaction, keeping children engaged in healthy outdoor play.
- **Boosts Community Engagement:** A functional splash pad attracts more families to the park, fostering a sense of community and encouraging public use of shared spaces.
- **Supports Local Economy:** increased splash park visitors can boost nearby businesses, such as food vendors and local shops.
- **Prevents Costlier Repairs Later:** Addressing damage promptly helps avoid more expensive repairs or even the need for a full replacement in the future.
- **Enhances City Appeal:** Well-maintained public amenities improve the overall image of the city, making it a more attractive place to live and visit.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Open Gov Software

Project Number: ARPA-46

Grant Term: 4/27/2023-4/27/2025

Eligibility Category: 3.5: Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$559,933.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$446,573.20

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 8/1/2025

Project Summary

Need for modernization: The current permitting process is heavily paper-based and uses outdated software for tracking and record keeping. With the new software, inspectors will be able to work on inspections on-site with tablets to take pictures and make notes. Currently, all inspection data requires them to re-enter information back at the government center after trips. Internal staff/residents will also be able to access this information in real time.

Convenience: Online permitting allows citizens and businesses to apply for permits and licenses from the comfort of their homes or offices. They can submit applications at any time of the day, without having to physically visit the government center during business hours and enables them to submit applications outside of normal business hours. This can save time and reduce the hassle of paperwork and travel.

Increased efficiency: Online permitting can streamline the application process by automating tasks such as data entry, routing applications to the appropriate staff members, and tracking application status. This can help reduce errors, avoid delays, and improve the overall efficiency of the permitting process. Being able to look up information regarding existing applications would no longer require checking in with other staff members, as all information is tracked by the software.

Cost savings: Online permitting can reduce the cost of processing and managing permits for the city. By automating tasks, staff members can focus on other tasks. Additionally, online permitting can eliminate the need for paper-based applications and processing, reducing printing and mailing costs.

Transparency: Online permitting can provide residents and businesses with greater transparency into the permitting process. They can track the progress of their application and receive updates on any necessary approvals or inspections. This can increase confidence in the overall permitting process.

Improved data collection: Online permitting can provide us with better data on permit applications and approvals. This data can help identify areas where the permitting process can be improved and help make informed decisions about resource allocation and planning.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Convenience:** Residents can apply for permits 24/7 without visiting city offices, saving time and transportation costs.
- **Faster Processing:** Digital submissions are reviewed more quickly than paper applications, with automated workflows helping to prevent delays and keep applicants informed.
- **Transparency:** Residents can track their application status in real time, and clear documentation reduces confusion and incomplete applications.
- **Efficiency:** Online permitting reduces paperwork and minimizes human error through standardized digital forms.
- **Accessibility:** Online processes make it easier for people with mobility challenges, lack transportation, or the time to come in person to City Hall.
- **Improved Recordkeeping:** Digital records are easier to search, retrieve, and archive for both residents and city staff.
- **Cost Savings:** Online permitting saves money by reducing manual labor, postage, and printing costs, benefiting taxpayers.
- **Financial Benefits for Taxpayers:** Funding the upgrades through ARPA, as opposed to the City's general budget, avoids additional costs to local taxpayers and protects city resources for other essential services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Capital Improvements-City Operations

Project Number: ARPA-47 and ARPA 47A

Grant Term: 4/28/2023-5/19/2025

Eligibility Category: 2. Negative Economic Impact

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

10: Title I Projects

10.8: Provision of Public Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,443,237.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,675,538.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$1,001,052.64

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 5/2025

Project Summary

Funds are being used for capital improvements, specifically equipment, critical to city departments.

Department of Community Maintenance:

- Front End Loader, Brine System, Backhoe Trailer/Heavy Duty Trailer, Ford F550 Dump, Explorer Hybrid 1, Explorer Hybrid 2, Ford F250 Super Duty, Clark Forklift, Triaxle Roll Off, Ford F350 Dump, Ford F250 Super Duty Crew Cab

Facilities:

- Ventrac Rider

Cemetery/Trees:

- Truck/Crew Cab, Front End Loader

Parks:

- Park Dump Truck/Crew Cab, Hustler Mower Replacement, Battery Operated Mower Replacement, Kubota

City Operations:

- Battery Operated Weed Whackers with Charger, Battery Operated Chain Saws with Charger, Battery Operated Trimmers with Charger, Battery Operated Backpack Blower with Charger

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Service Delivery:** The new equipment, such as front-end loaders, dump trucks, and mowers, enables city departments to efficiently perform maintenance tasks such as snow removal, road repairs, and park upkeep. This results in quicker response times and more consistent services, directly benefiting residents by enhancing public infrastructure and community spaces.
- **Cost Savings:** Investing in modern, energy-efficient equipment, such as hybrid vehicles and battery-operated tools, reduces operational costs over time. These energy-efficient choices lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs, allowing the city to reallocate funds to other critical needs, which can lead to long-term savings for taxpayers.
- **Increased Safety and Reliability:** The purchase of updated equipment, including specialized tools for tree maintenance, roadwork, and park services, ensures the city's ability to maintain safer streets, parks, and public spaces. Reliable equipment also minimizes downtime and avoids the need for costly emergency repairs, contributing to the overall safety and stability of the community.
- **Sustainability:** Many of the items purchased, such as hybrid vehicles and battery-operated maintenance tools, support the city's sustainability goals by reducing emissions and reliance on fossil fuels. This contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment for residents, aligning with broader environmental goals.
- **Enhanced Capacity:** The expanded fleet of vehicles and equipment across multiple departments, from community maintenance to parks and cemetery management, increases the city's capacity to handle large-scale projects and emergencies more effectively. With the ability to work more efficiently, these improvements directly improve the quality of life for residents and contribute to the community's overall development.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Ballot Drop Box

Project Number: ARPA-48

Grant Term: 5/31/2023-5/31/2024

Eligibility Category: 3.5: Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,495.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$2,368.80
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$2,368.80

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 7/28/2023

Project Summary

As a result of the passage of the VOTES Act of 2022, voting by mail has been significantly enhanced by the Commonwealth. Unlike previous years, any registered voter who would like to avail themselves of this option can now do so without reason. Based upon the past several election cycles, the Board of Elections office will receive between seven and sixteen thousand applications from residents who would like to vote by mail.

Voters have the option of returning their ballot via the mail, a drop ballot box, or directly to the Board of Elections office. Presently, a small drop box is affixed to the building during business hours at election time. The box was purchased in 2020 at the height of the pandemic when the Government Center was operating under restricted protocols. It is not durable enough to remain unattended when the building is closed. Use of the ballot drop box is a secure and convenient means for voters to return their mail-in ballot. Given that voting by mail is now a significant part of how elections are conducted, it is important to have a larger secure ballot drop box that can be permanently mounted outside of the Third Street entrance to Government Center.

Resident Benefits

- **Convenience & Accessibility:** Allows voters to drop off ballots at any time before the deadline, without worrying about mailing delays. It also provides an easy voting option for those with busy schedules, disabilities, or limited transportation.
- **Increased Voter Participation:** More accessible voting options can lead to higher turnout, as people are more likely to vote when it's easy and convenient.
- **Security & Reliability:** Drop boxes are typically monitored, secure, and tamper-resistant, ensuring ballots are safely collected. Reduces reliance on the postal service, lowering the risk of ballots being delayed or lost in the mail.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Can be a more cost-efficient solution compared to running additional in-person voting sites. It helps to alleviate long lines and congestion at polling places on Election Day.
- **Encourages Early Voting:** Residents can vote at their convenience before Election Day, helping election officials process ballots more efficiently.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Beneficial for communities with historically lower voter turnout, including low-income neighborhoods, elderly populations, and those with limited mobility.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: The Buffington Rehabilitation

Project Number: ARPA-49

Grant Term: 7/2/2023-7/28/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impact: Small Business Assistance

2.31: Rehabilitation of Commercial Property or Other Improvements

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$100,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$100,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/16/2025

Project Summary

The goal of establishing incubator spaces and vibrant “third spaces” in downtown Fall River focuses on showcasing the benefits of investment and diversity. Key repairs and improvements included: build-out of Café space, renovation of former bank drive-thru, redesign of parking lot, exterior brickwork pointing, window replacements on the first floor, installation of a new fire alarm panel, and HVAC and electrical system upgrades in retail spaces.

The completion of the renovation to the drive-thru, as well as the hardscape work in the parking lot, has enabled several events to be held in 2024. In 2025, the space will be opened for community use, facilitated through an online sign-up sheet for events.

Resident Benefits

- **Outdoor Space for Community Events:** Provides a vibrant and accessible area for residents and visitors to gather, fostering a sense of community and supporting local businesses.
- **Cultural Engagement and Entertainment:** Creates opportunities for cultural events, entertainment, and networking, enriching the community's social life.
- **Economic Vitality:** Attracts foot traffic that supports local businesses and boosts the economic activity in the area.
- **Revitalization Catalyst:** Acts as a catalyst for further investment, contributing to the downtown's transformation into a dynamic, thriving hub.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Roadway and Sidewalk Reconstruction

Project Number: ARPA-50

Grant Term: 9/22/2023-9/22/2025

Eligibility Category: 9: Surface Transportation Projects

9.2: Surface Transportation Projects not receiving funding from DOT:
Streamlined Framework

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,500,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/25):** \$1,539,513.55

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

IFB: 24-14

Street Improvement Project 23-3:

\$888,887.00

Bedard Street

Concord Street (Chester Street to Dead End)

Emery Street (Plymouth Avenue to Bush Street)

Estes Lane (Lark Street to Dead End)

Hyacinth Street (New Boston Road to Bullock Street)

Railroad Avenue (North Court Street to Dead End)

IFB 24-19:

Sidewalk Repairs (Various locations with CDA)

\$224,380.00

(Total Contract \$624,380.00 with CDA contributing \$400,000.00)

CO#1

\$41,380.00

IFB 25-10:

Wilson Road (Riggenbach Road to Causeway)

\$472,915.00

IFB 24-13:

Street Improvement Project 23-2:

\$828,675.89

(Total Contract \$2,057,296.79 with \$1,000,000.00 Chapter 90 and \$228,620.90 Shared Streets Grant)

Stafford Road (Route 24 to Tiverton Line)

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Stockton Street (Stafford Road to Rodman Street)

Ward Street (New Boston Road to Cypress Street)

Weybosett Street (Pleasant Street to Wamsutta Street)

Willow Street (New Boston Road to Meridian Street)

CO#1

\$43,762.11

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Safety:** The reconstruction of streets and sidewalks reduces the risks posed by damaged or deteriorated infrastructure, such as potholes, uneven surfaces, and unsafe sidewalks. This makes the city safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike, preventing accidents and injuries.
- **Enhanced Quality of Life:** Well-maintained streets and sidewalks improve the overall aesthetics and functionality of the city, contributing to a more pleasant and accessible environment.
- **Economic Growth:** Investing in infrastructure improvements, such as streets and sidewalks, can attract new businesses, residents, and investments. Improved roads and pedestrian access enhance local commerce by increasing foot traffic and making it easier for people to shop and engage with businesses. This can lead to job creation and overall economic growth in the community.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** By addressing infrastructure needs early, the city can avoid higher repair costs in the future. Proactively reconstructing streets and sidewalks helps prevent further degradation, which can be far more expensive to fix later on.
- **Increased Property Values:** Well-maintained streets and sidewalks enhance the value of nearby properties. Homeowners and businesses see increased property values, which also leads to higher tax revenue, benefiting the city and its residents.
- **Efficient City Services:** Better streets and sidewalks improve the efficiency of city services, such as public transportation, waste collection, and emergency response. Clear, accessible routes make it easier for services to be delivered on time and effectively.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Bus Stop Shelters

Project Number: ARPA-51

Grant Term: 9/7/2023-9/7/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$31,850.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$31,850.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 2/22/2024

Project Summary

To purchase and install bus stop shelters which are necessary and important to the low- and moderate-income employees working for companies within the industrial park, particularly those working third shift, who rely on public transportation to get to and from work. These employees are often third shift workers who are waiting for the bus to go home when it is dark outside and in the winter when temperatures are low. Due to their financial circumstances these workers are unable to afford a vehicle and rely heavily on public transportation and deserve the safety that bus stop shelters provide.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Transportation Access:** Shelters encourage workers to use buses, reducing traffic congestion and reliance on private vehicles.
- **Weather Protection:** They provide shade and shelter from rain, snow, and extreme temperatures, making public transport more comfortable and accessible.
- **Encouraging Employment Mobility:** Reliable transit in industrial areas helps job seekers reach workplaces they might not otherwise consider, improving employment opportunities.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** More public transit means fewer cars on the road, leading to lower carbon emissions and better air quality.
- **Enhanced Safety and Comfort:** Well-lit, covered shelters make waiting safer, reducing exposure to traffic and crime, particularly for shift workers commuting at odd hours.
- **Boosting Local Economy:** Industrial parks rely on a workforce that often depends on public transit. Efficient transportation can attract businesses and workers, supporting the city's economic growth.
- **Better Urban Planning:** Investing in transit infrastructure like bus shelters shows a commitment to sustainable development and an inclusive city design that benefits all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Kennedy Park Volleyball Courts

Project Number: ARPA-52

Grant Term: 10/13/2023-10/13/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$117,763.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$117,763.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/5/2024

Project Summary

Kennedy Park is a 57-acre historic park in the City of Fall River. The funding was used for the construction of two volleyball courts.

