



AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: 2024 PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT: Finance

PREPARED BY: Lane Millar

PRESENTED FOR: Action Information only Discussion/Direction

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2024 Participatory Budget Program

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact Included in Budget Additional Appropriation

DISCUSSION

According to the non-profit the Participatory Budgeting Project, participatory budgeting “is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget.” The benefits of this type of program include more transparent and accountable relationships with government, pathways to civic engagement and the incorporation of residents’ innovative spending ideas.

In 2023, the City of Eureka launched its first Participatory Budget Program, allocating \$75,000 from excess revenues received in the prior fiscal year. The initiative involved collaboration among city staff, council members, and a local consulting group. The program distributed \$15,000 to each City ward, empowering members of the public to choose projects for their respective areas. Ultimately, the public decided on a diverse array of initiatives, encompassing housing and utility assistance, a public mural, and street safety equipment.

Given the success of the first Program and the additional revenues from FY2022-23, Council directed staff to renew the program for another year with a budget of \$75,000. Staff is recommending a few changes to the program, the most significant is creation of Budget Delegates in each ward:

A Budget Delegate and an alternate would be appointed by each council member. To support the delegates in their roles, the city plans to provide a comprehensive support package, including access to facility space, refreshments such as pizza, and technical support from staff across various city departments. Additionally, marketing and outreach

support will be offered to promote the initiatives and engage the broader community effectively.

Financial incentives in the form of stipends will be provided to both delegates and alternate delegates, recognizing their commitment and contribution to the city's development. Prior to initiating their first meeting, each delegate team is required to complete a planning packet, which will serve as a roadmap for their project.

City staff will actively participate in the ward meetings, offering guidance and technical assistance to ensure the projects align with city standards and regulations. Once a project receives approval from the ward's council member, it will be presented at a City Council meeting for further review and final approval. This process aims to streamline project implementation while fostering a collaborative environment between city officials, staff, and the community

Staff's recommendation is to "kick-off" the 2024 Participatory Budget Program with the proposed changes at the March 5th, Eureka City Council meeting.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

- City Attorney
- City Clerk/Information Services
- Community Services
- Development Services
- Finance
- Fire
- Personnel
- Police
- Public Works