

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, July 24, 2025, with eight members present: Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO presiding. Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel; Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Director; Lesley Strohschein, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Lupe Valdovino, Grants Administrator; and Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General Office. Please be sure to speak directly into the microphone to ensure your comments are heard and an accurate record can be made of this meeting.

Mayor Garner said, Clerk, can you update those that may be within sight or sound of some of our technical difficulties and how they can tune in. **Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk,** said this evening our broadcast will not be done live. We do not have live TV tonight, so anyone that would like to join, you can go to the meetings and events tab on the UG Clerk webpage and join the meeting that way through Zoom.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted on Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the fifth floor conference of the Municipal Office Building for an update regarding ARPA funds, immediately followed by an executive session relating to consultation with Counsel on matters that would be deemed privileged attorney-client communications, such as conversations regarding litigation or claims against the city. The executive session portion of the meeting is closed to the public under the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Kane, Lopez, Davis, Garner. **Mayor Garner** said Clerk, can you give me that tally of those present. **Ms. Sparks** said we have six, with you seven and Commissioner Stites is just joining. **Commissioner Stites** said I was there. I just couldn’t answer, I just got on as a panelist, but here.

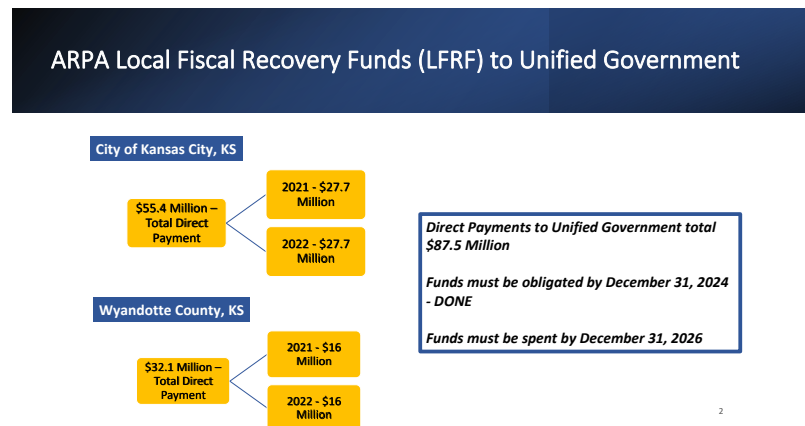
CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Garner said this evening is scheduled for an update regarding the ARPA. I’ll turn the matter over to our County Administrator David Johnston, and he’ll make introduction and presentation.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said a few months ago the Commission requested that staff present an update on where the Unified Government is on the update on the ARPA funds and the balances and where we are with the Unified Government and our grantees are on funding. Our Chief Financial Officer and her staff have compiled an update report and she is prepared to provide that update, so I’m turning the microphone over to Shelley Kneuvean, our CFO.

Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer, said I’m joined here at the table by Lesley Strohschein who is our Deputy CFO; by Lupe Valdovino who is our Grants Administrator and she joined us a couple of months ago, and then Debbie Jonscher, who is our other Deputy CFO. All of us have had different parts of our pod that we’ve been working on. I know many of you all

have really lived through this since the very beginning. After COVID there was some additional funding through the CARES Act and then there was more significant funding that came through ARPA and this is an update on ARPA.



We received a total of \$87.5M in ARPA funds. We received those in '21 and '22 and they were designated between city projects and efforts and Wyandotte County, so we got an allocation for the city as well as the county and so throughout all of this time we have kept track of things in terms of which pod of money they qualified for to make sure we stayed compliant with the federal funds.

We were required, as you might recall, to obligate all the funds by December 31, 2024 and so we went through an effort with you all to identify where we thought we would have funding that would be available to be reallocated and you all then reallocated those dollars to a variety of initiatives. Then we preceded to get agreements with all the subrecipients or outside agencies or precede with an internal project and we did have all of funds either spent or obligated by December 31st as required.

We have a requirement that we have to spend the money by December 31, 2026 and we will meet that. In fact, we'll probably exceed that. There's only one or two projects that will go through the end of 2026 and that was how they were set up initially. I'll highlight those in a minute, but our goal is to try and spend these funds down so that the community benefits from the grants as well as addressing a lot of Capital Improvements that are high need.

Administration of ARPA Funds

Most grants administered internally by Finance Administration, Accounting, and Grants Administration
IParametrics consulting firm hired to assist with tracking and reporting on Commission subrecipients and assisted with federal quarterly and annual reporting and compliance

Initial allocations in 2022, reallocations at Commission direction in 2024

Review of all UG projects and contracts fully obligated by December 31, 2024

All funds will be spent by December 31, 2026 (or earlier based on subrecipient agreement or project completion)

From an administration point of view, most of the grants have been administered internally and we have not been back charging our time primarily for the last two years to the grants because we wanted the dollars to go more into the community. So, early in the grant process we did have a person that had a position that was fully funded and was the point person and when that person departed we did not backfill that and it's been a combination of all of us taking on those responsibilities. We also hired IParametrics. You might remember is a consulting firm, so there were Commission identified subrecipients and so they have had the responsibility to work with those different agencies and review their requests for funding, review what their impacts and what their services have been to make sure it's compliant with ARPA rules, so they have helped us with that compliant. They also assists us with the quarterly and annual reporting.