Resident Benefits

- **Promoting Health and Fitness:** Courts encourage physical activity, offering a fun and engaging way for people of all ages to stay active. Regular exercise helps reduce obesity, heart disease, helps reduce stress and anxiety, other lifestyle-related illnesses, contributing to a healthier community.
- **Building Community and Social Ties:** Courts serve as gathering spots where neighbors meet, play, and bond. Volleyball is accessible and can be played informally, fostering inclusivity and bringing together people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Youth Engagement and Development:** Providing volleyball courts offers a positive outlet for young people, keeping them engaged in safe, structured activities that support personal growth and social development.
- **Economic and Recreational Boost:** Allows for opportunities to host tournaments that attract visitors and helps to boost local businesses.
- **Improves Public Infrastructure Without Burdening Local Taxpayers:** Funding through ARPA means the city is not diverting money from other budgeted public services or departments.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: COVID Homeless Day Shelter

Project Number: ARPA-53

Grant Term: 9/26/2023-9/1/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
1.9 COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$75,978.51
- **Amended Budget:** \$266,462.40
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$266,462.40

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date of Completion:** 1/16/2025

Project Summary

Solomon's Porch has provided shelter services for the City's homeless population for the cold winter months for many years. In 2014, they took a more active role when they took over the Emergency Overflow Shelter that was housed in various churches throughout the city. The organization has built a strong foundation of volunteers.

The facility located at *371 Bay Street* was purchased by Solomon's Porch in early January 2020. The following rehabilitation projects were conducted with the use of ESG-CV funding to prepare the building to be used as a COVID-19 shelter: installation of a commercial washer and dryer allowing shelter guests to clean and disinfect their clothing (the washer and dryer will was donated); installation of two handicapped shower stalls allowing shelter guests to bathe; installation of Wi-Fi; purchase of a computer and television and installation of a security system.

This new project with Solomon's Porch will do the following:

Timao Homeless Day Shelter:

Beginning on April 1, 2023, the Shelter will shift over to a "Drop-In Center". The Center will function as a place for the homeless to address their basic needs and connect with support services. Necessities the Center will offer include the following: clothing, food, showers, laundry, mailboxes, and lockers. Support services offered will include referral services, job training, housing assistance, and life skills classes. The full-time Program Director will remain with two support staff members. This program will also include outreach to homeless individuals living on the streets. In addition, Solomon's Porch will coordinate with other agencies in the city with the goal of getting individuals off the streets.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

For Residents Experiencing Homelessness:

- **Basic Needs Met:** Day shelter provides food such as hot meals and snacks to combat hunger. They offer hygiene facilities like showers, laundry, and clean restrooms. Shelters also give people a safe place to rest during the day, which is especially important for those who struggle to find a safe place to sleep at night.
- **Connection to Services:** Day shelter provides case management to help individuals apply for housing, IDs, benefits, and more. They also offer access to on-site or referred physical and mental health services. The shelter supports employment efforts by offering help with resumes, job searches, interview preparation, and even skill-building workshops.
- **Stability & Dignity:** Day shelter creates a consistent, safe environment and offers social support, all of which are crucial for restoring a sense of dignity and stability for individuals going through life's toughest challenges.

For the Broader Community:

- **Reduces Visible Homelessness:** When people have a safe space to go during the day, fewer individuals remain in public spaces like parks, libraries, or business districts, which can ease public concerns about loitering or overcrowding.
- **Improves Public Health:** By offering access to hygiene facilities and healthcare services, day shelters help prevent the spread of communicable diseases and contribute to better overall health outcomes for the entire community.
- **Lowers Emergency Costs:** Individuals who regularly use shelters are less likely to require expensive emergency room visits or law enforcement intervention, saving cities significant public funds over time.
- **Build Pathways to Housing:** Through strong connections with case workers and service programs, shelters act as critical bridges that help move individuals from homelessness toward stable, long-term housing solutions.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Feasibility Studies

Project Number: ARPA-54

Grant Term: 9/26/2023-9/26/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$381,500.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$218,800.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

Funds are being used to complete feasibility studies for four specific projects the City of Fall River has determined to be necessary and important to the residents of the City. These projects include Bullock Street, Kennedy Park Renovations, Nagle Auditorium, and Lewiston Street. The feasibility studies will assess the practicability of the proposed project and analyze the viability by identifying potential issues.

Resident Benefits

- **Saves Local Taxpayer Money:** Using ARPA funds allows the City to study and plan these projects without raising local taxes or pulling money from other critical services.
- **Smarter, More Efficient Projects:** Allows the City to determine if project is realistic, cost-effective, and necessary before spending millions on construction. This prevents wasted money on projects that could fail or cost far more than expected.
- **Builds Public Trust and Transparency:** A professional, independent study provides clear information about project costs, benefits, and impacts. Residents can see solid evidence that projects are well thought-out and planned.
- **Increases Chances of Future Grants and Investment:** Many State and Federal programs require a city to have a feasibility study completed before awarding additional grants. Using ARPA funds now can unlock more funding in the future, again saving taxpayer dollars.
- **Supports Long-Term Economic Growth:** Well-planned projects attract businesses, create jobs, and boost property values, which helps the local economy to thrive.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Highcrest Street Sewer Repair

Project Number: ARPA-55

Grant Term: 11/27/2023-11/27/2025

Eligibility Category: 5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer:

5.4 Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$60,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$60,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/27/2025

Project Summary

To remedy an ongoing issue with sewer backups on Highcrest Road caused by restriction in the line leading to periodic sewage backups into the upstream, as well as significant cracks and broken pieces of pipe sagging in vertical alignment of pipe creating accumulation of debris and blockage.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Health Protection:** Sewage backups pose a direct health hazard, exposing residents to bacteria, viruses, and toxic waste. By repairing cracks, sagging, and restrictions in the sewer line, the city reduces the risk of contamination, safeguarding both residents and local waterways.
- **Property Damage Prevention:** Backups can cause costly damage to homes and businesses upstream, for instance, flooded basements, ruined flooring, and structural issues. Fixing the infrastructure protects homeowners from expensive repair bills and insurance headaches.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** Chronic sewer issues can lead to bad odors, street closures, and general nuisance. A functioning sewer system means less disruption, cleaner surroundings, and a more pleasant living environment.
- **Environmental Protection:** Cracked and sagging pipes may allow raw sewage to leak into the soil or local streams, harming ecosystems. Repairs help meet EPA standards, reduce pollution, and support long-term environmental sustainability.
- **Economic Stability:** Sewer failures can deter real estate investment, lower property values, and disrupt local businesses. Infrastructure upgrades boost confidence in the area and may attract new development and investment.
- **Cost-Effective Preventive Action:** Emergency repairs and repeated cleanup from backups cost the city more in the long run. A proactive solution saves taxpayer dollars and keeps the system running smoothly.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** *The tax rate for residents due to this project would have come from operational budget and would have risen .03 cents for a one-year period.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Veteran Van

Project Number: ARPA-56

Grant Term: 2/1/2024-9/1/2024

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$36,959.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$36, 824.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 7/1/2024

Project Summary

The Veterans Department for the City of Fall River provides rides for medical appointments and grocery trips, to veterans, seniors, and disabled citizens. Grocery shopping trips occur weekly on Mondays and Fridays, while medical appointment transportation is offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. There are also rides offered to/from Providence and Brockton VA Hospitals, Tuesdays through Friday. In the previous year, there were 1000 rides provided, with most days being completely full, and a cancellation list to accommodate last-minute changes to ensure all riders are at capacity.

This program is critical to our veterans, seniors, and disabled citizens, but with the condition of current vehicles and the need to provide more riders an opportunity for transport, a new passenger van is necessary.

Resident Benefits

Using ARPA funds to purchase a van for transporting veterans to appointments provides several benefits to the broader community, even beyond the direct support for veterans.

- **Improved Access to Healthcare:** Veterans often face barriers to transportation, which can delay or prevent them from attending medical appointments, therapy sessions, or other healthcare services. By ensuring veterans have reliable transport, it supports their health and well-being, indirectly benefiting public health in the community by ensuring veterans receive the care they need.
- **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Veterans, especially those with disabilities or limited mobility, may struggle to navigate public transportation. A dedicated van service ensures that they can access appointments without additional stress. This can improve their quality of life, and in turn, make them more engaged and active members of society.
- **Reduced Healthcare Costs:** By helping veterans attend appointments consistently, it can reduce the need for emergency care or more severe medical interventions that might arise from missed appointments. This can lower overall healthcare costs for the community.
- **Community Engagement:** Supporting veterans enhances community cohesion. A program like this fosters a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity among residents. The community

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benefits from knowing that veterans who have contributed to our country are being taken care of in their local area.

- **Economic Impact:** By increasing veterans' ability to attend appointments and maintain their health, there can be long-term economic benefits. Healthier veterans are more likely to rejoin the workforce, engage in local businesses, or volunteer, contributing to the local economy.
- **Enhanced Public Perception:** A community that prioritizes the well-being of its veterans sends a strong message about compassion and responsibility. It can encourage residents to support other public programs, knowing that the government is actively working to improve life for all members of society.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Lafayette Skateboard Park Restoration

Project Number: ARPA-57

Grant Term: 8/15/2024-9/30/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$700,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$825,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 10/31/2025

Project Summary

Lafayette Park was selected as it is centrally located within the City of Fall River in an Environmental Justice neighborhood and Qualified Census Tract 6413 BG 5. Although not in the urban renewal area of the Flint neighborhood, it is directly adjacent, allowing disadvantaged youth to easily access the skateboard park.

The funding will allow for the design and construction of a 7000 sq ft skateboard park that will rehabilitate the old, worn and crumbling concrete ramps, structures, and surface. The funding will allow the creation of the only state-of-the-art skatepark in the city and provide youth and adults with access to outdoor recreational space.

Resident Benefits

- **Promotes Physical Activity and Supports Mental Health:** A skatepark encourages outdoor activities that improve both physical and mental health. Physical activities like skateboarding reduce stress and promote well-being. Further, the social environment of a skatepark fosters camaraderie and belonging, providing emotional support crucial to mental health.
- **Accessible Recreation:** It serves as a low-cost recreational option for all ages, especially in urban areas where space for active recreation is limited.
- **Social and Community Engagement:** Skateparks act as social hubs where people of all ages and backgrounds build community connections through shared interests.
- **Encourages Youth Engagement and Skill Development:** Skateparks provide youth with a safe place to develop discipline, creativity, perseverance, and self-expression through their own unique skate styles and tricks.
- **Attracts Tourism and Local Economy Boost:** A large, well-designed skatepark draws tourists and skateboarding enthusiasts, boosting local businesses.
- **Enhancing Quality of Life:** Well-maintained recreational spaces make cities more attractive to new residents and businesses, strengthening overall community vitality.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Enforcement & Permit Management Solution

Project Number: ARPA-60

Grant Term: 11/9/2023-11/9/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$43,184.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$36,686.19

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 11/2025

Project Summary

The Enforcement and Permit Management Solution will help to better serve the City of Fall River with a solution to easily operate and maintain with timeless and seamless implementation. The integrated system allows for a municipality of any size to manage their entire parking network from anywhere, anytime, with a single sign on access to all applications and consolidated parking data all in one place.

The Enforcement Management System manages an entire lifecycle of parking citations, including issuance, adjudication, payment, DMV communications and collections. It begins with a Mobile Enforcement System including handheld devices used by traffic officers and then allows for a Public Citation Management Portal in which citizens can access their citation, pay or obtain more information on how to contest the citation, review fines and specific amounts.

