

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
505 TRAVIS STREET, GOVERNMENT PLAZA PUBLIC NOTICE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE AGENDA
February 28, 2022
2:30 p.m.

The Caddo Parish American Rescue Plan Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 2:30 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Johnson, Chairperson, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jones, and Johnson (5). ABSENT: None (0).

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given during the previous committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Discuss Community Healthcare Solutions*

Mr. Johnson asked for a balance of unallocated American Rescue Plan Funds. Mrs. Barnett said that there is about \$1.1M.

Dr. Burnham from Community Healthcare Solutions stated that they are requesting \$150,000. The organization is to provide crisis stabilization within the community. She further explained that children who are incarcerated and have behavioral and emotional problems need intensive services. This organization houses children who are experiencing crisis. She hopes to work with the police to be a diversion type of program. The requested funds will be used to purchase a vehicle to go and pick up children who need immediate help. She also said that the program is a short term program lasting about seven days.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know if wanted to know if this nonprofit currently exists. Dr. Burnham said that this is a for-profit program that provides crisis intervention services because there are no crisis stabilization programs in Shreveport. She also explained that they rented a duplex to provide these services and are an alternative intervention to incarceration for children. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if it will manage a nonprofit. Dr. Burnham said that it will. Mr. Atkins then wanted to know their relationship with Juvenile Services. Dr. Burnham said that they hope to develop a relationship with Juvenile Services.

Mr. Atkins then wanted to know if Dr. Burnham was a medical doctor. She replied that she was a PhD in social work, as well as management and finance.

Mrs. Gage-Watts said that these services are much needed in this community. She thanked Dr. Burnham for her work with the youth in the community. Mrs. Gage-Watts then wanted to know if these children could be detained in the Juvenile Detention Center. Dr. Burnham said that they could. She further explained that any child with a non-violent offense could be able to be housed from 7-14 days, but their goal is short-term services. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that this program could relieve the detention center.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$150,000 for Community Healthcare Solutions.*

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how many juveniles could the organization accommodate at one time. Dr. Burnham said that they could house up to eight juveniles at one time. Mr. Johnson said that this could be an opportunity to "do something out of the box".

He then wanted to know if this would be a pilot program. Dr. Burnham said that this would be a pilot program with the hopes of it being able to be implementing without the State of Louisiana. Dr. Burnham also mentioned that they are Medicaid funded. She also explained that they wanted to develop a non-profit to be able to apply for grants and receive donations.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if they currently have their non-profit status. Dr. Burnham said that they are in the infancy stages of it, and due to COVID, it put them back a year. Mr. Hopkins then wanted to know if they have been registered with the State. Dr. Burnham said that Alternative Interventions is the non-profit, but they are actually doing business as Community Healthcare Solutions, which is a for-profit organization.

Mr. Hopkins then wanted to know if this request would be a yearly request or a one-time request. Dr. Burnham would like it to be ongoing, but she does not need the funds to sustain her organization. We have the funds available to move forward without the Parish, she said.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know the exact purpose of the request. She said that the funds would be used to market the business, furnish it, purchasing a vehicle, and standing up a mobile clinic.

At this time, Mr. Johnson's motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES:

Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jones, and Johnson (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss funding request from Fire District No. 4 for purchase of additional PPE equipment*

Fire Chief Brian Williams said that Fire District No. 4 cover 110 square miles of the Parish. They are requesting \$60,164 for PPE for their firemen. He also explained that firemen are ten times more likely to get cancer, and the best way to avoid that is to clean their bunker gear after every fire. Due to COVID, their bunker gear had to be washed after every call. This request is asking for an additional set of gear for each fireman.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Chief Williams and the other firefighters for their service. She then wanted to know if they are able to be reimbursed for the purchase of their PPE equipment. Chief Williams said that they aren't. Mrs. Gage-Watts said that there is a company who reached out to her regarding reimbursements for EMS and firefighters PPE. She said that she will forward that information.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know what bunker gear was. Chief Williams said that it is a bunker coat, pants, and nomex hood. He then explained that they try to follow CDC guidelines with regards to COVID, so they have to wash their possibly contaminated bunker gear more often.

Mr. Johnson wanted to know how many sets this would cover. Chief Williams said that this would provide twenty sets for their firefighters.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$60,000 for Fire District No. 4.*

She said that the safety of the firefighter is a priority.

At this time, Mrs. Gage-Watts' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jones, and Johnson (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss Sewer District No. 7 infrastructure funding request*

Mr. Kenny Fedd came before the Committee and requested \$1.5M for lift stations. He said that this Sewer District is growing so fast, and the pipe size and lift station size are too small for the growth and the existing customers.

Mr. Atkins wanted to know how the sewer district anticipated meeting this need had the opportunity not presented itself. Mr. Fedd said that the impact fees are already in place for the new developments, so that is taking care of immediate needs. He further explained that the pipe sizes are too small for the collection, transmission, and treatment of the expected population growth.

Mr. Hopkins wanted to know if they looked at DHH and DEQ grants that are available. Mr. Fedd said that they have. Mr. Hopkins wanted to know the total cost for the project. Mr. Fedd said that it is \$1.5M.

It was **moved by Mr. Johnson**, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$500,000 for Sewer District No. 7.*

Mr. Hopkins said that this area is growing at an exponential rate. He suggested that they get with Balar to see what funds they could get from the State. He also mentioned that there are also low interest loans that could help.

Mr. Jones wants to support this, but does not want to put the Commission in a situation where other organizations may need some funds.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Gage-Watts, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$250,000 for Sewer District No. 7.*

Mr. Jones said that he would like to be supportive, but at a smaller amount.

Mrs. Bryant mentioned that they did not factor in the fees for the consultants in the \$1.1M. She also said that there might be some other organizations who will not be eligible, and that will be brought back before this Committee.

Mr. Johnson said that there will be about \$500,000 for consultants, which may not be enough because of the various types of consultants they need to retain. They are currently determining if the organizations are eligible for ARP funds. If they are eligible, then they have to determine if they can do the various reporting. She also said that the Parish has to report on these funds until 2026, but they have to be appropriated by 2024. Mrs. Bryant said that federal dollars require extensive information and vetting.

Mrs. Bryant also mentioned that once this committee concludes, the ARP funds will be 100% appropriated. She explained that some of those dollars might be freed up after the vetting process.

At this time, Mr. Jones' substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jones, and Johnson (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- *Discuss Blanchard Water System*

Mrs. Bryant said that Blanchard had a conflict, but Administration has met with them. She further explained that this particular request is in relation to the Love's that will be located there. Mr. Johnson agreed and said that there is a 12 inch line that needs to be ran under Hwy 1 to service Love's Truckstop and Ivey's. He mentioned that Blanchard will be putting \$20,000 towards this project, and Love's will be putting \$170,000 towards it.

It was **moved by Mr. Hopkins**, seconded by Mr. Atkins, *to recommend to the full body an appropriation of \$150,000 for the Blanchard Water System for Love's and Ivy's.*

Mr. Hopkins pointed out that the economic payout for this request is estimated to be seven months.

At this time, Mr. Hopkins' motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Atkins, Gage-Watts, Hopkins, Jones, and Johnson (5). NAYS: None (0). ABSENT: None (0). ABSTAIN: None (0).

There being no more business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.


Assistant Commission Clerk