

# Fairfield Use of ARPA Funds

American Rescue Plan Act | December 7, 2021

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# How much will Fairfield receive?

Total Projected Amount = **\$24.8 million**

**Coronavirus LOCAL Fiscal Recovery Fund (Directly from US Treasury)**

\$12.8 million total

\$6.4 million received

\$6.4 million expected in May 2022

**Coronavirus COUNTY Fiscal Recovery Fund (From the State as pass-through)**

\$12 million total

\$6 million expected in June 2021

\$6 million expected in June 2022

# Areas of Focus

MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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ENVIRONMENT

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QUALITY OF LIFE: RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

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TOWN MODERNIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

# SOCIAL SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

## COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND | \$200,000

- During COVID-19, the Town set up the COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide limited, one-time assistance to Fairfield residents adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The town is shifting its focus to helping our community to recover from the pandemic by establishing the COVID-19 Recovery Fund.
- The Recovery Fund will provide financial assistance to individuals and families of Fairfield who are unable to meet their basic household needs due to the economic disruption cause by COVID.
- Eligible residents may receive much-needed help with bills such as rent or mortgage, auto expenses, utilities, and food.
- Social Workers are also available to make sure that residents know about local resources such as health foundations and food banks.

# SOCIAL SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

## LIFEBRIDGE COMMUNITY SERVICES | \$150,000

- The pandemic has severely tested our collective set of coping skills and shined a bright spotlight on how tentative our resiliency skills are, and always have been. The number of individuals reporting feelings of depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation and hopelessness are not new, but have been exacerbated by 18 months of isolation, fear and uncertainty.
- Fairfield Counseling Services has been a valuable town resource for more than 30 years, providing quality individual, family and group counselling sessions for families in need. In order to increase access to care for that still vulnerable cohort, the additional ARPA funds will be used to pay for the following activities:
  - Clinical staff will partner with local organizations and places of business to be on site at routine intervals to provide information and connections to clinical help in order to put a friendly, knowledgeable face to mental health recovery.
  - A monthly schedule of free, resiliency-focused workshops will be made available to the public in order to promote mental health as a normal, healthy part of the human condition.
  - A scholarship program for those who cannot afford treatment, including those with high deductibles and co-pays for whom treatment remains an unattainable idea.

# SOCIAL SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

## CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER | \$150,000

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on children and teens, leading to higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation.
  - A May 2021 report by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) details COVID-19's impact on children's mental health: "Adolescents, young children, LGBTQ youth, and children of color may be particularly vulnerable to negative mental health consequences of the pandemic. During the pandemic, more than 25% of high school students reported worsened emotional and cognitive health; and more than 20% of parents with children ages 5-12 reported their children experienced worsened mental or emotional health."
- CFGC provides a continuum of care, in which our Behavioral Health and Family Support Services Units work closely together to ensure a family can achieve long-term success.

# SOCIAL SERVICES & MENTAL HEALTH

## OPERATION HOPE | \$150,000

- While we are just beginning to see the effects of this crisis, OH has already experienced an uptick in all emergency related programs – a 40% increase in pantry use, 32% increase in meals served, and a surge in the numbers of callers looking for shelter and housing.
- The funding will go towards three positions:
  - Food Services Manager
  - Homeless Resource Center Staff
  - Homeless Prevention Coordination
- Funding from APRA will allow OH to continue to meet the needs in Fairfield, and will allow us to better align resources and leverage other funding to ensure stability for our neighbors in need.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **DOWNTOWN RESILIENCY PROJECT WITH PERMEABLE SURFACING | \$1,420,000**

- The goal of this project is to utilize and install “green” infrastructure to mitigate flooding and improve resiliency in downtown Fairfield. This project employs a range of strategies to reduce flooding effects on critical infrastructure and key businesses in the central business district by decreasing runoff and peak flows.
- Following Superstorms Sandy and Irene, the Town of Fairfield retained Milone and MacBroom to conduct an engineering study to assess the feasibility of using green infrastructure approaches to reduce downtown flooding and to improve the resiliency of key infrastructure.
- The study concluded that soil and groundwater conditions are favorable and that there are significant opportunities within the downtown core to utilize green infrastructure approaches that could help significantly reduce runoff peak flows and volumes and lessen the severity and frequency of flooding.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## **BODY CAMERAS, DASHBOARD CAMERAS & TASERS | \$3,700,000**

- Recognizing upcoming legislative changes related to police accountability and the necessity to evolve as a police agency with regard to transparency and accountability as well as the need to improve training surrounding empathy and use of force, the Fairfield Police Department has found Axon Enterprise, Inc, to provide services, which fulfill those needs.
- the proposed Axon package bundles hardware, software, accessories, training programs, 24/7 customer support, equipment refreshes, and warranties together, to help equip our officers with the technology solutions they need.
- This package includes technology and training programs which allow officers to better connect with the public on calls for services as well as prepare to handle situations in the most effective and empathetic way possible while focusing on de-escalation prior to the use of force.
- The total 10 Year Costs for this solution which, by investing in it as a bundle, versus a la carte purchases, reflects an overall savings of over \$1,570,000.00 over the span of a 10-year contract for 110 officers and 35 vehicles.