Initially we had from the Commission allocations in 2022, and as I mentioned, during 2024 you all had some reallocations that you were able to do because we had some other projects that we didn't require the funding any longer and it made it available for additional initiatives and so that was the process that you all directed.

We have, as I said, reviewed all of the UG contracts and the projects. All of them were obligated. What that means is that we cannot add anything new to the list. What is on the list has to be the list. If we were to run into a situation where we had identified something and we were not going to meet all the funding, let's say the bids came in low, then there's a whole process that we would have to go through with the federal government to get permission, but the only thing that we could do is transfer the dollars to another already funded initiative. So, we wouldn't be able to add something brand new. I'm just highlighting that. I don't know that that will happen,

but it potentially could and if so, that would be the process and we would work with you all on that.

As I said, the goal is to spend as quickly as we can, but we are required to be completely done by 2026 and so that's what the overall priority is.

ARPA ALLOCATIONS	
Board of Commission Actions Date	TOTAL
US Treasury ARPA Allocation	\$ 87,516,516
Revenue Replacement 2020 - 2021	\$24,156,398
Immediate Needs Public Health & Community Services	\$7,122,364
Immediate Needs Housing Assistance	\$1,850,000
Immediate Needs Grant Support *	
\$1,311,000 for general UG grant match	\$2,770,084
\$1,459,084 for grant administration	
Capital Improvement Needs	\$36,886,680
Commission Sub - recipient Awards (Monitored by IParametrics)	\$12,123,952
Bonner Springs and Edwardsville	\$2,606,799
Subtotal –ARPA Funds Allocated	\$87,516,516
100% ARPA ALLOCATED	

In terms of the kind of categories, if you will, of what the allocations were of the \$87.5M, very early on we used the funding as did many cities and counties to assist funding our operations to stay open after COVID. In 2020 and 2021 we used some of the funding, \$24M, to fund staff essentially, Operations, so that was done at the very beginning and that was the very common situation for cities and counties, but also universities. The effort was to try to keep places open, to keep serving the citizens and not have them shut their doors.

Then we were at \$7.1M of what we call Immediate Needs for Public Health and I've added Community Services because there was kind of a variety of projects listed for that. Originally that was \$11M and that's where we had some of the money that was identified that we could reallocate to new initiatives, so that \$7M is what that category currently is. We had Immediate Needs for Housing Assistance and that was \$1.8M and that was money that we worked with the United Way of Greater Kansas City and they spent the money all in '21, so that was something that we were able to benefit Wyandotte County residents immediately.

Then we had immediate needs for Grant Support and that was the \$1.3M that is currently left for grant match and I have a list of the grants that we've been identifying for grant match, which again, we need to be qualified for the ARPA money. Then the Administration, this would be the IParametrics and then when the position was funded as well as some additional staff support

inside some departments like the Health Department totals about \$1.4M, which is in light of a \$87M amount of money, that's a very low administrative cost.

Capital Improvement Needs, we have \$36.9M and the details are in the report and then I call them the Commission Subrecipients, these are the ones that you all went through and identified the agencies you wanted to fund. You had a committee and we had those and those are \$12M and then Bonner and Edwardsville, between the two of them, was \$2.6M, so that's how all the money was allocated between the initially allocation in '22 and then the additional smaller reallocation that occurred in '24.

So diving just a little bit, you have all the details in your report. I'm not going to highlight all the details. I know you have other business tonight and I know as much as you love my presentations you want to probably keep them short, but we've got just a couple of highlights for you.

Immediate Needs Categories

- Immediate Needs – Public Health & Community Services
 - \$7,122,365 Funded; \$7,047,653 Spent; \$74,711 Underway
 - Examples of initiatives include vaccinations, COVID testing, COVID clinic, public education, low-income legal services related to COVID, mental health services, food delivery in lieu of congregate meal sites, etc. (See detailed report)
- Immediate Needs – Housing Assistance
 - Wyandotte County - \$1,850,000 Funded; \$1,850,000 Spent (Complete)

With the Immediate Needs in the Public Health & Community Services, as I said, there was \$7M funded and I'm reporting on how much have we spent. We spent almost all those dollars, which is fantastic. We're at almost 100%. We have about \$74K left and many times that's just a timing thing in terms of when the final invoices get processed, but there are so many things that \$7M has done. In your packet you have what's called an Impact Report and an Impact Report is a summary by initiative or project that talks about the number of people that were served or benefitted, so there's lots of examples for vaccinations, testing, a clinic that was run, public information, we had low-income legal services related to COVID, mental health services, food delivery in lieu of congregate meal sites so there were just a plus of different things that were done. Our Health

Department was critical in a lot of those efforts as well as some of our other departments that led some of these efforts, like our Human Services Department.

As I mentioned, the Housing Assistance, that was done by United Way of Greater Kansas City and so that benefited people immediately.