Resident Benefits

- **Efficiency in Citation Processing:** Automates and streamlines citation issuance, adjudication, and payment processes, reducing administrative delays and speeding up the resolution of parking violations so residents are not left waiting for processing.
- **Centralized System:** By centralizing all citation-related activities, the system makes it easier for city officials and residents to track citations and ensure that hearings, payments, and other critical steps aren't overlooked.
- **Improved Communication with DMV:** Automatically communicates with the RMV to update parking violation records, reducing human error and ensuring residents' driving records are updated promptly and accurately.
- **Simplified License/Registration Holds:** For unpaid citations, the system automates license and registration holds, promoting compliance and ensuring timely resolution of fines.
- **Enhanced Payment Flexibility:** Integrated payment gateways allow residents to pay fines online, via mobile apps, or in person, making payment more convenient and accessible for everyone.
- **Increased Revenue Collection:** The system tracks and follows up on fines systematically, improving city revenue collection and helping fund vital local services like infrastructure

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maintenance and public safety. Automated collections and timely reminders minimize lost revenue from missed payments or forgotten citations.

- **Improved Customer Service:** Resident-facing self-service portals let people view citation history, dispute tickets, or make payments easily, improving the overall resident experience and satisfaction.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** EMS generates detailed reports and analytics that help identify parking violation trends and guide policy adjustments, like revising parking rules or improving signage, ultimately benefiting residents.
- **Transparency:** Clear, accessible citation data builds resident confidence in the fairness and consistency of the system.
- **Cost Savings for the City:** Automation reduces manual labor needs for citation processing and payment tracking, cutting operational costs and allowing the city to redirect savings toward improving resident services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: CARE Fund

Project Number: ARPA-61

Grant Term: 11/27/2023-11/27/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.3: Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$25,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$25,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/14/2024

Project Summary

The CARE Fund is designed to offset short term financial need for Fall River students experiencing immediate financial concerns which would otherwise prevent them from continuing their education at Bristol Community College. Funds are limited to students who are currently enrolled in classes at the time of the request and are in good academic standing. All requests for funding must be submitted through the CARE Fund request form.

Eligible Expenses may include:

- Transportation Assistance (Bus passes, gas cards, minor car repair)
- Housing Assistance (Short term rent assistance, utilities, other household expenses)
- Food Needs
- Childcare Expenses
- Textbooks or other educational necessities

Ineligible expenses include parking tickets, traffic violations, fines, health insurance, and credit card bills or debt. All requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and funding is not guaranteed for every request. The CARE Fund is not designed to replace Federal and State Financial Aid. Students should have exhausted all other resources.

The funding benefited 76 Fall River students.

Resident Benefits

- **Promote Student Success and Graduation:** Providing emergency financial support helps Fall River students stay enrolled and complete their education. Higher graduation rates lead to a stronger workforce, which strengthens the local economy and attracts businesses.
- **Reduces Dependency on Public Assistance:** Helping students complete their education improves their employment opportunities and earning potential, making them less likely to need public benefits like unemployment assistance, food stamps, or housing subsidies in the future.
- **Increases Local Economic Contributions:** College graduates typically earn higher wages, pay more in taxes, spend more in their communities, supporting local businesses and contributing to the economy in Fall River.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Strengthens the Community:** An educated population tends to have better health outcomes, lower crime rates, and higher civic engagement, helping to make Fall River a stronger, safer, and more vibrant place to live.
- **Maximizes Investment in Public Education:** Taxpayers already invest in public education through community colleges. Supporting students through short-term financial challenges ensures this investment is more effective by improving student retention and graduation rates.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: COVID Quarantine Shelter

Project Number: ARPA-62

Grant Term: 12/21/2023-12/21/2024

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention
1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$20,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$6,961.90
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$6,961.90

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 6/25/2024

Project Summary

Due to CARES Act funding expiring and with COVID cases on the increase, the City of Fall River does not have the ability to quarantine homeless individuals entering the City's shelter and overflow shelter system.

This funding allowed the City the continued use of hotel beds for quarantining homeless individuals who test positive for COVID upon entry to the shelter system. With this funding the City of Fall River was able to house individuals who test positive for COVID and who were asymptomatic for 3 days and individuals who tested positive and have symptoms for 5 days.

With the use of this grant funding the shelters were able to protect shelter residents from contracting COVID and were able to keep the shelters operational.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Health Protection:** By isolating individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in hotels, the city helps prevent the spread of the virus within congregate shelters. This protects both the individuals in the shelter system and the broader community by reducing the risk of transmission.
- **Maintaining Shelter Capacity:** Hotels can serve as an overflow space for quarantining, which prevents overcrowding in shelters. Overcrowding can exacerbate the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19, so isolating those who are positive ensures that others are not exposed and that shelter spaces remain available for those who are healthy.
- **Supporting Vulnerable Populations:** People experiencing homelessness are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, due to factors like underlying health conditions and limited access to healthcare. By using funds for hotel stays, the city is helping to protect a vulnerable population from the potentially deadly effects of the virus.
- **Economic Stability:** While it may seem like an expense, using funds for hotel quarantine is a short-term investment in long-term public health. Reducing COVID transmission can help the city avoid more widespread shutdowns or additional costs related to hospitalizations, which would have a larger financial impact on the economy.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Preventing Additional Strain on the Healthcare System:** By isolating individuals with COVID-19 outside of the shelter system, the city can avoid overwhelming hospitals and healthcare facilities with an influx of homeless individuals needing treatment. It keeps the healthcare system from being further strained, which benefits the entire community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Trolley Services

Project Number: ARPA-63

Grant Term: 1/16/2024-1/16/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Impacted Industries
2.35 Travel, Tourism and Hospitality

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$50,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$50,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/29/2024

Project Summary

Funds were used to purchase a trolley and have it transported to the City of Fall River. The funding included any repairs, maintenance, payment of driver, live interface tracking to ensure riders can track routes and anticipate arrival times, as well as for the promotion/marketing of trolley services. The trolley will support the strategic tourism plan which is to attract more non-residents to the City of Fall River and to provide more opportunities for residents to access the small businesses, activities, and events happening. It will increase participation and create more economic growth for the businesses and tourist attractions impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resident Benefits

- **Expands Transportation Options:** A trolley offers residents and visitors another way to get around, connecting neighborhoods, businesses, and attractions. It supports those without cars and can help reduce traffic congestion and emissions.
- **Boosts the Local Economy and Property Values:** Improved access to shops, restaurants, and events brings more customers to local businesses. Well-connected areas often see rising property values, which can strengthen the city's tax base.
- **Enhances City Image and Community Pride:** A trolley adds charm and character, making the city more attractive to tourists, businesses, and new residents. It also becomes a symbol of local pride, especially when featured at public events.
- **Supports Tourism and Public Events:** Trolleys can be used for city tours, festivals, concerts, and seasonal events, improving accessibility and creating memorable experiences for both residents and visitors.
- **Generates Revenue Through Rentals:** The city can rent out the trolley for private events like weddings, corporate outings, and tours, creating a new income stream to help cover maintenance and operation costs.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Lewiston Street Reconstruction

Project Number: ARPA 64 and ARPA 64A

Grant Term: 2/15/2024-9/1/2026

Eligibility Category: 10: Title I Projects

10.2: Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation of
public works, sites, or other public purposes

6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$14, 944, 213.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$16, 219, 213.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$933, 511.55

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/1/2026

Project Summary

The funding is for the reconstruction of the Department of Community Maintenance building and site at 10Lewiston Street. This facility has fallen into disrepair over the years and is in critical need of repairs and replacement of the existing incinerator building envelope, site improvements to the “transfer stations area,” and construction of a new salt storage building. Moreover, the site is located within a residential area and in the current state of the facility it is detrimental to the owners of homes in the neighborhood.

Resident Benefits

- **Protects Property Values:** A deteriorating facility can make the surrounding neighborhood look neglected, which can lower property values. Rebuilding the site improves the area's appearance and helps maintain or increase home values.
- **Improves Public Health and Safety:** Aging and deteriorated facilities can create serious health and safety risks, such as unstable structures, poor drainage, pest infestations, and potential contamination. Replacing the building with a modern, properly designed facility eliminates these hazards and creates a cleaner, safer environment for the entire community.
- **Saves Money Long-Term:** Using one-time ARAP funds allows the City to complete critical repairs without relying on local bonds, loans, or future tax increases, saving taxpayers money over the long run.
- **Boosts Community Services:** Improvements to building and the site that can better handle services like trash, recycling, road repairs, snow removal, parks maintenance, all things that directly impact the quality of residents’ daily life.
- **Enhances Environmental Responsibility and Creates Revenue Opportunities:**
A modernized transfer and recycling station can process waste more efficiently and safely, helping the city meet environmental standards and advance sustainability goals. It also allows for better storage and management of valuable recyclables, enabling the city to hold certain materials until market prices are higher. By selling recyclables at peak value, the City can generate additional revenue to support public services and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Aerial Ladder Truck

Project Number: ARPA-65

Grant Term: 1/30/2024-10/31/2024

Eligibility Category: 10: Title I Projects
10.8: Provision of Public Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$16,727.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$15,604.14
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$15,604.14

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/1/2024

Project Summary

The purchase Smeal Tractor Drawn Aerial Ladder Truck for the Fall River Fire Department.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Public Safety Without Raising Taxes:** Using ARPA funds allows the city to avoid tapping into local tax dollars. By allocating these funds to purchase a new fire truck, the city can upgrade essential emergency equipment without raising taxes or reducing other services.
- **Faster and More Effective Emergency Response:** A new aerial ladder truck helps firefighters respond more quickly and safely to fires in taller buildings, rescues, and other emergencies. This can directly save lives, protect property, and reduce the extent of damage during an emergency.
- **Lower Long-Term Maintenance Costs:** Older fire trucks are expensive to maintain and prone to breakdowns. A new truck is more reliable and will likely cost much less to service, saving taxpayers money over time.
- **Insurance Savings for Residents and Businesses:** Fire departments with modern, well-equipped fleets often improve a city's Insurance Services Office rating. A better rating can lead to lower homeowners and business insurance premiums for everyone in the city.
- **Support for Economic Development:** Businesses want to invest in cities with strong public safety infrastructure. A well-equipped fire department makes Fall River more attractive for new businesses, meaning more jobs and a stronger local economy.
- **Equity and Service for All Neighborhoods:** A newer, better-equipped fire department ensures that all neighborhoods get faster and more effective service during emergencies.
- **Ensures Firefighter Safety:** The new truck provides critical safeguards that protect firefighters in dangerous conditions ensuring their health and safety on the job.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Top-Mount Pumper Truck

Project Number: ARPA-66

Grant Term: 1/30/2024-10/31/2024

Eligibility Category: 10: Title I Projects

10.8: Provision of Public Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$134,890.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$134,889.86

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/1/2024

Project Summary

The purchase of a Smeal Fire Apparatus Custom Top-Mount Pumper Truck for the City of Fall River Fire Department.

Resident Benefits

- **Improves Public Safety Without Raising Taxes:** Using ARPA funds allows the city to avoid tapping into local tax dollars. By allocating these funds to purchase a new fire truck, the city can upgrade essential emergency equipment without raising taxes or reducing other services.
- **Faster and More Effective Emergency Response:** A new top-mount pumper truck helps firefighters respond more quickly and safely to fires in taller buildings, rescues, and other emergencies. This can directly save lives, protect property, and reduce the extent of damage during an emergency.
- **Lower Long-Term Maintenance Costs:** Older fire trucks are expensive to maintain and prone to breakdowns. A new truck is more reliable and will likely cost much less to service, saving taxpayers money over time.
- **Insurance Savings for Residents and Businesses:** Fire departments with modern, well-equipped fleets often improve a city's Insurance Services Office rating. A better rating can lead to lower homeowners and business insurance premiums for everyone in the city.
- **Support for Economic Development:** Businesses want to invest in cities with strong public safety infrastructure. A well-equipped fire department makes Fall River more attractive for new businesses, meaning more jobs and a stronger local economy.
- **Equity and Service for All Neighborhoods:** A newer, better-equipped fire department ensures that all neighborhoods get faster and more effective service during emergencies.
- **Ensures Firefighter Safety:** The new truck provides critical safeguards that protect firefighters in dangerous conditions ensuring their health and safety on the job.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Water Taxi Service

Project Number: ARPA-67

Grant Term: 3/15/2024-11/15/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impact: Aid to Impacted Industries
2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$22,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$21,973.47

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 8/28/2024

Project Summary

The Water Taxi Service provides an opportunity for residents and tourists to explore the beauty of the waterfront and provide sightseeing opportunities as the boat passes and offers stops at important landmarks. The stops also promote and stimulate the economy by alleviating the limited parking for vehicles near waterfront locations, as well as road congestion along construction of Davol Street/Route 79 Corridor. Small businesses, primarily restaurants that are along the water taxi service route, will be promoted and business will be increased as residents/tourists get on/off the water taxi service route exploring the waterfront and all it has to offer.