# ENVIRONMENT

## FILL PILE REMEDIATION | \$1,000,000

- The Town's Licensed Environmental Professional, Weston & Sampson, completed the second round of testing at the fill pile/reclamation yard site, pursuant to a work plan developed with and approved by DEEP and EPA staff. The testing results are being compiled and shared with DEEP and EPA for discussion about the next steps in developing a remediation plan for the site. After regulators and the Town's advisors develop an agreed-upon remediation approach, a draft plan will be developed.
- Once the Town has a draft remediation plan, I will host a Town meeting with the LEP and DEEP / EPA staff, to share the information with our community. This will be an opportunity for our residents to listen to the details of the remediation plan for the fill pile and ask questions. Following the public meeting, the final remediation plan will be developed in concurrence with both the EPA and DEEP, and we will move forward with remediation of the fill pile/reclamation yard site.
- At this time it is still unknown the full cost to clean up the fill pile but we know additional funds will be required.

# ENVIRONMENT

## **ELECTRIC/HYBRID VEHICLES & CHARGING STATIONS | \$940,000**

- The town fleet at Town Hall consists of 29 old Crown Victorias that are very old and require continual maintenance.
- We are proposing to sell and/or dispose of the old vehicles, and replace them with a few number of town vehicles - a combination of hybrid and electric vehicles.
- The cost will also cover upgrading the electric service to Sullivan Independence Hall and installing charging stations for the vehicles.

# ENVIRONMENT

## ROOSTER RIVER DETENTION AREA | \$3,250,000

- In 2006, 2007 and 2018 the Rooster River overflowed its banks and flooded several streets and neighborhoods. For a few neighborhoods flooding occurred even more frequent.
- The purpose of the project is to address many neighborhood complaints and reduce flooding potential within the Rooster River watershed. In most cases, holding back storm water runoff through detention reduces the flow rate and reduces the amount of flooding for areas downstream that should benefit most property and homeowners.
- These construction improvements should reduce the amount of flooding, reduce the frequency of flooding, reduce property damage, improve access, and in improve water quality.

# QUALITY OF LIFE: RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

## **PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS & UPGRADES | \$923,000**

- Many of Fairfield's playgrounds are outdated and in need of upgrades or full renovations.
- This proposal includes a renovation to the following playgrounds:
  - Tunxis Hill
  - Melville Park
  - Lincoln Park
  - Dover Park
  - Highwood Park

# QUALITY OF LIFE: RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

## **SIDEWALKS | \$700,000**

- **Stratfield Road & Fairfield Woods Four Corner Installation \$450,000**
  - The broader project includes streetscape and pedestrian improvements to the Stratfield Village Business District to enhance pedestrian safety and mobility and beautify and renovate the commercial center of the Stratfield neighborhood.
- **Southport Connectivity Project \$250,000**
  - The Southport Connectivity project is intended to rehabilitate, enhance and enrich the pedestrian experience along the Post Road corridor in Southport by utilizing consistent streetscape treatments such as new universally accessible and ADA compliant concrete sidewalks and pedestrian ramps, curbs, pedestrian signals, traffic calming bulb outs, pavement markings, minor landscaping, turf establishment and other safety/pedestrian improvements.

# TOWN MODERNIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## **HVAC FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS | \$1,000,000**

- At the request of Superintendent Mike Cummings, funding will go towards the air conditioning in the sixth grade wing of Fairfield Woods Middle School

# TOWN MODERNIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## TRAFFIC LIGHTS | \$1,000,000

- The Town has 15 intersections that it maintains. These installations were done over many years and as such, obsolete parts and availability impact repairs. Controllers do not match and that presents problems for maintenance.
- A Traffic Engineer will be engaged to determine the most vulnerable locations, prioritize projects and design improvements.
- Improvements will include standardization of controllers and all other components, new mast arm where needed, centralized management of operations and design to facilitate future technological improvements.
- These changes will help improve the flow of traffic in Town.

# TOWN MODERNIZATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## **HYBRID TOWN MEETINGS | \$400,000**

- We are proposing an upgrade to the current live-streaming capabilities of the town and Board of Education in order to live-stream meetings and to allow board member and public participation in person and virtually, the rooms must be equipped with new technology.
- The system proposed would consist of ceiling-mounted microphones that would work in tandem with multi-position ceiling-mounted cameras. This system was chosen because of the ease of operation and required no IT support during the meeting. In addition, the system will allow for easy plug-and-play connectivity to the town's Fair-TV broadcast network.
- Locations will be chosen for their ease of public access, the building capacity, and working hours to allow for this change with as little disruption to existing operations as possible. Sites selected include two meeting rooms at the town hall, the conference room at the Board of Ed building, and rooms to be identified at a school.