Capital Improvements Projects

\$36,886,680 identified for capital improvements

City – 13 Projects Initially Funded; 5 Complete & 8 Underway

- Six HVAC projects (City Hall, Armourdale Rec, Lee Rec, Kensington Rec, Parkwood Rec, & Eisenhower)
- One sanitary sewer and two storm sewer projects
- Bus shelter improvements & Microtransit Pilot Program
- KCKPD Real Crime Center Initiative
- Quindaro Basket Ball Courts

County – 7 Projects Initially Funded; 2 Complete & 5 Underway

- Three HVAC projects (Courthouse, Public Health Center, and Jail)
- Two trails (Wyandotte County and Pierson Park)
- Technology project for parks
- Sheriff Air Quality Filtration

100% encumbered by December 2024, all projects to be completed by December 2026 (or sooner)

On the Capital Improvement side, the \$36.9M, we have on the city side 13 projects that were funded and it's actually six that are complete and seven underway and if you do have questions about any of these internal type infrastructure projects, we do have people from the departments here that can provide additional information, but the financial report doesn't tell the whole story. You'll see on these different projects we might not have spent money, but that doesn't mean 100% of it is encumbered and they've been doing design or they've been waiting for equipment that's on order, so we just haven't processed invoices, but much of the work is underway and much of it has been ordered and it's just in the process of being installed and then we will pay the invoices.

The two that are listed out there, the KCKPD Real Crime Center and the Quindaro Basketball Courts both were done. Those are two of the five completed, so the details, as I said, are in your report, but the others that are completed are, most of the rec centers got new HVAC. Eisenhower is not quite done, they are waiting for the equipment—and I say new HVAC, I should clarify, they didn't have HVAC's to start with. This was the first time they had HVAC's, so they have clean recirculated air.

On the county side, we had seven projects funded. Two of them are complete and five of them are underway. Again, we've got folks here if you have questions about any of those that

are done or underway, but we do have a detailed impact report that gives you the information of how that money was used, what it was used for, etc.

Capital Project Spending Update

Capital Needs Allocations	Department		Updated Budget	YTD Q2 2025 6/30/25	Amount Remaining to Be Spent
Kansas City Kansas Projects:					
City Hall - Air Handling Systems P069	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10330	4,733,563	-	4,733,563
HVAC/Energy Efficiency - Recreation Centers:	Buildings & Logistics				
Armourdale Recreation Facility-Air Handling P070	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10331	117,439	117,439	-
B. Lee Recreation Facility-Air Handling P071	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10332	247,600	247,600	-
Kensington Recreation Facility-Air Handling P072	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10333	192,094	192,094	-
Parkwood Facility Recreation Facility-Air Handling P073	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10334	322,255	121,415	200,840
Combined Sewer Separation 15 & 18 (81), Jersey Creek Basin P079	PW Engineering	GRN10338	2,000,000	1,749,080	250,920
Wyandotte High Lombardy Drive Area (Storm) P080	PW Engineering	GRN10339	3,365,907	1,918,011	1,447,896
Green Infrastructure - 8th Street Park (Storm) P081 10th & GV intersection	PW Engineering	GRN10340	6,201,492	3,109,764	3,091,728
UG Transit - Bus Shelter Improvements	Transit	GRN00340	110,385	99,463	10,922
UG Transit - NE Microtransit Pilot	Transit	GRN10274	318,417	136,376	182,041
UG KCKPD - Real-Time Crime Center	KCKPD	GRN10257	157,334	157,333	-
UG P&R Quindaro Park Tennis Court to Basketball Court	Parks	GRN10266	80,000	80,000	-
Wyandotte County Projects:					
Courthouse - Air Handling Systems P074	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10335	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
Public Health Center - Air Handling Systems P075	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10336	154,826	-	154,834
Jail - Air Handling Systems P076	Buildings & Logistics	GRN10337	2,323,474	-	2,323,474
Wyandotte County Parks Trail P077	Parks	GRN10341	653,250	-	653,250
Pierson Park Trail P078	Parks	GRN10342	699,615	210,527	489,088
UG Knowledge Dept - Parks facility public safety	Technology	GRN10268	194,114	194,110	4
UG Wyandotte County Sheriff-Air Quality Filtration	Sheriff	GRN10258	40,500	40,500	-
Subtotal Capital Needs			24,412,265	8,373,713	16,038,559

In your packet is a Project Spending Report that looks like this and it highlights for you how much we had originally in the budget or the current budget, how much we've actually spent, paid out on invoices, and how much is remaining. The ones that have money remaining are the projects that we consider underway. Sometimes it's a little—it's effort in that all the funding hasn't been spent, but the one that strikes me is actually on the next page, but it's the same issue, is Heathwood Spray Park, which is done and open, but we haven't paid all the invoices, so it shows as an open project, but it's technically done, but just so you know how this report works.

These are the projects, like I said, that are still underway. Much of them have anticipated completion dates by the end of this year well in advance of the end of '26.

