

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: May 10, 2023
FROM: Mike Elder, Director of Facilities
RE: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

General Description:

Winnebago County has been awarded \$78,580 through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Winnebago County will be required to apply for an award of the funds later this Spring or Summer. These funds can be used for rebates for installing energy efficient replacement equipment.

Action Requested:

The action required is the passage of a resolution to accept the funds and apply them to replacing energy inefficient equipment.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Facilities and Property Mgmt
Action taken: _____APPROVED_____

Meeting date: 5/24/2023
Vote: 5-0

Committee of Jurisdiction: Personnel and Finance
Action taken: _____APPROVED_____

Meeting date: 7/6/2023
Vote: 3-0

County Board

Meeting date: 7/18/2023

Background:

Winnebago County has numerous buildings with lighting and equipment. The Facilities Budget averages between \$500,000 and \$650,000 in electrical costs per year. Work has been done to reduce the costs by funding energy efficiency improvements in the operational budget. In 2016 expenditures for electricity were approximately \$650,000. In 2021 expenditures for electricity were reduced to approximately \$580,000. These costs are fluid as utility costs rise so do the expenditures. The goal is to continue to find ways to reduce energy consumption.

Policy Discussion:

The Department of Energy established the formula grant for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The EECBG Program assists eligible states, units of local government and Indian tribes in implementing any of the following:

Reduce fossil fuel emissions in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and to the maximum extent practical

Reduce total energy use of the eligible entities

Improve the energy efficiency in the transportation sector, the building sector, and other appropriate sectors

Winnebago County falls into the classification of a formula award. This means that funding is available to the County on a non-competitive basis. The amount of funding allocated to Winnebago County is \$78,850. The funds are able to be used for energy efficient equipment retro-fits. A criteria is that these funds cannot be used to offset costs of projects already in progress. A second criteria is that any funds used requires a match from the County. In our case, that would be County or contracted labor. A third criteria is that any design or study work funded through the grant for a project has to move forward and cannot be delayed if funding is delayed.

Using these funds for equipment retrofits will expedite the replacement of inefficient lighting and equipment. The benefit is a reduced future energy cost to the County.

The Application process for these funds would occur later this Spring or Summer with delivery of the funds for use in 2024. These details have not been formalized by the Department of Energy at this time.

Attachments:

Resolution