



COVID Response and Updates for Federal CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds

Update for City Council – February 22, 2021

Melvin Carter, Chief of Fire



CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds

Background

- On **March 27th** Congress established and passed the “**Legislative Intent**” **Title V: The Coronavirus Relief Fund**
- The Commonwealth received the funds and the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Finance notified Virginia localities of their allocations in **May and August 2020**
- The City received \$20.1M in funding under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) on June 1, 2020. **\$3.0M of this revenue was recognized in FY2020** while the remaining balance was deferred as of June 30, 2020. A second allotment of **\$20.1M was received August 2020**
- Council adopted **Ordinance 2020-185 on August 20, 2020** to receive these funds for **necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency**



CARES Act Commitments To Date

	BUDGETED	ACTUALS YTD	COMMITTED Jan - Dec 2021
COVID-19 Sick Pay	\$ 5,035,319	\$ 5,035,319	\$ -
COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing	\$ 583,867	\$ 583,867	\$ -
Distance Learning - Ambassador Program	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 800,000
Food Programs	\$ 261,158	\$ 261,158	\$ -
Housing Support	\$ 12,278,000	\$ 12,278,000	\$ -
Telework	\$ 3,058,301	\$ 2,173,555	\$ 884,746
Overtime Pay for Public Safety	\$ 299,416	\$ 299,416	\$ -
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	\$ 954,811	\$ 950,143	\$ 4,668
Public Health Expenses	\$ 6,767,648	\$ 6,635,834	\$ 131,814
Small Business Assistance	\$ 6,500,581	\$ 6,500,581	\$ -
Miscellaneous - Child Care	\$ 3,170,204	\$ 3,137,890	\$ 32,314
TOTALS	\$ 40,209,306	\$ 38,355,763	\$ 1,853,542



CARES Act Spending in Richmond

- **Department of Emergency Communications** – purchased meals for first responders, purchased Plexiglas dividers for call center staff, and invested in improving telework capabilities (\$797K)
- **Office of Minority Business Development** – provided QuickBooks training, laptops, software subscriptions, website design, and marketing support to 52 area small businesses with less than 5 employees (\$612K)
- **Department of Housing and Community Development** - partnered with the nonprofit community to provided direct assistance to Richmond residents in support of the Eviction Diversion program to keep persons housed during the pandemic. **Homeward** awarded over **\$1.3 M** in direct payment support to Richmonders. Additionally, the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) supported of our citizens experiencing homelessness and supported first-time persons who lost their housing and became homeless during the pandemic



Cares Act Spending in Richmond

- **Richmond Fire and Emergency Services** – purchased Deccan Adam predictive modeling software to track the spread of COVID-19 and to determine where cases were on the rise in Richmond. PPE and sanitizing supplies (P100 face masks, KN95 and N95 masks, Tyvek suits and surgical gown, UV cabinets, non-contact forehead thermometers, and hand sanitizers) were also purchased to mitigate risk at all stations (\$466K)
- **Richmond City Sheriff's Office** – utilized its support to continue protecting the welfare of the more than 800 inmates, department staff and constituency at large by investing in COVID-19 and other contagious medical tests (flu, Pneumovax, and shingles), food programs, improving telework, purchasing medical support items like oximeters, nebulizers, spirometers, and nasal cannulas (\$1.02M)
- **Department of Information and Technology** – expanded VPN licensing, upgraded capability for Teams remote meetings, purchased laptops for home use (\$500K), expanded internet pipeline to 10GB and increased data sharing capabilities, and modified security infrastructure on primary equipment



Cares Act Spending in Richmond

- **Department of Economic Development** - awarded grants to small businesses and non-profit organizations (**\$5.7M**), distributed PPE and sanitizer (**\$268K**), worked with local restaurants to provide meals for Public Safety First Responders (**\$236K**) supported a Virtual Holiday Market for small businesses (**\$130K**), supported the Richmond Rate Reduction Program for restaurant meal delivery (**\$120K**) and helped to fund the relaunch of the Small Business Development Center (**\$50K**).
- **Department of Public Works** – used its funding in support of critical protective measures including Plexiglass installations **\$100k** - 500+ installations
 - HVAC Ionization filtering \$450k
 - Continuous Cleaning **\$4M** for Covid-19 positives and PM in 80+ City owned Facilities