Capital Project Spending Update

Reallocation Projects						
Transit Bus Shelters	Transit	GRN 10447	1,613,468	409,840	1,203,628	12/31/2026
Transit Buses (2)	Transit	GRN 10453	360,000	360,000	-	12/31/2026
Willa Gill Land and Design	Buildings	GRN 10448	2,000,000	757,619	1,242,381	12/31/2026
Vernon School	Outside Agency	GRN 10449	500,000	100,000	400,000	12/31/2026
Heathwood Spray Park	Parks	GRN 10450	500,000	251,858	248,142	12/31/2026
Boston Daniels Park	Parks	GRN 10451	711,165	568,833	142,332	12/31/2026
Eisenhower Community Center HVAC	Buildings	GRN 10452	250,000		250,000	12/31/2026
Police Modular Building Animal Control	Buildings	GRN 10454	113,285	113,285	-	12/31/2026
Police UTV	Police	GRN 10455	30,507	30,507		12/31/2026
Jail Kitchen Equipment	Sheriff	GRN 10456	145,492	145,492	-	12/31/2026
Health Department TB Outbreak	Health	GRN10446	80,503	80,503		12/31/2026
Health Department Car Seat Pack & Play Program	Health	GRN10445	49,771	49,771		12/31/2026
Health Department Spanish Speaking Navigator	Health	GRN10444	100,000	50,000	50,000	12/31/2026
Livable Neighborhoods Grants	NRC	GRN10463	35,778	35,778	-	12/31/2026
Move to County General Fund Micro transit Balance	None		2,484,447	2,484,447		12/31/2026
Total Capital Needs & Reallocations			33,386,680	13,811,644	19,575,042	

On the next page that's all the projects that you guys identified to reallocate funding for, so this was the list that you guys identified. We provided here's how much money we could reallocate. You all had identified and got consensus on how we wanted to spend those dollars and so you can see many of them are already done, but there are a few of them that are still underway, but again, it doesn't tell the whole story because, for example, the Transit Bus Shelters, they're on order and some of them have been installed. So, as the equipment comes in to replace those bus shelters and as the contractor goes out and installs them, then we pay the invoices, so it's definitely in progress. It's not just sitting there. There is quite a bit going on with that project.

Sub-recipient Spending Update 20 Initiatives Initially Funded – 15 Complete & 5 Underway

Sub-recipient Allocations		Grant ID	Updated Budget	YTD Q2 2025 6/30/25	Amount Remaining to Be Spent	Completion Date
Avenue of Life	Outside Agency	GRN10265	1,225,438	1,225,438	-	12/31/2024
KC Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry	Outside Agency	GRN10265	200,000	200,000	-	12/31/2024
Cross Lines Community Outreach (Housing Stabilization)	Outside Agency	GRN10265	387,500	387,500	-	12/31/2024
Community Housing of WYCO (CHWC)	Outside Agency	GRN10265	400,000	400,000	-	12/31/2024
Our Spot KC	Outside Agency	GRN10265	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	12/31/2024
The Village Initiative	Outside Agency	GRN10265	325,000	325,000	-	12/31/2024
Catholic Charities	Outside Agency	GRN10259	41,000	41,000	-	12/31/2024
Cross Lines Community Outreach (Community Market)	Outside Agency	GRN10259	250,000	250,000	-	12/31/2024
Local Workforce Investment Area III Inc (WF Partnership)	Outside Agency	GRN10260	1,191,285	1,191,285	-	12/31/2024
El Centro Ice	Outside Agency	GRN10273	500,000	500,000	-	12/31/2024
Mt Carmel Redevelopment	Outside Agency	GRN10273	1,000,000	462,825	537,175	7/1/2025
Mission Adelante	Outside Agency	GRN10271	35,635	35,635	-	12/31/2024
The Toolbox Small Business Resource Center	Outside Agency	GRN10272	22,360	22,360	-	12/31/2024
The Family Conservancy	Outside Agency	GRN10262	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	12/31/2024
Argentine Betterment Corporation	Outside Agency	GRN10263	113,000	46,910	66,090	7/1/2025
Friends of Yates (revised request in to reduce to \$332,762.50)	Outside Agency	GRN10264	332,763	305,429	27,334	12/31/2024
Salvation Army	Outside Agency	GRN10264	336,071	336,071	-	12/31/2024
KUMC Project Eagle	Outside Agency	GRN10261	1,500,000	905,775	594,225	12/31/2026
Hillcrest Ministries of MidAmerica (Hillcrest Trans Housing)	Outside Agency	GRN10270	645,000	645,000	-	12/31/2024
Young Women on the Move	Outside Agency	GRN10270	618,900	123,800	495,100	12/31/2025
Total Sub-recipient Allocations			12,123,952	10,404,028	1,719,924	

The next page is what I call the Commission's Subrecipients and I distinguish that because you all had a committee and you all had back in like '22 decided there is an application process and different entities applied for funding and then they were selected and awarded funding, so that's this list. We have other subrecipients technically for the federal government purposes that might be through a Health Department initiative and they then contracted with an agency and that's technically a subrecipient, so this isn't just all the outside agencies we worked with. There's others as well, but these are the ones that were identified for the Commission. As you can see there, many of them are already done. We only had out of 20, we've have 15 complete and we have 5 underway and a couple of those are actually complete, but we are waiting on the final paperwork or final invoice to pay them. We're very happy that those have been proceeding as well as they have.

In your report the documents you got in the packet, there's a Subrecipient Report that IParametrics provided which gives you the financials that match these financials and then there's also the impact summary that tells you what they've done with the money and how many people they've benefited. You can see out of the \$12M that we had as a budget we spent 10.4 and we have about 1.7 left. The two big dollar amounts—or there's actually a couple of big dollar amounts, but the two that were anticipated to go longer was the KU Project Eagle, that's like pre-school age classroom experience for children from Wyandotte County and they were originally

when they were awarded they were given until the end of '26 to do their program. So, from the very beginning we knew that was one project that was going to go the full term as opposed you'll see the other task completion dates that were sooner because we were trying to get the money out into the community.