The season which ran from Memorial weekend to Labor Day provided rides to 693 individuals.

Resident Benefits

- **Reduces Road Congestion:** Water taxis provide an alternative to car and bus travel, easing traffic and improving overall mobility.
- **Eco-Friendly Transportation:** Electric or hybrid water taxis produce fewer emissions per passenger compared to cars, promoting sustainability.
- **Tourism Boost:** Offering scenic city views, water taxis attract tourists and generate additional revenue for local businesses.
- **Improved Connectivity:** They link neighborhoods that are geographically close but poorly connected by traditional land routes.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion:** Water taxi docks can be easier to navigate for people with mobility challenges compared to large transport hubs.
- **Job Creation:** Expanding water taxi services creates jobs for captains, maintenance crews, customer service staff, and operations teams.
- **Emergency & Resilience Role:** Water taxis provide a reliable alternative during road closures, floods, or other natural disasters.
- **Enhanced Lifestyle:** Traveling by water offers a unique, calming commuting experience that can enrich residents' daily lives.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Dumont Field Restoration

Project Number: ARPA-68

Grant Term: 3/22/2024-9/22/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impact

2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$9,500.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$9,500.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/13/2024

Project Summary

To support young people who are interested in playing softball, the City of Fall River is restoring an old softball field at the Dumont Complex that has not been utilized for several years. The Fall River Girls Softball League was created to help re-engage and attract young people to the sport of softball. The numbers of participants in recent years as dropped significantly and there are very few girls playing softball in Middle and High School. By funding the improvements to the Dumont Complex the league will be able to host practices, games and two tournaments, which will allow these young people an opportunity to participate in extracurricular outdoor activities and will allow more usable green space within the City.

Resident Benefits

- **Youth Engagement and Recreation:** The restoration of the softball field provides a dedicated space for the Fall River Girls Softball League, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and social interaction among young athletes.
- **Increased Community Use of Green Space:** The project converts an underutilized area into a functional recreational space, enhancing the overall appeal and accessibility for city residents.
- **Economic Impact and Tourism:** Hosting tournaments will draw visitors to the city, generating revenue for local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and retail shops.
- **Youth Development and Skill Building:** Providing a quality facility encourages youth participation in sports, fostering discipline, leadership, and a sense of community pride.
- **Long-Term Community Investment:** Investing in youth sports and recreational facilities contributes to healthier lifestyles, reduced crime rates, and improved quality of life, benefiting taxpayers by creating a more vibrant and engaged community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Bedford & Robeson Street Rehabilitation

Project Number: ARPA-69

Grant Term: 4/8/2024-4/8/2025

Eligibility Category: 9: Surface Transportation Projects

9.2: Surface Transportation Projects not receiving funding from
DOT: Streamlined Framework

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$318,451.00
- **Expended Amount (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 4/8/2025

Project Summary

The funds allow for the preparation of final design, bid documents, and site enabling for Bedford and Robeson Street intersection reconstruction. The project in its entirety will include complete reconstruction of the intersection, curbing, sidewalks, cross walks, including geometry and new turning movements as well as installation of new overhead traffic and pedestrian signaling.

Resident Benefits

- **New Overhead Traffic and Pedestrian Signals:** Modern signals will improve safety and communication for drivers and pedestrians.
- **Safer and More Efficient Travel:** Redesigned streets and signals will reduce congestion and make travel safer for all users.
- **Improved Accessibility:** New sidewalks and crosswalks will enhance access for pedestrians, including those with disabilities.
- **No New Taxes or Borrowing:** Using ARPA funds avoids raising taxes or creating new debt for residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Public Service & Safety Equipment

Project Number: ARPA-70

Grant Term: 5/16/2024-5/16/2025

Eligibility Category: 10: Title I Projects

10.8: Provision of Public Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$569,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$544,566.60
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$101,030.88

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 5/2025

Project Summary

The funding will be used to increase the fleet of existing service vehicles used by the Fall River Police Department to prevent crime and enhance public safety. Specifically, the purchase of seven marked police cruisers, two unmarked police cruisers, and two motorcycles.

Resident Benefits

- **Enhancing Public Safety:** Improves the Fall River Police Department's ability to respond to crime and emergencies more efficiently. By increasing the fleet of service vehicles, the department enhances patrol coverage, allowing for faster responses to incidents across the city. This boosts public safety and improves the ability of the police force to deter criminal activity.
- **Cost Efficiency and Maintenance Savings:** Investing in new vehicles helps reduce maintenance costs associated with aging units that require frequent repairs. This minimizes downtime, ensuring vehicles are available and operational when needed most. The city benefits from lower repair expenses and increased operational efficiency, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars.
- **Long-Term Public Safety Investments:** The addition of these vehicles strengthens the Police Department's capacity to protect residents and maintain order, ensuring that the community is better served by up-to-date and reliable equipment. This investment also supports public confidence in the city's commitment to safety, contributing to the overall well-being of residents in Fall River.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: 4-Station Voting Booths

Project Number: ARPA-71

Grant Term: 5/12/2024-5/13/2025

Eligibility Category: 3.5: Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$8,210.09
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$8,210.09

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/30/2024

Project Summary

Section 83 of the VOTES Act of 2022 authorizes the chief election official to eliminate the use of the check-out table at the polls. As a result, several of the precincts in the City of Fall River which are housed together in the same facility, share a single voting booth designed with handicapped features for voters with disabilities. As this was sufficient prior to the new law, it is no longer sustainable as double precincts must now be divided with stanchions to prevent voters from mistakenly placing their ballots in the wrong DS200 voting machines. Accordingly, one handicap accessible voting booth is required in each precinct.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Flow & Accessibility:** No check-out table allows voters to move more freely through polling places. This streamlines the voting process, reducing crowding and bottlenecks, which is especially helpful for voters who need more space or time, including those with mobility devices.
- **Increased Accessibility for Each Precinct:** With precincts now required to have physical divisions, there is less risk of voter confusion or ballots being cast in the wrong voting machine. This change provides one handicap-accessible voting booth per precinct, instead of sharing one across multiple precincts, thus providing a significant benefit for voters with disabilities.
- **Enhanced Equity:** By requiring equal accommodation in each precinct, the new law promotes equal access to the ballot for all voters, regardless of physical ability or which precinct they belong to.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Door Access Card System

Project Number: ARPA-72

Grant Term: 5/23/2024-5/23/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health

1.14 Other Public Health Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$170,298.86
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$170,298.86

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/29/2024

Project Summary

Government Center is frequented by the public who come to the City Hall daily, to address municipal matters, pay collectors, traffic tickets, excise taxes, get licenses and permits, press conferences, city council meetings, etc. The pandemic demonstrated not just with our public facility but across the country with other organizations and businesses, the critical need for access control within buildings.

Modern access control measures, such as door card access, help employers create and manage safer workplaces by assisting in the implementation of COVID-19 related regulations, and the ability to monitor the traffic within the building and assist with contract tracing. Further, it allows employees to be secure within their offices and maintain areas that are not accessible to the public, or even other employees within the building. The ability to secure areas throughout the building ensures social distancing and helps to reduce overcrowding. Moreover, the ability to use door card access for departments on certain floors to access specific bathroom facilities reduces the touching of surfaces and helps to reduce or eliminate the spread of viruses throughout the building.

Further, the pandemic demonstrated that in the future if faced with a similar circumstance there are procedures for returning to work that may require staggering of work hours to reduce the number of employees within the building at a given time, or closure of certain departments due to exposure to virus, and therefore the door card key access is critical and essential in being able to permit certain access to certain employees and monitor this remotely.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Security for Public Spaces:** City Hall often houses sensitive records (like permits, licenses, personal documents) and serves as a public meeting space. An upgraded access system protects against unauthorized entry, keeps staff and visiting residents safer, and secures important infrastructure and information.
- **Better Access Control for More Efficient Services:** A modern card system can track who enters and exits, helping with staffing and safety, limit access to restricted areas, make operations smoother, and enable after-hours access for scheduled public meetings.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings for Better Use of Taxpayer Dollars:** Over time, this kind of investment can reduce the need for physical keys and rekeying costs, lower security staff needs or make their work more effective, and help detect issues break-ins and unauthorized entry, faster.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Confidence in Government Operations:** Residents benefit when their local government protects its employees and assets, runs efficiently and securely, and uses funds responsibly on lasting infrastructure, not just temporary fixes.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Expansion to City Pre-K Program

Project Number: ARPA-73 and ARPA-73A

Grant Term: 6/1/2024-12/1/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts

2.14 Healthy Childhood Environments: Early Learning

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$6,498,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$7,599,799.40
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$4, 450,078.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/1/2026

Project Summary

In the City of Fall River, the number of special education referrals for children ages 3–5 has significantly increased over the past three years, from 251 referrals in SY 2020–2021 to over 370 expected by the end of SY 2023–2024. This rise in demand has created a greater need for special education evaluations and services. At the time this contract commenced, 127 students were enrolled and receiving services, with children accessing support through both district drop-in models and within community childcare and private school settings. Expansion of the City Pre-K program is necessary to meet the growing needs of this population and ensure timely, accessible special education services for young learners.

Resident Benefits

- **Increases Access to Early Education:** More Fall River children, especially in underserved areas, can attend high-quality, free Pre-K, preparing them for success in kindergarten and beyond by building literacy, math, and social-emotional skills.
- **Supports Working Families:** Gives parents and guardians the ability to return to work, pursue education or job training, while reducing the financial burden of childcare and boosting family stability and economic resilience.
- **Creates Local Jobs and Stimulates the Economy:** Expansion creates employment opportunities for teachers, aides, and supports staff, increasing workforce participation, spending, and economic activity within Fall River.
- **Improves Long-Term Educational Outcomes:** Early education leads to higher graduation rates and greater college and career readiness, while reducing future costs related to special education, unemployment, and public assistance.
- **Promotes Equity and Equal Opportunity:** Helps eliminate barriers to education for low-income and marginalized families, ensuring all Fall River children have a strong, fair start regardless of background or zip code.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Mobile Art Classroom

Project Number: ARPA-74

Grant Term: 9/5/2024-9/5/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households

2.34: Assistance to Nonprofits: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$49,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 4/4/2025):** \$16, 576.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

The Greater Fall River Art Association is creating a mobile art classroom to engage residents throughout the City of Fall River. For individuals, young and old, interested in creating art there are challenges that arise with access to these facilities offering classes and opportunities. To alleviate the challenges that prevent people from accessing these resources, transportation, inconvenience, and financial hardship, the Greater Fall River Art Association is creating a mobile art classroom that will come to low income housing facilities, elderly homes, events throughout the City, etc.

The mobile art classroom will bring the opportunity to create art to the residents of the city. A fully equipped van with art supplies, various art projects, creative opportunities and an amazing art instructor would come to the location and offer workshops outside under the awning.

Resident Benefits

- **Support Community Engagement:** Funding a mobile art van enables direct access to artistic experiences at citywide events, fostering a stronger sense of community pride and participation among residents.
- **Increase Accessibility to the Arts:** Bringing art directly to low-income housing, elderly homes, and underserved neighborhoods allows residents with limited mobility or resources to enjoy creative activities without barriers.
- **Promote Equity and Inclusion:** Using ARPA funds for a mobile art initiative ensures that all residents, regardless of income, age, or ability, can engage with enriching cultural experiences.
- **Enhance Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Delivering hands-on art experiences to residents supports emotional wellbeing, reduces feelings of isolation, and offers therapeutic outlets, particularly benefiting seniors and vulnerable populations.
- **Stimulate Local Economic Growth:** The mobile art van can feature local artists and creators, giving residents a chance to discover, support, and connect with homegrown talent while contributing to the local economy.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Information Technology Improvements

Project Number: ARPA-75

Grant Term: 11/4/2024-10/8/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$291,127.94
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$291,127.94

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/9/2024

Project Summary

The ARPA allows for municipalities to address administrative needs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. Eligible uses include: “technology infrastructure to improve access to and the user experience of government IT systems” and “technology infrastructure to adapt government operations to the pandemic.” In the City of Fall River, the pandemic forced city employees to work from home and remotely log in to server, thus, security systems to prevent cyber-attacks need to be implemented.

