

Memorandum

November 6, 2020

To: Raton City Commissioners

Prepared By: Scott Berry, P.E.
City Manager

Subject: Request for Capital Outlay Project Funding
2021 Session of the New Mexico Legislature

The New Mexico State Legislature will convene in regular session on January 19, 2020 for a 60 day session. The session is scheduled to end at noon on March 20, 2021. Some legislators have proposed that the regular session be cancelled and an extraordinary session be scheduled at a later time in 2021 due to COVID-19 risks.

I will prepare requests for Capital Outlay Funding from the City of Raton to our legislative delegation and to Legislative Council Service prior to the session based upon the direction of the Raton City Commission. This memo will outline my recommendations for legislative funding requests. My recommendations follow closely to priorities established in the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) approved by the City Commission in September. My recommendations are listed below:

1. Police Equipment

As shown as the top priority in the ICIP, I would recommend a request in the amount of \$300,000 to purchase and replace police equipment. If funded, Raton Police Department (RPD) would implement the following upgrades:

- a. Telecommunications/ Dispatch upgrade – RPD proposes to replace six old desktop computers in the dispatch facility and install new hardware with up-to-date operating systems. Old computer systems represent an elevated security risk and include OS that are no longer supported. The upgrade would also include upgrade to current release Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. The upgraded software package proposed also includes Records Management Software (RMS) and mobile support for officers in the field. The currently utilized system is out-of-date and is no longer supported. The estimated cost of Telecommunications/ Dispatch upgrade is \$100,000.
- b. RPD is also proposing replacement of existing Police Body-Worn Cameras. Senate Bill 8 was passed in the 2020 Special Session in June and requires peace officers employed by municipal police departments who routinely interact with the public to wear a body-worn camera while on duty. While this has been the policy of Raton Police Department for years, current equipment needs upgrading due to obsolescence, dependability and current data management requirements.

Previous police cam equipment has been provided by N.M. Self-Insurers Fund, and it seems that acquisition of updated equipment through NMSIF is possible currently. If purchased, the complete functional system required for RPD is estimated to cost \$125,000.

- c. Additional needs include replacement or addition of non-lethal or less-lethal police technology including chemical, kinetic energy and conducted energy devices. Outfitting each Police Officer with updated Taser and Bola Wrap units would cost an estimated \$75,000.

If surplus funds are available following purchase of these equipment needs, additional duty gear including radios and car cameras, belts, cases, tactical lights and restraints would be purchased to fully outfit each officer.

Recommended Capital Outlay Request - \$300,000

2. Drainage System Improvements and Reconstruction –

Raton has an extensive storm drainage system, which has been under-maintained and under-funded for an extended period. The drainage system in the Original Townsite is an extensive system of pipes and channels constructed from mortared sandstone. The system is approximately 75 years old, and has extensive reconstruction needs. During the past five years, the City of Raton has completed 9 drainage improvement projects using city crews or contractor services. These completed projects included several phases to the Park Avenue/ Cook Avenue project to alleviate flooding at downtown businesses. However, I would propose a sustained effort to modernize this important infrastructure and legislative appropriation is a good option for funding an impactful project.

I recommend that we request Capital Outlay funding to continue replacement of storm drain inlets and manhole lining on First Street, Rio Grande Ave, Apache Ave, Pecos Ave, Clark Ave and Savage Ave.

Recommended Capital Outlay Request - \$250,000

3. Sugarite Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail –

Originally, New Mexico State Highway 72 included the four-lane section through Raton from the North Underpass to Interstate 25 and was constructed and maintained by NMDOT. The route was subsequently transferred to the City of Raton and included sections of Sugarite Avenue, Guadalupe Street and East Cook Avenue. The City route is 4300 feet in length and has potential

to be reconfigured to allow a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting Roundhouse Park with Highway 72 as a pathway to Sugarite Canyon State Park. Presently, four lanes are not necessary to carry the existing traffic volume, however, residential parking along the route may present challenges with a dedicated trail within the corridor. Crossing of Interstate 25 will also be challenging. The full project includes full-width pavement rehabilitation, in addition to signage, pavement markings and delineators. The project is phaseable, and I would recommend a request for design and approximately one-third of the construction cost. I would propose reconstruction of the Frontage Road section (south of Raton Creek) to a commercial section including curb and gutter, sidewalk, lighting, pavement resurfacing and drainage improvements.

Recommended Capital Outlay Request - \$400,000

4. Frontage Road/ East Tenth Street –

The I-25 Frontage Road located between the Clayton Highway and Highway 72 is another roadway that was dropped from the NMDOT maintenance schedule, but has potential for a prominent role in Raton's development plan. The Comprehensive Plan anticipates commercial development of areas east of I-25 to serve highway traffic between Texas and Colorado, and enhance the Highway 72 park entrance.

Recommended Capital Outlay Request - \$500,000

5. Document Storage Facility –

This funding request is put forth to address the current document storage challenge at the Raton Municipal Building. An extensive volume of documents must be retained by the City of Raton, Raton Water Works and Raton Public Service and there is currently not an adequate storage solution. A facility must be designed to protect documents from moisture and infestation. I would propose a secure building on the Municipal Building property.

Recommended Capital Outlay Request - \$200,000

I would request action to approve all Capital Outlay requests for Raton by the City Commission at the December 8, 2020 meeting in order to allow the time to complete documentation, submittals, and coordinate the requests with legislators and Legislative Council Service. The Commission can request any project that is listed on the ICIP and meets the attached criteria. My recommendations are offered based on current priority needs, projects impact on community development and compliance, and state established criteria.