Young Women on the Move was an organization that—I think they had some turnover in staff and so we just didn't get their Subrecipient Agreement executed very quickly in comparison to the others, but they are executed and underway and doing great work, so that's well underway as well.

Impact of ARPA Funds


- **110,427 people assisted to date**
 - COVID Response
 - Public health assistance / vaccination
 - Housing assistance
 - Food assistance
 - Job Training assistance
 - Renovation of homes
 - Renovation of shelter spaces for ADA compliance
 - Renovation of Historic Places (Vernon School)

In terms of the overall impact, I'm sure that we can invite the agencies here to tell you their stories and about the people they've helped. I'm sure the departments that directly serve people can tell you their stories. If that's something you want in the future, I'll be glad to arrange that. I took a quick look at our impact summary and I just counted up, anybody who said that they serve people directly, and that means that there is documentation that proves that, it's not just they said I serve people, but we've gotten documentation that shows they gave 1,000 vaccines or whatever the item might be and it adds up to 110,427 people that directly benefited from these funds. That does include the public health assistance vaccinations, food assistance, job training. There were a lot of people through COVID that lost their jobs because businesses laid them off and this was to help them get prepared and get a job, help them find a new job. Renovating homes so that they had acceptable air quality, for example. Renovating shelter spaces for people that were unhoused and making sure that they were ADA compliant and then one of our reallocations project was the one you all identified, Vernon School, which is doing some renovation of their building.

It's just amazing thinking about there's 110K people directly benefited and that doesn't even include all these Capital Projects, so we have a storm project, we have a sanitary sewer project, we have lots of community center projects, we have the spray park project and that doesn't include those people. So it's even more thousands and thousands of people that will benefit because of the decisions this Commission made and how these dollars were used to benefit the community and not just to fund operations at the UG, but to really benefit and invest in our people and our community.

Other Wyandotte County Communities

- Bonner Springs, Kansas Infrastructure Improvement—\$1,300,000
- Edwardsville, Kansas Infrastructure Improvement-\$1,306,799

We also partnered with our two cities that are largest within our Wyandotte County footprint. Bonner Springs is doing a second stream waterline project. That was what they were doing and they actually are nearly done. They expect to be done this month with that project, so they were able to address one of their infrastructure projects, which was eligible. Then, Edwardsville, Kansas had a couple of things that they did, so improvements to their Municipal Building, a Fire Station and then adding sidewalks on 104th Street and they've spent about \$800K and everything else is under contract. They've been making good headway as well, but that was also an investment that the Commission directed for these dollars.



Questions?

With that, I'm going to stop and answer questions. I kept it to thirty minutes and like I said, there's a lot of detail in the report and if you guys have questions or if you want to hear more details later from different entities or agencies, I'll arrange that. I'm just trying to be sensitive to—I know you all have had a lot of meetings in the recent past, so I wanted to be sensitive to the time that you have.

Commissioner Burns said I see where you had Bonner and Edwardsville up there, about the same of money and Bonner Springs is a second class city and Edwardsville is a third class. It seems like Edwardsville did get more money than Bonner. Is that because Bonner didn't ask for more? **Ms. Kneuvean** said no. It actually was because there was a little miscommunication early on and when Edwardsville got their bids and awarded their bids it was slightly more than our allocation and so we just went ahead and funded that \$6K difference. In terms of the fact that the two cities are different, initially the Commission allocated \$1.3M for both of them and so then there was just that little bit that was based on their bids and we didn't run into that problem with the other. **Commissioner Burns** said well, we want to keep the Mayor in Edwardsville happy. You know she—we need to do that.

Commissioner Stites said I would think that we would want to make sure that all Mayors in Wyandotte County are happy. **Mayor Garner** said thank you Commissioner. I like to be happy as well.

Commissioner Davis said I do think we probably have undersold and under told, if that's even a word, the impact of ARPA. So, wow, our time is precious here just getting all our schedules in line for a meeting. I do think a connection with our Communications Department to see if maybe we can do a series, maybe we can have some highlights. You all can ask us, the 11 of us, what are some of the projects that really stuck out. You can do them district by district and kind of see just we could highlight because I do not think our community really understands how important the American Rescue Plan was to our community. And if we do not tell that story of how it has impacted lives, how it has distributed vaccines, built new housing for our infrastructure, oh my goodness, I mean we are seeing the impact of that right now and more investment is needed.

I don't necessarily think it has to be a meeting here, but I do think, Administrator, if we could have Communications work with us to tell that story so people can see that we were responsible, we were equitable and we were impactful with these dollars, it can go a long way for building trust and for giving you all credit for getting us through a very tremulous time and then our community and non-profits and folks that worked so hard to get us through.

Commissioner Burns said Commissioner Davis makes a very good point and also I think our PR person should also tell the community we don't have any more money left, so don't expect what has happened in the past. I think that point needs to get across, but Commissioner Davis makes a very good point, we need to brag a little bit about it to our constituents.