With increased demand for work from home, the current network infrastructure and equipment is being strained. Upgrading on premise servers and data storage will reduce downtime and delays currently experienced by city employees and allow employees to work remotely without impacting performance. With an increasing threat of cyber-attacks, additional security measures need to be implemented. Upgrades to network infrastructure would not only improve user experience, but also allow for security systems to be deployed, significantly mitigating our risks from cyber-attacks.

This funding is for the purchase of Network Upgrades, Multi Factor Authentication and 365 Migration.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Government Services & Accessibility:** Upgrading municipal IT systems enables faster, more efficient responses to service requests, permits, and resident concerns while providing easier online access to key services like bill payments and applications.
- **Enhanced Cybersecurity:** Modernized technology strengthens the city's ability to protect sensitive personal and financial data, giving residents greater confidence in the city's digital security efforts.
- **Cost Savings Over Time:** Investing in efficient IT systems cuts down on manual processes and administrative waste, leading to long-term savings that can support other public services or minimize tax increases.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Improvements to Network

Project Number: ARPA-76

Grant Term: 11/4/2024-12/1/2025

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$309,593.46
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 1/15/2026

Project Summary

At the end of the year, the existing hardware across City Hall will reach an end-of-life, requiring an upgrade to maintain secure and reliable city operations. This project will evaluate and implement either new physical servers or a transition to cloud-based solutions to ensure continuity of citywide IT services.

The objectives include ensuring uninterrupted and secure operations, improving performance and reliability, and reducing future maintenance and hardware costs. The project scope will involve assessing the current server infrastructure and applications, exploring options for on-premises server replacements or cloud migration, procuring and implementing the selected solution, and ensuring data security and compliance with city policies. The upgrade will directly benefit residents and taxpayers by improving the reliability of online and internal city services, enhancing cybersecurity for sensitive data and systems, and providing long-term cost savings through a more efficient IT infrastructure.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Government Services & Accessibility:** Upgrading municipal IT systems helps government staff respond more quickly and efficiently to service requests, permits, and resident concerns. It also allows residents to access important services—like bill payment, permit applications, or service requests—online, saving time and reducing the need to visit city offices in person.
- **Enhanced Cybersecurity:** Modernizing technology improves the city's ability to protect sensitive personal and financial information from cyber threats. By reducing the risk of data breaches, residents can trust that their information is safe, and that the city is being proactive about digital security.
- **Cost Savings Over Time:** Investing in efficient IT systems helps reduce manual processes, duplication of work, and administrative waste. These long-term savings can help fund other public services or reduce pressure to increase taxes.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Upgraded technology allows cities to collect, analyze, and act on data more effectively, improving planning and policy decisions. This means taxpayer dollars are used more strategically, based on real-time needs and trends.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Transparency & Trust:** New digital platforms can offer public dashboards or portals where residents can see how money is being spent and track the progress of city services. This transparency helps build trust between residents and local government.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** IT improvements can help ensure that all residents, including those in underserved areas, have better access to digital services. Initiatives like expanding public Wi-Fi or offering digital literacy training can help bridge the digital divide.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Community Event Support

Project Number: ARPA-77

Grant Term: 12/5/2024-12/5/2026

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$10,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$10,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 1/9/2025

Project Summary

The Strategic Tourism Plan (ARPA-31) and the continued implementation of the plan (ARPA-31A) created an Events Coordinator for the City of Fall River. The position allowed for the city to create a robust yearly calendar of events throughout the community. The events provide opportunities for low-moderate income families and other families residing in the community to participate in free activities, programs, and events. It also provides an opportunity for those outside the community to come and experience the City of Fall River and while here, explore all the small businesses, restaurants, and landmarks. Funds for this project provide the City of Fall River and the Events Coordinator with the ability to host these special community-wide events.

Resident Benefits

- **Mental Health and Well-Being:** Events help reduce isolation and stress, fostering social connection and supporting emotional health, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Economic Recovery:** Events boost the local economy by supporting local businesses and creating job opportunities through vendors, performers, and temporary positions.
- **Civic Engagement and Trust:** Events build community pride by showcasing local culture and history, and they increase government trust by demonstrating transparency in the use of ARPA funds.
- **Youth and Family Engagement:** Family-friendly events provide safe recreational activities for children and teens, while offering educational opportunities through workshops and resources.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Free or subsidized events make cultural experiences accessible to all within the community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Ladder Truck Restoration

Project Number: ARPA-78

Grant Term: 12/5/2024-12/5/2026

Eligibility Category: 6: Revenue Replacement

6.1: Provision of Government Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$60,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$60,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 3/27/2025

Project Summary

The funding is being used to restore Fall River Fire Department's 1989 Pierce Arrow 100' Quint. Once the Ladder Truck is complete it will be used as a ready-reserve ladder truck serving all areas of the City of Fall River.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Firefighting Capabilities:** Ladder trucks are essential for responding to fires in multi-story buildings and performing rescues in difficult-to-reach areas. Restoring the ladder truck ensures that the fire department can respond more effectively to emergencies, potentially saving lives and minimizing property damage.
- **Public Safety:** A fully restored ladder truck allows for faster and more reliable responses to fires, medical emergencies, and other incidents requiring elevated access. This significantly improves the overall safety of residents, especially in densely populated areas or locations with taller structures.
- **Cost Savings for Taxpayers:** Utilizing ARPA funds to restore the ladder truck prevents the financial burden from falling directly on taxpayers. It addresses an urgent need without raising taxes or diverting money from other essential services.
- **Community Confidence:** Investing in critical infrastructure, like a ladder truck, helps build trust between the city government and its residents. It shows a commitment to public safety and the long-term sustainability of essential services.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: ARPA Administration

Project Number: ARPA Admin

Grant Term: 6/6/2022-6/6/2027

Eligibility Category: 7: Administrative

7.1 Administrative Expenses

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$376,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$274,965.37

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 6/2027

Project Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provides critical financial support to cities for pandemic recovery efforts, infrastructure improvements, public health initiatives, and economic revitalization. To ensure effective management of these funds, it is essential to have a dedicated ARPA Administrator. This role oversees the disbursement and payment processes, monitors subrecipients to ensure compliance with federal guidelines, maintains accurate reporting, and ensures all deadlines are met. Proper oversight helps maximize the impact of ARPA funds, mitigates risk, and ensures transparency and accountability to both the public and federal agencies.

Resident Benefits

- **Proper Fund Allocation and Transparency:** Hiring a dedicated administrator ensures that the ARPA funds are properly managed and allocated. This transparency builds trust with residents, as they can see that the funds are being used for their intended purposes.
- **Ensuring Compliance with Treasury Guidelines:** The U.S. Treasury has specific rules and guidelines on how ARPA funds must be spent. An administrator ensures compliance with these regulations, preventing misuse or mismanagement of funds, and ensuring that the city does not risk penalties or lose funding.
- **Efficient Monitoring and Accountability:** Continuous monitoring of how the funds are used ensures that the objectives of the ARPA program are being met effectively. Regular audits and checks help identify and rectify any issues before they escalate, ensuring that funds benefit residents as intended.
- **Avoiding Fraud and Waste:** With an administrator in place, there is a system for preventing fraud, waste, and abuse of funds. This protection ensures that the funds are directed toward programs and services that directly benefit the residents, rather than being siphoned off or misused.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Body Worn Cameras and Tasers

Project Number: BCT-1

Grant Term: 11/3/2022-11/3/2026

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,522,877.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$1,445,311.58
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$1,445,311.58

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 2/16/2024

Project Summary/

The Fall River Police Department has been awarded funding to enhance its law enforcement capabilities through the purchase of body-worn cameras, Tasers, and supporting equipment. This investment addresses the rise in violent crime linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw a significant increase in gun violence. The funds will cover the purchase of 225 body-worn cameras, equipment for charging stations, side arm activation kits, docking stations, mounting kits, data storage solutions, and new X7 Tasers. The X7 Tasers are compatible with body cameras and automatically activate them when powered on, ensuring seamless documentation of incidents.

This technology is essential for creating accountability and transparency, helping build trust between law enforcement and the community. The addition of body-worn cameras and Tasers will also aid in de-escalating situations, reducing complaints against officers, and increasing public confidence. With these tools, the Fall River Police Department will be better prepared to respond to rising violence, improve safety, and foster positive community interactions.

Resident Benefits

- **Accountability and Transparency:** Body-worn cameras ensure that interactions between law enforcement and the community are recorded, promoting transparency and holding officers accountable for their actions. This fosters trust and confidence, particularly among residents who may have concerns about police practices.
- **Trust and Community Relations:** Body-worn cameras and Tasers will strengthen relationships between the Fall River Police Department and the community. This technology ensures that incidents are documented fairly, helping to bridge gaps and build trust.
- **Safety and Crime Reduction:** The new equipment will assist officers in handling dangerous situations more effectively. The automatic activation of body cameras when the tasers are used helps de-escalate tense encounters, contributing to safer interactions between police officers and the public. This can ultimately reduce crime rates in the city.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Cost Savings for Taxpayers:** By investing in body-worn cameras and tasers, the city can reduce the likelihood of lawsuits or claims against the police department. This reduces legal and insurance costs, resulting in long-term savings for taxpayers while ensuring that public safety expenses remain under control.
- **Improved Public Confidence:** The technology helps increase public confidence in the police by ensuring that every encounter is properly documented. This leads to a reduction in complaints against officers and improves overall perceptions of law enforcement, making Fall River a safer and more trusting place for all residents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Graffiti Removal Machines

Project Number: BCT-2

Grant Term: 11/7/2022-11/7/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Small Businesses
2.31: Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$75,300.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$74,845.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$74,845.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 5/31/2023

Project Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act allows for funding to support tourism, travel, and hospitality, with a focus on investments that stimulate the economy. This includes the transformation, beautification, and preservation of commercial districts impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the city saw a surge in graffiti, which has negatively affected the aesthetic appeal and property values of the community. Graffiti removal is essential to revitalize Fall River's public spaces and restore the appeal of local businesses and tourist attractions.

By purchasing a graffiti removal machine and a retrofit for an existing graffiti removal machine, the city can efficiently address this issue, reducing the burden on property owners and improving the overall appearance of the community. This initiative supports local businesses and helps to restore a positive image for Fall River, which is crucial for its post-pandemic recovery and economic growth.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Aesthetics and Community Pride:** Graffiti detracts from the visual appeal of public spaces, neighborhoods, and business areas. By removing graffiti quickly and efficiently, the city will restore the beauty of its streets and commercial districts, which enhances community pride and creates a more welcoming environment for both residents and visitors.
- **Increased Property Values:** Graffiti can significantly lower property values, both residential and commercial. By addressing this issue, the city helps preserve and potentially raise property values, benefiting homeowners and business owners alike. This, in turn, contributes to a more vibrant local economy.
- **Cost Savings for Property Owners:** Removing graffiti is often a costly burden for property owners. By investing in graffiti removal machines, the city can reduce the financial burden on residents and local businesses, especially those that may already be struggling due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Tourism and Economic Development:** Clean, graffiti-free areas are more attractive to tourists and potential investors. This contributes to the city's efforts to rebuild its economy, attracting more visitors and supporting local businesses, which generates more tax revenue for the city.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Street Sweepers

Project Number: BCT-3

Grant Term: 11/30/2022-11/30/2024

Eligibility Category: 5: Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: Water and Sewer
5.18: Water and Sewer: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$950,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$931,210.12
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$931,210.12

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/3/2024

Project Summary

The purchase of three street sweepers, two brush sweepers, and one vacuum sweeper, will significantly enhance Fall River's ability to remove contaminants from city streets, which routinely flow into storm drains and the combined sewer system. Contaminants such as sand, oil, leaf litter, and urban debris are typically carried into catch basins, eventually reaching local rivers, streams, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and ultimately the Taunton River and Mt. Hope Bay. This leads to increased wastewater treatment demands.

The addition of these three street sweepers will enable more frequent street cleaning, preventing contaminants from entering the catch basins. The equipment includes two brush sweepers and a vacuum sweeper. The brush sweepers will break up debris, while the vacuum sweeper will remove it completely from the roadway. This tandem operation will ensure that city streets remain safer for motorists and cyclists, while also protecting storm drains from debris and reducing pollution in the watershed and surrounding sensitive areas.

This investment in equipment will improve the quality of Fall River's water bodies, including ponds, streams, and rivers, and help mitigate the strain on wastewater and stormwater systems.

