

Framework of the Spirit Fund Spending

Prepared by the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission

Reviewed at the March 9, 2023, meeting

Approved unanimously at the April 14, 2023, meeting

Overarching Requirements

Legacy: *projects are to be ones which can be looked at as multi-generational or used to improve the quality of life within our county for years to come*

One-time-funds: *projects which require on-going or future costs should be mitigated as much as possible. To achieve this requirement, projects should generally be capital in nature, revolving funds, or endowments.*

Geographic Assortment of Funds: *projects should be spread out as much as possible to impact different geographic areas of the county*

Enhancing Funding Opportunities: *Frequently, other funding opportunities require matching funds. Using Spirit Fund dollars as local match should be encouraged to allow the dollars to go further.*

Project Types to Base Decisions

Debt Avoidance: *When a local government issues debt, typically, it is done so under the debt levy; therefore, debt raises property taxes. As much as possible, projects should avoid Winnebago County's issuance of debt to avoid future tax increases.*

Sustainability Planning: *As these are one-time funds, planning for the future and preparing for potential fiscal cliffs is essential. Projects of this type should look to efficiency, consolidation, and reform.*

Emergency Response: *The original ARPA legislation called for improving resiliency in response to emergencies. Improvements to our emergency response system are essential to this goal.*

Water Quality & Sustainability: *Winnebago County is covered by 25% water and has about 10% of the state's inland surface water.*

Quality of Life: *Parallel with water, Winnebago County's people are an important resource. Projects which improve our quality of life including enhancements to tourism, health, and human services are appropriate. The wellbeing of our citizens ensures we can recruit and maintain our workforce. Projects should especially consider that basic needs are met.*

Categories to Divide the Funds

Percentages could be changed by the commission as projects and priorities are more clearly defined.

County Government Projects (~50% of funds)

These projects are proposed by the County Executive and his department head team. The projects are also led and complete by the county. Projects should be balanced between already planned and projects which would not otherwise be completed without the infusion of investment.

Government Identified Community Projects (~50% of funds)

These are projects which are identified by the commission and are intended to be a collaboration between county departments and community. Projects are administered by county departments and could be granted to sub-recipients or county projects.

Changes to this document may be made from time-to-time by a majority vote of the ARPA Strategy and Outcomes Commission.