Commissioner Kane said Commissioner Davis made a good point. I don't know if you guys realize, but when COVID and the set-up that we had at K-Mart at 78th & State our Governor flew to see the President and then a lot of the municipalities around the country tried to mimic what we did and nobody knew it. I think that's something that's very important to say we took the money, we used it wisely and not only we did so good a lot of other municipalities followed our suit and I think it's important that we do and no, we don't like bragging about what we're doing, but they need to know where the money went, how wisely the money was spent and there's not a lot left in the kitty.

Commissioner Burroughs said I remember early on when ARPA was distributed to us, it had state formula by population to county and additional formula that they utilized. The part that I

think a few of commissioners raised was the 18M replacement money to go into our overall General Fund budget. There were questions about where that money was needed to be supplemented into our budget and, Administrator, I don't think we ever got an answer to that. I think they plugged in a number and that was, I don't want to say a guesstimate, but they plugged in a number and I know there were a few commissioners, one of them is not here this evening, that asked about that. What was it we were losing that warranted \$18M going into the General Fund. I look and see that there is four or five projects left to be used on funds up until '26, have them even started because I don't see them started in the report, but I think that was some of the questions. I know I wasn't on any of those committees that made a determination as to where the money went, who got the money, and how much money it would be, but there were a few commissioners that asked that question about the monies that were supplanted where that figure came from. That was a couple of years ago, Shelley, way before you were here. We've been through an Interim and a couple since then.

Ms. Kneuvean said it's actually not 18, it's \$24,156,398 and we, because we have to, we had to supply US Treasury with detailed reports and so we pulled salaries that were funded by name, by amount, and that was the money that was basically replaced. That freed up money for us to do—this is just what we did with ARPA money. This isn't what we did in total in terms of responding to a worldwide pandemic in a crisis and so that freed up money for all cities and counties and universities to be able to meet those additional needs. We can provide you what was provided and accepted, approved, completely permissible with the 24M to the detail of how that money was documented. I don't know that we have reports on other things that were done that aren't funded through federal dollars, but we can certainly reach out to the departments to try to get some narrative about that because there wasn't a compliance reporting requirement and a lot of it just was happening. A lot of what Commissioner Kane just talked about in terms of the Health Department and the efforts that we did get recognition from the President in terms of things we were doing were not ARPA funded initiatives. They were just the work that our employees were doing and that included extra time, extra effort, and those type of things, but I'm very happy to get you the details.

As opposed to have any of the projects not started, I would say 100% of the projects have started because they're under contract. If there are specific ones you want to know about, we could certainly answer those. Again, this is financial reports so we may not have paid an invoice yet,

but work may really be underway or there is a few buildings on the Logistics Capital Projects that they relate to one another. There are improvements being done, for example, at the Courthouse and you have to do them in certain sequence and we have folks that can help explain that, so it shows not done, but it's not for work not being done, it's working with the contractor and you have to do the tuck pointing on the outside before you do the roof and then you have to do the roof before you can do the HVAC and it's getting all of that lined out. But they intend to spend down this money by the end of the year, so it doesn't tell the whole story, but there is not one effort that hasn't started and isn't underway. This just tells you how much money has spent at the door.

If you have any specific questions now or later, I'm glad to answer those too because I feel like this report of the 87M it shows we've actually spent about 61M and so it feels like well, hey, if you still have 24M, most of those are on very large projects in our Capital Projects, which of course takes more than just a year. We've got very specific plans to get those spent down by the end of this year even in advance of '26. By the time we get into next year I expect we'll have a very small handful of projects that are still going on because they are permitted to like those two separate recipients, Young Women on the Move and KU Early Childhood Program, we're permitting them to continue on longer because one of them got under our contract not early in the process and the other just planned to do it for two years. But glad to answer specifics, Commissioner, that you have or allow other folks if you have any particulars that you're interested in.

Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, said Commissioner, I was going to say I think I can maybe answer some of that. In the beginning the revenue replacement money, there was a specific calculation that had to be done for that 24M. That money went toward salaries and benefits. That was an applicable charge that we could use that money for and you had to take—the initial year was 2019 before the pandemic occurred and the formula compared your current revenue with 2019 and then each year there was a percentage that was allowed for an increase up to, I think, the Treasury had set a maximum and so there was a formula completed for that. We've got that paperwork that we can show you as to how we came up with the amount and it didn't just go to the General Fund, it went to every fund that had salaries and benefits.

Commissioner Burroughs said if I remember correctly, there was an attempt to pay our emergency responders a bonus that some of us requested it go to emergency responders and I think

what they did is backfilled that with—some of them were furloughed and put on, if I remember correctly, a five-day furlough and they could have gotten unemployment, but instead they used ARPA money to backfill that. I just remember some discussion in reference to how those dollars were spent and there were some questions about it and I don't know, I'm not making accusations, I'm just trying to recall the conversation because I do know that many of us wanted to ensure that our first responders were being rewarded for the work that they were doing. They were putting in a tremendous amount of time, energy, and hours in a very stressful environment, a very challenging environment at that time and for whatever reason I don't believe that occurred. That was some of the questions that a few of us on the Commission had asked about the 18M as to where did that money go in to supplant the General Fund dollars.