Resident Benefits

- **Cost Savings in Wastewater Treatment:** The reduction in urban debris entering storm drains and the wastewater system will decrease treatment demands at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, helping to lower long-term operational costs, which ultimately save taxpayer dollars.
- **Improved Public Safety:** By keeping city streets cleaner, street sweepers will reduce traffic hazards and improve safety for motorists and cyclists, helping to prevent accidents caused by debris such as sand and oil.
- **Economic and Aesthetic Benefits:** The removal of contaminants will improve the appearance of the city, making it more attractive for residents, visitors, and local businesses, potentially boosting tourism and economic activity.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Protection of Natural Resources:** Reducing pollution in local rivers, streams, and the Taunton River will preserve valuable natural resources, ensuring long-term environmental sustainability for the community.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .03 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Bioreserve Discovery Center

Project Number: BCT-4

Grant Term: 11/22/2022-11/22/2026

Eligibility Category: 3.9: Healthy Childhood Environments: Other

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,365,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$626,140.31

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/2025

Project Summary

The purchase will include 9 acres of land and a building that will be renovated to include a gallery space (400 sq ft) displaying professionally developed illustrations, maps, timelines, narratives and interactive experiences focusing on five dominant themes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve: Water, Biodiversity, Climate Change & Resiliency, Cultural History, and Recreation Opportunities. There will also be classrooms, an open room for exhibits, meetings, and classes, office space, and a lecture hall.

The Bioreserve Environmental Education and Discovery Center will serve as a gateway to the bioreserve acting as a regional resource for educational and interpretive programs related to history, land use, and ecological significance of the bioreserve land. Educational programs will be offered and operated by program partners, including: Durfee Career & Technology Program, Diman Science and Culinary Studies, BCC Sustainable Studies and Culinary Studies, Massachusetts Audubon, and Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. The funding would provide an opportunity for increased activity and interest in the outdoor recreational activities available within the Southeastern Massachusetts bioreserve.

Resident Benefits

- **Enhanced Education and Awareness:** The center provides valuable educational resources and programs related to Southeastern Massachusetts' natural environment, ecology, and history. By partnering with local schools and institutions, it directly benefits students and residents, providing hands-on learning opportunities for diverse age groups and interests.
- **Increased Recreational Opportunities:** With a focus on outdoor activities, the center encourages residents to explore and engage with the surrounding natural landscape. This not only improves public health by promoting outdoor exercise but also helps preserve and enhance local green spaces in an urban area with limited natural areas.
- **Cultural and Historical Enrichment:** The gallery space and educational programs focusing on the region's cultural history allow residents to connect with and learn about their local heritage. This can foster a stronger sense of community pride and identity.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Support for Local Economy:** The center serves as a regional hub for educational and interpretive activities, potentially attracting visitors from outside the immediate area. This can stimulate local businesses, including restaurants, hotels, and retailers, driving economic growth in a community that may otherwise lack such opportunities.
- **Community Engagement and Partnership Opportunities:** The center acts as a gathering space for meetings, classes, and other community-oriented events. By creating a space for collaboration and interaction, it strengthens community bonds, allowing residents to connect and work together on regional environmental and cultural issues.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .04 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Fitness Court

Project Number: BCT-5

Grant Term: 11/30/2022-11/30/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$164,350.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$142,350.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$142,350.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 11/15/2023

Project Summary

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) awarded Fall River a \$50,000 grant as part of its National Fitness Campaign to build a Fitness Court® and promote healthy communities by encouraging outdoor physical activity. Fall River, a Gateway City with a population of 89,618, faces significant economic challenges, including high poverty and unemployment rates, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The city is also designated as an Environmental Justice community, with many residents at risk for health inequities. The Fitness Court® is an advanced outdoor gym offering thousands of exercise options for full-body workouts, providing accessible and affordable fitness opportunities for a community with limited recreational resources.

This project will positively impact Fall River by aligning with CDC guidelines for pandemic safety, allowing for social distancing while encouraging physical activity. The Fitness Court® will provide a vital outdoor space for recreation, supporting both physical and mental health. It is particularly beneficial for the 20.6% of Fall River's population living with disabilities, as it offers a world-class, free fitness option that is accessible to individuals with various physical limitations. By increasing access to fitness opportunities, the project will contribute to a healthier community and improve overall wellbeing for residents, particularly those who are underserved.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Health:** The Fitness Court® provides residents with a free, accessible space for physical activity, promoting healthier lifestyles and potentially reducing healthcare costs associated with sedentary behaviors and chronic health conditions.
- **Enhanced Accessibility for All:** By catering to people with disabilities, the project ensures equitable access to fitness opportunities, encouraging participation from all segments of the population and fostering a more inclusive community.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** The project targets Fall River's economically disadvantaged and high-risk groups, providing them with affordable recreation options that are critical for improving overall community health and quality of life.
- **Long-Term Economic Impact:** The development of a world-class fitness facility can enhance the city's public spaces, increase local engagement, and potentially attract additional investment and tourism, boosting the local economy.
- **Accessible Fitness for All:** Where many residents are from low-to-moderate income households, the Fitness Court® provides a free, high-quality fitness option. It eliminates the need for expensive gym memberships or fitness programs, allowing residents to engage in physical activity without financial barriers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: 911 Dispatch Communications

Project Number: BCT-6

Grant Term: 11/30/2022-9/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Community Violence Interventions
1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$305,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$290,065.83
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$285,390.83

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

Upgrade the main public safety communications terminal utilized by the Fall River Police, Fire and EMS Departments. In 2020 the Fall River Police Department Communications Division which includes all “calls for service” for the Police, Fire, and EMS received 66,895 such calls, with an increase in 2021 by 0.80% with 67,429 calls. Without the upgrade the equipment supporting these departments and the communities they serve would suffer possible partial or total loss of fixed capabilities, leading to all three agencies working from telephone or mobile apparatus. Communication and its equipment are at the heart of all three departments; it is crucial to have uninterrupted services to serve the community. It is necessary to have the 911 Dispatch System upgraded to ensure that those victims of violent crimes, those in need of mental health and substance use assistance, can access police, fire or EMS departments and that these departments can continue to keep the community safe.

Resident Benefits

- **Enhanced Public Safety:** Upgrading the communications system ensures that the Fall River Police, Fire, and EMS Departments maintain uninterrupted service, which is vital for responding to emergencies and protecting residents.
- **Increased Efficiency:** The upgrade supports the handling of a growing number of service calls, ensuring that all departments can continue their operations smoothly.
- **Protection Against Equipment Failure:** With aging equipment, there is a risk of partial or total communication loss, which could severely disrupt emergency response capabilities. The upgrade mitigates this risk, ensuring continuous, reliable service.
- **Public Health and Safety Access:** The new system will allow residents in critical need to effectively connect with the appropriate departments, ensuring faster, more coordinated response times.
- **Long-term Savings:** By preventing equipment failure and improving operational efficiency, the system upgrade can lower maintenance costs over time and prevent more expensive emergency fixes in the future.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Blue Water Project

Project Number: BCT-7

Grant Term: 12/8/2022-12/8/2026

Eligibility Category: 5: Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure
5.9 Clean Water: Nonpoint Source

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$241,275.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$222,957.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/2026

Project Summary

The purpose of the Blue Water Project is to reduce phosphorus loading to the South Watuppa Pond, hence restoring water quality and protecting it as a potential back-up water supply and recreational resources for the public to use and enjoy. Funding will be used for design and permitting four retrofits. The community would benefit from a back-up water supply and recreational resources, as well as the addition of educational programs.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Water Quality:** Improving water quality benefits residents by ensuring a cleaner, healthier water source for various uses.
- **Enhanced Water Supply Security:** By restoring the pond, it will serve as a potential back-up water supply for the city, increasing resilience in case of emergencies or disruptions to primary water sources.
- **Recreational Benefits:** The project will protect and enhance the pond as a recreational resource, providing residents with more opportunities for outdoor activities and leisure, thereby improving quality of life.
- **Long-term Environmental Health:** Reducing phosphorus loading helps preserve the pond's ecological health, benefiting both residents and taxpayers by supporting sustainable environmental practices that reduce long-term maintenance costs.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .01 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Solar Flashing Stop and Pedestrian Signs

Project Number: BCT-8

Grant Term: 2/28/2024-5/28/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$145,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$145,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 3/4/2024

Project Summary

To ensure that the pedestrians accessing the heavily travelled intersections, schools, elderly housing and parks in the city and to increase visibility and awareness of drivers on the roadway, the solar powered, flashing stop signs and LED flashing pedestrian crossing signs will be extremely beneficial to the pedestrians and drivers in the City of Fall River. Additionally, the solar powered flashing stop, and pedestrian crossing signs are cost efficient and environmentally friendly.

In the elderly housing locations, there is considerable pedestrian traffic due to many elderly not able to drive, and a considerable need for visibility of signs. Priority placement for the flashing pedestrian crossing signs in the elderly housing include (1) Hood Street for Cardinal Medeiros Towers, (2) Bate Street for Bates Tower, (3) Pleasant Street for Francis J. Barresi Heights and George H. Cottell Heights.

High pedestrian traffic areas include schools. The priority placement for the flashing pedestrian crossing signs are those schools with the most kids walking to/from school include: (1) Jackson Letourneau on Anthony and Stafford Road (school has walking patrol in which principal walks kids to school due to safety concerns), (2) Mary Fonseca at Quarry Street and Small Way (walkers include kids from nearby housing complex and as far as Robeson Street and all the way to Pine Street, (3) Green School at Cambridge Street, and (4) Henry Lord on Amity Street (also includes nearby housing complex).

Placement of the flashing stop signs will begin with priority at the following locations: (1) Morgan Street and Second Street (playground located at intersection), (2) Globe Street and Stafford Road (playground located at intersection), (3) Wade Street at John Street/Wade Street and Fifth Street (park located in this area). The following are other heavily traveled intersections: Lyon Street and Middle Street, Airport Road for the Northbound drivers, Bay Street and Middle Street, Bradford Avenue at Broadway, Division Street at Broadway, William Street at Broadway.

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Resident Benefits

- **Enhanced Pedestrian Safety:** Increased visibility of crosswalks and intersections reduces the risk of pedestrian accidents, particularly in high-traffic areas, schools, and elderly housing complexes.
- **Senior and Vulnerable Population Support:** Targeted placement at elderly housing locations addresses specific safety concerns for older residents with limited mobility.
- **Student Safety:** Prioritizing school zones with high foot traffic ensures safer routes for children walking to and from school, promoting safer neighborhoods.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Solar-powered signs reduce energy costs and require less maintenance, resulting in long-term savings for the city.
- **Traffic Flow Improvement:** Increased driver awareness at critical intersections helps maintain orderly traffic flow, reducing congestion and preventing accidents.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Medical Equipment for EMS

Project Number: BCT-9

Grant Term: 1/16/2024-1/16/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Other

1.14 Other Public Health Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$172,372.77
- **Amended Budget:** \$167,837.77
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$167,835.77

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/11/2024

Project Summary

Mobile Integrated Healthcare Division Medical Equipment:

- **Stethoscopes (Eko Core 500):** The Eko Core 500 stethoscope assists EMS personnel in assessing heart and lung sounds with precision, even in noisy environments. It supports telehealth visits by transmitting sounds remotely to healthcare workers for enhanced diagnosis and care.
- **Portable Ultrasounds:** These devices enable medics to conduct FAST exams in the field, facilitating better decision-making for patient transport and enabling real-time transmission of ultrasound data to emergency rooms for timely treatment.
- **Ventilators:** Essential for managing critical respiratory emergencies, these ventilators provide consistent oxygen levels during treatment and patient transfers, allowing medics to focus on other medical issues. The ventilators meet state protocols and improve EMS response efficiency.

Resident Benefits

- **Enhanced Patient Care:** The acquisition of stethoscopes, portable ultrasounds, and ventilators ensures more accurate diagnoses and effective treatments in the field, improving health outcomes for residents during emergencies.
- **Increased Efficiency:** The equipment allows for quicker and more informed decision-making, reducing the need for patients to be transported to multiple facilities and helping EMS providers deliver better-targeted care right from the scene.
- **Cost Savings for Taxpayers:** By equipping EMS with advanced tools, the city can reduce long-term healthcare costs, such as hospital admissions and emergency transfers, while also improving response times and overall healthcare service efficiency.
- **Stronger Telehealth Integration:** Bluetooth-enabled stethoscopes support remote care collaboration, reducing hospital visits and streamlining patient care, particularly for those with chronic conditions, which can lower healthcare-related expenses for both individuals and the city.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Speed Alert Radar Message Signs and Trailers

Project Number: BCT-10

Grant Term: 3/10/2023-3/10/2024

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$56,592.99
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$56,592.99

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 4/27/2023

Project Summary

COVID-19 had a significant and detrimental impact on public transportation. Across the nation ridership on public transportation declined, when people who normally frequented such transportation feared overcrowding and infection, and many simply no longer commuted to work. Additionally, there was a shortage of bus drivers which caused routes to be eliminated. In urban cities many people simply opted to walk. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) ridership on public transportation dropped by 79%. There was a significant increase in utilitarian and recreational walking. Recreational walking surpassed pre-pandemic levels as people opted to escape the confines of their homes to get fresh air and exercise. As a result, there is more pedestrian traffic, as well as more single vehicle traffic, as people opt out of public transportation.

