

ARPA FAQ

During the pandemic, the federal government proscribed very specific uses for which the American Rescue Plan A funds could be used. Fiscal Recovery Funds were to be used for the following:

1. To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
2. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
3. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

It is estimated that the City had almost \$4M in Covid-related revenue losses. The City Council focused on Items 1 and 2 above and allocated ARPA funds as follows:

Of the \$6,372,376 in ARPA funds received, \$3.8M was used to backfill general fund revenues that were reduced due to Covid. These funds were allocated to road repair, stormwater pollution, downtown core area maintenance and other general fund expenses to bridge the budget gap.

The remaining funds were spent assisting local businesses and non-profits and making City facilities safe and sanitary, as follows:

1. Support the economic / wellness recovery of households (\$315,500)

- a. Worked with Lafayette Community Foundation to identify and contribute to organizations that met human services needs
- b. Gave money to LPIE to support children's mental health

2. Support the economic recovery of small businesses (\$1,420,000)

- a. Engaged consultant to help local businesses get Covid relief funds from the various government programs and agencies
- b. Offered monetary support to the Chamber of Commerce and Veterans Memorial Building
- c. Donated to the Park Theater Trust
- d. Established the Business District Marketing website
- e. Launched the Community Gift Card Program
- f. Relaxed city regulations to permit outdoor dining and advertising
- g. Invested in enhancements for outdoor dining

3. Solve City problems caused by COVID-19 (\$745,000)

- a. Invested in technology to allow for hybrid City meetings
- b. Invested in upgraded HVAC for Don Tatzin Community Hall and Lafayette Community Center
- c. Sanitized City office spaces and added COVID protection shields and other safety measures before staff returned to the office.
- d. Hired consultants to assist staff in managing economic development opportunities and Covid-relief efforts.
- e. Conducted surveys to assess community needs.