I would like to know what bonuses were paid through ARPA and—I don't need to know what person received them, but how much was paid in bonuses and how much of it went to our first responders that would be Police—**Ms. Jonscher** said I can certainly check that. I don't have the information on the bonuses, but we only did the calculation for the revenue replacement that was applied from the start for the initial year. I think it was '21 and it was put in for the 2022 Budget and 2023 Budget, but we can check. We can also get you the distribution to how much went to each fund.

Commissioner Burroughs said it's hard to go back and remember all those discussions and everything that we went through with the Health Department reports and the mass mandate and all the stuff that took up a lot of time to ensure that this community was kept safe and that we were working collectively with our providers and our responders. I think it was extremely important. We faired very well in this community, so kudos to us for doing that. Those questions, I just remember having gone through, I think it would be important for us to maybe identify where some of those dollars went to make sure we got the best return on investment. I do know that the initial tranche came out you only had like three months to get it out and there wasn't much of a requirement, just get it out and then the second tranche that came out had the tighter requirements on reporting and qualifications and those were the dollars that we're kind of dealing with today because they had to be spent by the end of '26.

Ms. Jonscher said right. The CARES money came out in, I believe, that was 2020 or 2021 and yet we got it in the second half of the year and it had to be spent by December of that year. The ARPA money came out in—we received half for the city and half for the county in two

separate years and had to account for that. **Commissioner Burroughs** said do you remember how much the CARES dollars was? **Ms. Jonscher** said around 37M. **Commissioner Burroughs** said and that's not in addition to the 84M, is it? **Ms. Jonscher** said it is. **Commissioner Burroughs** said so that's \$100 and some million. Do we have any permanent employees that are with us now that were brought in under ARPA that we're going to be responsible for in this budget moving forward, any programs that we're going to be responsible for with that the one-time dollars addressed? **Ms. Kneuvean** said no, we don't. We do not. All those positions were grant funded and whenever we have any position grant funded we make sure that employee signs an agreement, they're told so they don't get blindsided you're a grant funded employee, so when the grant ends your position ends and so we've completed all that.

I will say some of the ARPA money, and again, it's hard to keep straight on how monies were used, but some of this ARPA money was used as incentive pay to get vaccinations and so there is details in here. That was a specific program for employees to get vaccinations so that if they're out working with the public or they're with the Health Department, to incentivize them, not required, but incentivize them to get a vaccination, that was one of the initiatives the Commission funded, so I don't know that's really a bonus, but the details are in here. There was about 1,700 employees that benefited from that.

Commissioner Burroughs said the reason I asked the question about permanent employee because I think it's important the public understand and organizations understand this was one-time money that was distributed across the state to a community to provide the programs necessary under a health crisis issue. If there's an opportunity to create a legacy program through that initial funding, I think the reality is it can't happen. Those were one-time dollars. I appreciate the report and I do have a few questions in reference to the timelines on some of these, but they're not critical, but they are questions we can get answered later.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said Commissioner, you asked the question about the furloughs, so the money for that was from a special state program, so I think part of the challenge is there were multiple funding streams that were coming in. There's CARES Act and ARPA stuff, but there was also allocations coming through like KCATA for Transit. It's sort of a challenging picture to tease all those different pieces out and where the funding was coming in from different parts.

Commissioner Burroughs said I would just like to request, could we find out if our first responders were paid a bonus because there was a movement afoot by members of the Commission to ensure our first responders were given—I call it a bonus, it was additional monies for the service they put in and the long hours and I don't know that we ever got that report and if we did, I'm remised for not remembering it. I just was wanting to ensure that was something that occurred or why it didn't occur. **Ms. Kneuvean** said we'll get that information. A lot of communities called it hazard pay because those people were out in the community interacting with people face to face that may have COVID, that type of thing, so it might have come from the initial CARES money or from the ARPA, but I don't think it's any ARPA money, but again to Alan's point, money was coming from different sources, different state agencies, different transit agencies, so it does get a little confusing, but we'll definitely find out and let you know where it came from, if it happened, and how much was the hazard pay and bonuses, whatever.

Mayor Garner said I believe for both CARES and ARPA funding that in case the question is asked, how was it decided these organizations that are listed got these funds. I believe there was a committee that was set up, I just didn't see that in here and it would be good to make sure that the public knows how that process went so if there's questions, why did this organization A as opposed to organization B, how were they selected. I do agree with the commissioners that mentioned—I think that transparency is really key in sharing the story. You're talking over \$100M worth of financial investment through a variety of networks to benefit not just the Unified Government, more importantly our residents, as we navigated through COVID and the recovery. One thing I noticed—I see the ask from a lot of these organizations, which is great. I see the allocations that were approved. The question that I've been asked, so I'm going to share this, and maybe someone can answer it, where is the accountability come in and this is a question I don't know. So, if Garner's LLC non-for-profit incorporated for whatever received \$1.00 because I wanted to do something special with that, as part of the reporting process I can tell you I'm going to use it for whatever purpose and I'm been awarded, how does that work for the Unified Government as far as the auditing to make sure that I give you my ledgers, my receipts, and thing of those natures to make sure that those funds were used in the manner that they were allocated for.