To ensure the safety of pedestrians accessing the heavily travelled intersections, schools, elderly housing and parks in the city and to increase visibility and awareness of drivers on the roadway will be extremely beneficial to pedestrians but also drivers in the City of Fall River. The solar powered Speed Alert 24 Radar Message Signs are additionally environmentally friendly and can be relocated to different locations throughout the city depending on the need for safety.

Resident Benefits

- **Environmental Benefits:** These radar message signs are solar-powered, which makes them an environmentally friendly solution. The use of renewable energy reduces the city's carbon footprint and helps achieve sustainability goals while maintaining safety measures.
- **Cost-Effective and Flexible:** The ability to relocate these signs to various high-traffic areas as needed makes them a versatile investment for the city. This flexibility allows the city to address changing traffic patterns and pedestrian safety concerns over time, ensuring that public funds are being used efficiently and effectively.
- **Improving Traffic Safety for Drivers and Pedestrians:** The radar signs will not only benefit pedestrians but also drivers. By increasing awareness of speed limits and pedestrian zones, these signs contribute to overall traffic safety, reducing the likelihood of accidents and improving the

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

experience for both drivers and pedestrians. This investment in safety will ultimately lower potential costs related to traffic accidents, medical expenses, and infrastructure damage, benefiting taxpayers in the long term.

- **Community Wide Impact:** The improved safety measures support a healthier and more active community by encouraging walking while ensuring that those who rely on walking for transportation or recreation can do so safely. It also benefits the broader public by preventing potential accidents, thereby reducing emergency response needs and associated costs.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Stafford Square Preliminary Design

Project Number: BCT-11

Grant Term: 11/27/2023-11/27/2025

Eligibility Category: 5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer
5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$450,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$347,882.54

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 11/2025

Project Summary

Stafford Square Preliminary Design will allow the City of Fall River to continue with the preliminary design efforts in this long-troubled area. The project began with a feasibility study that was completed and with this funding the next steps can ensue. There are additional grant applications pending with MassWorks for work that will take this preliminary design to full design and an application with FEMA through the BRIC Program for construction.

Resident Benefits

- **Flood Mitigation and Infrastructure Improvement:** The designs will address updates to drainage systems, addressing long-standing flooding issues. This will reduce property damage, and the costs associated with flood-related repairs, benefiting both residents and taxpayers.
- **Economic Revitalization:** Revitalizing Stafford Square will attract businesses, enhance local commerce, and increase foot traffic, boosting the city's economy and creating job opportunities for residents.
- **Property Value Enhancement:** The redevelopment of this area will likely lead to an increase in property values in the surrounding neighborhoods, offering a return on investment for local property owners and potentially increasing tax revenue for the city.
- **Leveraged Funding:** ARPA funds and other grants will reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers while still enabling significant infrastructure improvements.
- **Long-Term Community Benefits:** The revitalization will improve the quality of life for residents by providing modern infrastructure, public spaces, and better flood control, creating a safer and more attractive area for families and businesses alike.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .01 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

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Project Name: Waterfront Stormwater Corridor Project

Project Number: BCT-12

Grant Term: 4/14/2023-4/14/2026

Eligibility Category: 5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer
5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$2,000,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$5,000,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$4,804,824.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 4/2026

Project Summary

MassDOT has been collaborating with the City of Fall River on the Route 79 – Davol Street Corridor Improvements project, which is located within the City Pier and President Avenue watersheds, since 2014. MassDOT has determined that there are several project features, not typically included in highway Transportation projects, that are necessary to be included but are considered non-participating items. These items, which are the subject of the funding request, include a Stormwater Conveyance System.

The City's wastewater collection and treatment system is primarily a combined system with more than 200 miles of sewers that transport both sanitary and stormwater flows to the Fall River wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) or one of the 17 CSO's that discharges to the Taunton River or Mount Hope Bay. Sewer age and development over time have resulted in capacity and condition issues that must be addressed as part of infrastructure renewal projects.

The City Pier and President Avenue watersheds are some of the most developed areas of the City and will require significant separation of the sewer system over many years to mitigate wet-weather impacts (i.e., CSO's). The stormwater conveyance system has been designed to convey the projected stormwater flows of future sewer separation projects from within the watersheds, above the proposed Route 79-Davol Street Improvements Corridor, ultimately discharging them into the Taunton River.

By constructing this downstream stormwater infrastructure as part of this much larger project, the corridor will not need to be revisited later, which will have already been revitalized with multimodal transportation, residential and commercial developments, as well as public access to the beautiful Fall River Waterfront.

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Resident Benefits

- **Improved Stormwater Management:** The Stormwater Conveyance System will help mitigate issues related to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), which discharge untreated stormwater and wastewater into local water bodies during heavy rain. This will reduce pollution in the Taunton River and Mount Hope Bay, improving environmental quality and public health.
- **Infrastructure Renewal:** Addressing the aging sewer system, which covers more than 200 miles, ensures the long-term viability of wastewater management. This proactive infrastructure renewal will prevent costly repairs in the future and enhance system reliability, ultimately saving taxpayers money.
- **Economic Revitalization:** The improvements will revitalize the City Pier and President Avenue areas, transforming them into vibrant residential and commercial hubs. This will attract investment, support local businesses, and create jobs, stimulating the local economy and providing long-term benefits to residents.
- **Efficient Project Execution:** By integrating the stormwater infrastructure into the larger project now, the city avoids revisiting the corridor in the future, reducing disruptions and unnecessary costs. This efficiency ensures that the revitalized area remains accessible and attractive, benefiting both residents and taxpayers in the long run.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents due to this project and the ARPA-42 Route 79 Corridor Improvements would have risen by .17 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

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Project Name: Removal of Partial Lead Service Program and
Infrared Hot Box for Water Line Access

Project Number: BCT-13

Grant Term: 4/14/2023-6/30/2025

Eligibility Category: 5: Infrastructure Water and Sewer
5.12 Drinking Water: Lead Remediation

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$3,128,572.56
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$1,810,900.06

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 6/30/2025

Project Summary

The City of Fall River has received a \$10 million federal grant to address the removal and replacement of a portion of the city's 3,760 lead service lines, which serve approximately 4,500 residents. The project will focus on replacing 760 full-service lines and partially replacing 3,000 lead pipes that run from the curb stop to water meters. While the current funding allows for the replacement of approximately 450 partial lead service lines, additional funding is required to complete the full scope of work.

To assist with this process, the Water and Sewer Division will use infrared “hot box” asphalt arrays for efficient repairs and installations below paved surfaces. This project is part of the city's ongoing efforts to comply with an Administrative Consent Order (ACOP) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) due to elevated lead levels in tap water. The city has been under this order since 2005 and has implemented measures such as corrosion control and water main replacements. However, in 2021, the city exceeded the lead action level, prompting a Notice of Noncompliance from the DEP. The completion of this lead service line replacement is now a top priority to ensure safe drinking water for residents and maintain regulatory compliance.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Health:** By replacing lead service lines, the project directly addresses health risks associated with lead contamination in drinking water, ensuring safer water for residents, particularly vulnerable populations, such as children and pregnant women.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** Completing the project helps the City stay compliant with state and federal regulations, avoiding penalties or further enforcement actions from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Investing in lead pipe replacement reduces the risk of future contamination and costly health-related issues, potentially lowering medical expenses and future

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water treatment costs. This proactive approach can prevent more expensive repairs and maintenance down the line.

- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have risen by .08 cents for the next 20 years but for BCT ARPA Funds. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*
- **Enhanced Property Value:** Safer drinking water contributes to a higher quality of life and can improve property values, benefit homeowners and stimulate local economic growth.
- **Environmental Benefits:** By replacing lead pipes and improving water infrastructure, the city is reducing the environmental impact of corrosion and water contamination, leading to cleaner water resources.
- **Equitable Investment:** The project ensures that all residents, especially those in older neighborhoods with outdated infrastructure, benefit from improved water quality and a safer environment, enhancing community health and resilience.

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Project Name: FRACC Artist Recovery Program

Project Number: BCT-14

Grant Term: 5/15/2023-5/15/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts:

Assistance to Households:

2.9: Unemployment Benefits or Underemployed Workers

Assistance to Small Businesses:

2.29: Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

2.30: Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

Assistance to Non-Profits:

2.34 Assistance to Impacted Non-Profits

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$173,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$77,372.89

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 5/2025

Project Summary

The FRACC Artist Recovery Program, in partnership with Assets for Artists (A4A), provides financial and technical assistance to artists in Fall River impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program aims to strengthen the city's creative sector by offering working capital grants, business training, and artist showcase opportunities to 115 local artists. The program is structured into four key areas: Capacity-Building Program, Business & Finance Workshop Series, Artist Showcased at Events, and Creative Ambassadors Program.

The Capacity-Building Program will provide ten artists with \$3,000 working capital grants, business plan development support, and technical assistance workshops focused on financial health and business sustainability. The Business & Finance Workshop Series will deliver targeted training to 100 artists through workshops on marketing, grant writing, and online sales, ensuring that artists have the tools to thrive in a post-pandemic economy.

Additionally, the Artist Showcased at Events initiative will connect ten artists with public events to showcase their work, promoting both their art and Fall River's cultural assets. The Creative Ambassadors Program will select five artists to lead public engagement projects, each receiving a \$4,000 project grant to produce community-focused art experiences that foster cultural connections across the city.

By investing in its creative workforce, the FRACC Artist Recovery Program not only supports local artists in achieving greater financial stability but also enriches the city's cultural landscape, stimulates economic activity, and strengthens community ties through art.

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Resident Benefits

- **Economic Revitalization:** By supporting local artists, the program stimulates the economy through job creation, local spending, and increased demand for arts-related services and events. This results in more money circulating within the community and can lead to long-term economic growth.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Increased participation in arts and cultural events fosters a stronger sense of community. Public showcases, events, and creative initiatives offer residents access to free or low-cost cultural experiences, enhancing the quality of life in Fall River.
- **Attraction of Visitors and Tourism:** By showcasing local artists and boosting arts and culture events, the program helps make Fall River a more attractive destination for visitors, potentially driving tourism and contributing to the local economy.
- **Community Cohesion:** The program promotes community involvement and engagement by encouraging residents to actively participate in arts events, fostering a sense of pride, unity, and collaboration. This creates a more connected and resilient community.
- **Long-Term Tax Base Growth:** As local artists thrive and contribute to the city's economy, they generate additional tax revenue through their businesses, sales, and events. This boost in economic activity helps strengthen Fall River's overall tax base, providing more resources for city services and infrastructure, ultimately benefiting all residents and taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Food Pantry Assistance

Project Number: BCT-15

Grant Term: 6/12/2023-9/1/2026

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Non-Profits
2.34: Assistance to Impacted Non-Profit Organizations

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$50,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$42,874.42

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 9/2025

Project Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic created considerable hardship for the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River, which relies solely on charitable contributions from individuals, local businesses, and fundraising efforts. These contributions decreased dramatically because of the pandemic.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River suffered a measurable decline in private donations, while experiencing an increase in the number of meals being provided to the community (250/week from 100-150/week). In 2020 and 2021, the organization experienced a net loss of approximately \$3000 and \$3500, respectively. Since its inception in 2015, the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River has never suffered a net loss.

Despite private and in-kind donations being down more than 50% during the pandemic, the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River not only continued to provide hot and nutritious meals to veterans and their families but also delivered them while the building was closed. The organization was able to provide this service due to the goodwill of the volunteers involved in the organization who remained committed despite the challenges created by the pandemic.

The use of ARPA funds will provide crucial financial support to the Veterans' Kitchen of Fall River, ensuring it can continue to meet the increased demand for meals, as well as assist with the expansion of food distribution services. This funding will help sustain the pantry's operations and allow the organization to offer additional food provisions to families in need within the community. The financial assistance from ARPA will provide a stable foundation for the food pantry to recover from the financial strain caused by the pandemic, supporting its ongoing commitment to feeding veterans and residents. By ensuring continued access to nutritious meals, this funding will bolster the community's resilience and support families experiencing financial hardship.

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Resident Benefits

- **Community Well-being:** The food pantry's ability to continue offering hot, nutritious meals directly supports the well-being of veterans and low-income families, preventing hunger and improving quality of life.
- **Local Economic Relief:** Funding will help stabilize the pantry's operations, reducing the financial strain on charitable local organizations and preventing further financial losses. This supports the broader economic stability of the community by ensuring that resources are available for those in need.
- **Cost Savings for Public Services:** By providing meals and food support, the pantry helps reduce the burden on local social services, emergency response teams, and healthcare providers. This can help prevent further taxpayer expenses related to public health issues caused by food insecurity.
- **Strengthening Community Resilience:** Supporting the pantry through ARPA funds ensures that the community can recover more quickly from the challenges brought on by the pandemic. The long-term benefits include a more resilient, self-sustaining community, with fewer families facing financial distress.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Open Space and Recreational Plan

Project Number: BCT-17

Grant Term: 12/1/2023-12/1/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households:
2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that
Promote Health and Safety

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$35,200.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$18,383.72

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 12/2025

Project Summary

An Open Space and Recreational Plan (OSRP) allows the City of Fall River to (1) engage the community to plan for the future of its conservation and recreational resources, (2) provide regional and historical context, (3) provide environmental inventory and analysis, and (4) includes community goals, analysis of needs, and an action plan.

OSRPs are formally approved by the State and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Once approved the City of Fall River will be eligible for Division of Conservation Services (DCS) grant programs for the next 7 years.

The OSRP is essentially a 7-year action plan that will guide the City of Fall River's park-related work heading towards 2030. The OSRP process requires public engagement and drafting of a report documenting public input received through a survey and public meetings. Required as well, is a complete inventory of city-owned recreation and conservation lands with complete data on condition, method of acquisition, and land preservation status. The last plan was completed in 2009, so all maps (approx. 30), tables, and charts will be revised and updated. OSRP also requires an evaluation of all publicly accessible city-owned recreation and conversation properties for ADA compliance.

Once the OSRP is completed, the City of Fall River will have established open space, conservation and recreation goals for the city, and an action plan to accomplish those goals moving forward. Further, they will be eligible for grant program funding from the State of Massachusetts.

Resident Benefits

- **Public Engagement and Community Goals:** The OSRP involves engaging the community to set long-term conservation and recreational goals, ensuring that the future of Fall River's public spaces reflects residents' needs and priorities. This fosters stronger community connections and improves quality of life.

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- **Access to State Grants:** By completing the OSRP, Fall River becomes eligible for state funding programs administered by the Division of Conservation Services (DCS). This can unlock new resources for enhancing and expanding recreational spaces, which benefits the city's parks and public areas.
- **Environmental and Infrastructure Planning:** The OSRP provides a comprehensive environmental inventory and analysis, which will guide future conservation efforts and infrastructure improvements, ensuring sustainable development that benefits taxpayers through better management of city-owned land.
- **ADA Compliance and Inclusivity:** The plan includes an evaluation of city-owned recreation and conservation lands for ADA compliance, ensuring that all residents, regardless of ability, have access to public spaces. This increases the inclusivity of public amenities and reduces potential legal risks for the city.
- **Long-Term Benefits and Actionable Roadmap:** With a clear 7-year action plan, Fall River will have a defined path forward for maintaining and improving its recreational spaces, making investments that have long-term benefits for residents and taxpayers.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Veterans Assistance Program

Project Number: BCT-18

Grant Term: 11/1/2023-11/1/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.3: Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$250,000.00
- **Amended Budget:** \$20,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$20,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/23/2024

Project Summary

The City of Fall River created a Veterans Assistance Program to provide financial aid and assistance to qualifying veterans. The program targeted those veterans that receive just enough to survive but not enough to thrive. The economy has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and has resulted in the increased costs of food, fuel, housing, and transportation.

For individuals already struggling with fixed incomes, these increases have been extremely detrimental and have impacted on their ability to afford basic necessities. The purpose of the Veterans Assistance Program is to have an immediate and direct impact on qualifying veterans.

Fall River has approximately 4,000 veterans. Only the lowest-income veterans are currently supported through Chapter 115, which covers a fraction of veterans, leaving the majority without sufficient help. An estimated 800 veterans in the city live below the poverty line.

The original budget of \$250,000, to support this program, and aimed at assisting 200 veterans or their families, was reduced to \$20,000 because of time constraints and the need to ensure timely obligations and disbursement of funds. The program assisted 15 veterans and/or their families.

Resident Benefits

- **Direct Support for Veterans:** The program addresses a critical gap in financial assistance for veterans who fall through the cracks of existing federal and state programs, providing immediate relief to those who are most in need.
- **Community Impact:** By supporting veterans who contribute to the local economy and community, this program helps ensure their stability and reduces the broader financial burden on other community services.
- **Long-Term Economic Contribution:** Supporting working veterans who are struggling financially helps stabilize households and fosters greater long-term economic resilience within the city, benefiting the overall community and taxpayer base.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Mental Health Outreach for Veterans

Project Number: BCT-20

Grant Term: 5/28/2024-10/31/2025

Eligibility Category: 1: Public Health: Behavioral Health
1.12: Mental Health Services

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$10,000.00
- **Expended Funds (as of 3/31/2025):** \$0.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Pending
- **Expected Completion Date:** 10/31/2025

Project Summary

During the COVID-19 pandemic, veterans experienced more mental health challenges than civilians. A study published in the National Library of Medicine outlines the impact the pandemic had on veterans, specifically “the prevalence rates of alcohol use, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, stress, loneliness, and suicide ideation significantly increased during the pandemic, ranging from 9.6% to 47.4%, 9.4% to 53.5%, 8.6% to 55.1%, 4.1% to 58.0%, 4.3% to 39.4%, 15.9% to 28.4%, and 7.8% to 22.0%, respectively.”

The article goes on to attribute the “main risk factors of negative consequences included pandemic-related stress, poor family relationships, lack of social support, financial problems, and preexisting mental disorders.” While “resilience factors” included “greater community interaction and support.” The article concludes by emphasizing the significant detrimental impact the pandemic had by increasing adverse mental health consequences among veterans and urged that addressing mental health challenges with veterans be made a priority.

The funding will provide the Veterans Service Office with an opportunity to support veterans and their families with behavioral health support through speaker series, presentations, forums and providing resources. It will further provide a platform to bridge the generational gap amongst veterans and create a community for veterans and their families to share a bond and comradery.

Veterans answered a call to serve their country and through that commitment earned great appreciation. Through their service many have navigated deployment, multiple geographic moves, trauma-related stressors, and other circumstances that make it difficult to prioritize mental well-being. The funding for this outreach will support those that have transitioned from uniformed service to a continued meaningful civilian life.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Resident Benefits

- **Improving Mental Health Awareness:** Hosting a forum and peer-to-peer sessions for veterans can significantly raise awareness of mental health issues within the veteran community, encouraging open discussions and reducing stigma. This benefits residents by promoting a healthier, more supportive community.
- **Enhancing Veteran Support Networks:** The peer-to-peer sessions provide veterans with the opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and reducing isolation. Strengthening these support networks benefits both veterans and their families.
- **Reducing Long-term Healthcare Costs:** Providing veterans with tools and resources for managing mental health issues may reduce the need for more expensive, long-term healthcare interventions, easing the burden on public resources and saving taxpayer dollars.
- **Promoting Community Engagement:** By engaging the local community in supporting veterans through these programs, the city fosters a sense of unity and shared responsibility, which can have long-term positive effects on community morale and resilience.
- **Improved Public Safety and Stability:** Addressing mental health proactively can help prevent potential issues such as substance abuse, homelessness, or other challenges that might arise for veterans, promoting public safety and community well-being.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: CARE Fund

Project Number: BCT-22

Grant Term: 4/20/2024-4/20/2025

Eligibility Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts: Assistance to Households
2.3: Household Assistance: Cash Transfers

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$16,000.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$16,000.00

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 8/19/2024

Project Summary

The CARE Fund is designed to offset short term financial need for Fall River students experiencing immediate financial concerns which would otherwise prevent them from continuing their education at Bristol Community College. Funds are limited to students who are currently enrolled in classes at the time of the request and are in good academic standing. All requests for funding must be submitted through the CARE Fund request form.

Eligible Expenses may include:

- Transportation Assistance (Bus passes, gas cards, minor car repair)
- Housing Assistance (Short term rent assistance, utilities, other household expenses)
- Food Needs
- Childcare Expenses
- Textbooks or other educational necessities

Ineligible expenses include parking tickets, traffic violations, fines, health insurance, and credit card bills or debt. All requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and funding is not guaranteed for every request. The CARE Fund is not designed to replace Federal and State Financial Aid. Students should have exhausted all other resources.

The funding benefited 73 Fall River students.

Resident Benefits

- **Promote Student Success and Graduation:** Providing emergency financial support helps Fall River students stay enrolled and complete their education. Higher graduation rates lead to a stronger workforce, which strengthens the local economy and attracts businesses.
- **Reduces Dependency on Public Assistance:** Helping students complete their education improves their employment opportunities and earning potential, making them less likely to need public benefits like unemployment assistance, food stamps, or housing subsidies in the future.
- **Increases Local Economic Contributions:** College graduates typically earn higher wages, pay more in taxes, spend more in their communities, supporting local businesses and contributing to the economy in Fall River.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Strengthens the Community:** An educated population tends to have better health outcomes, lower crime rates, and higher civic engagement, helping to make Fall River a stronger, safer, and more vibrant place to live.
- **Maximizes Investment in Public Education:** Taxpayers already invest in public education through community colleges. Supporting students through short-term financial challenges ensures this investment is more effective by improving student retention and graduation rates.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

Project Name: Water Main Replacement

Project Number: BCT-23

Grant Term: 11/1/2021-11/1/2024

Eligibility Category: 5: Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: Water and Sewer
5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

Financial Overview

- **Original Budget:** \$1,692,768.21
- **Amended Budget:** \$2,293,485.00
- **Final Amount Expended:** \$2,293,484.61

Project Status

- **Status:** Completed
- **Date Completed:** 12/12/2024

Project Summary

The Water Main Replacement Project (ARPA-5) was funded through the City ARPA Funds. The project involved the replacement of 17,720 feet of water main and 36 lead services that were identified throughout the City of Fall River.

The request to approve the Water Main Replacement Project for funding from Bristol County Treasury, as a reimbursement, is to ensure that the deadlines required for applications and obligations are being satisfied. Advancements for funding for new projects that have not gone through the procurement process will not meet the obligation deadlines required by the Bristol County Treasury.

The Water Main Replacement Project commenced in November 2021 and is near completion. All funding has been obligated to meet the deadline, and all funding will be expended. As a result, this project is appropriate to put forth in an application to the Bristol County Treasury.

Resident Benefits

- **Improved Public Health and Water Quality:** Upgrading aging water mains ensure a safer and more reliable supply of clean drinking water. This reduces the risk of contaminants entering the water system due to pipe corrosion or breaks, thereby protecting residents from potential health hazards.
- **Financial Relief for Taxpayers:** By utilizing federal ARPA funds for water infrastructure projects, Fall River can offset the need for local funding sources, such as increased water rates or municipal bonds. This approach helps alleviate the financial burden on residents and taxpayers. *The tax rate for residents would have rose .36 cents if you factored in the ARPA-5 Water Main Replacement project. A savings of \$19/year for the average household. Over the next 20 years all ARPA funded water/sewer projects have saved taxpayers \$36.62 for the average household and \$100 for three-family homes.*

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT INITIATIVES IN FALL RIVER: PROGRESS & OUTCOMES

- **Enhanced Infrastructure Resilience:** Replacing outdated water mains reduces the frequency of service disruptions and costly emergency repairs. Modernized infrastructure is better equipped to handle increased demand and withstand environmental stresses, ensuring consistent water service for the community.
- **Economic Development and Job Creation:** Infrastructure projects can stimulate the local economy by creating jobs and attracting businesses. Reliable water infrastructure is a critical factor for businesses considering relocation or expansion, potentially leading to increased economic activity in the City of Fall River.
- **Long-Term Cost Savings:** Investing in water infrastructure now can lead to substantial long-term savings. Preventative maintenance and upgrades reduce the likelihood of expensive emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of the water system, providing financial benefits over time.