Ms. Kneuvean said for the first part of your comments/questions was, was there a committee to determine which agencies got the allocations for the Commission Subrecipients, the answer is yes. There was an application process and the Commission picked the agencies and initiatives in particular that they were going to put the money towards. Whenever a department was doing something that worked with an outside agency it would either be an existing contract that was amended or it would be something through the RFP process. They would solicit proposals to get different agencies to submit based on whatever the initiative. But if it was a COVID vaccine clinic or something, they needed to partner with somebody. They would do those kinds of RFPs.

As far as accountability goes, that's where I think we've had several strength. With IParamedics we contracted with a consultant and the consultant has met with all of us, subrecipients, routinely. Before \$1.00 is given to a subrecipient from the UG from these dollars they go through the consultant and look at the actual invoices, how the money was spent in particular if it is eligible expenses and they have had a few things they found where something might not be eligible and so they needed them to substitute something else then. They worked with them and all of them were under a contract too, so they had specific performance efforts that they had to hit in terms of what they were doing. It's been the financial side, but also looking at their files and doing actual site work with these agencies that they say they benefitted 100 mothers by providing breast milk or pack-n-plays, then they look at the files to see did you document who they went to, did you document that they were low-income, they look at their documentation and then certify to us that it was used as it was said. The documentation is there, they have copies of it that we have access to, so it's been very tight compliance in terms of these outside agencies. For a lot of time, I mean this was an infusion of a lot of dollars and they were kind of standing up some of their operations in this process and so I think they appreciated the help to make sure they followed the rules because it's not like the federal government made this really easy to understand all the rules.

And even some of the more recent subrecipients like Vernon School, IParamedics and I both have helped them in learning how to write a bid and making sure we advertised the bid so that they can get contractors to submit bids, so that they get best price. These are not normal things that an agency like that would have done, but it's actually helped to for capacity building for them, so now they have that expertise for them to get additional grants hopefully. That kind of active engagement has been ongoing and I feel very confident that these agencies have performed, the

dollars were used as they were told to be used, and the contracts based on what the Commission approved and that they followed through.

Mayor Garner said thank you. That's good information. I know we have a lot of very inquisitive constituents, residents, action groups whatever you want to call them, and they have a right to know and I believe in full transparency on everything the Unified Government does and making access to information not cumbersome for our constituents, our residents, but readily available and so where I'm going with that question is, if I want to find out—you know COVID, the ARPA funds, the CARES funds, everything that we just talked about, you know, who decided, how it was used, how it was audited, how it was allocated, the positive impact to the residents of Wyandotte County in whatever capacity, where would I go to find that information for free.

Then, also, I agree with Commissioner Burns and I think Commissioner Kane mentioned it as well, and just letting the public know that these funds have been exhausted and they did serve their purpose, but they're not funds that are going to be reoccurring in the foreseeable future.

Ms. Kneuvean said I appreciate that. I very much appreciate that you all are suggesting ways for us to really promote and also be transparent to show how responsible this community has been. On our website, that's what I'm looking at right now, there is some general information but it's a bit dated honestly, so we need to revamp this and put this information out there. If we do some either narrative—we could do probably quickly, but the videos are a great idea to showcase what some of these agencies did, showcase people that benefitted directly from these dollars. These are wonderful ideas and we will definitely get on that to be able to tell the community not only are we accountable for the dollars, we are accountable for the dollars, but it was the way the dollars were spent. I mean the fact that 110K direct services to people and that's just a person, one person might receive 10 services, 10 things, 10 times, food, it's one person I counted, but it's like 10 meals or something like that and then it doesn't even include all those community type projects that thousands of people go to. I do agree that it would be really good to promote how we used these dollars and, frankly, appreciate our federal government for supporting communities.

You know when this whole thing happened as you all lived through, we all did, and Commissioner Burroughs, with the revenue replacement, part of it was revenues were going to fall off, nobody is going out to eat anymore so your sales tax is going to fall. You have a budget adopted not expecting to have a worldwide pandemic and so some of what the federal government did was be nimble and try to infuse some money early on to help cities, counties, colleges, schools

address the basic needs that we provide every day. We're getting to the tail end of this, all this impact that we've had, we need to tell the story because it is remarkable of what was done and that there were so many—there are hundreds of people that have worked on this and the agencies, but also the Unified Government that should be appreciated for the work that they did, hundreds of people.

Anyway, it's nice to be able to tell a good news story particularly in this day and age and so we will do everything we can to kind of lift this up to show with the leadership of the Mayor and Commission what was able to be done because it is a lot of money.

Mayor Garner said I agree. We're talking over \$100M of money. I think we owe it to our residents to make sure that we share that story, but then also that the information is accurate, it's timely, and it's up-to-date and it's maintained. It's a good way to close this narrative out and move past COVID and just make sure that information is available for those that may want to view it and see the positive impact that we were able to receive from the federal government to help us, this community to get through COVID.

Thank you all so much. I appreciate the presentation. It was really good information.

Mayor Garner said we're now going to go into Executive Session for consultation with the Unified Government Attorney's on matters that would be deemed privileged and Attorney/Client relationship such as litigation or claims against the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

I need a motion to take us into Executive Session.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to go into Executive Session until 6:30 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room for consultation with our attorneys which would be deemed privileged regarding matters related to litigation set for mediation and guidance from our attorneys related to potential litigation, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that David Johnston, Wendy Green, Casey Meyer, Sheri Courtney, Ryan Denk, and George Sims remain as needed to participate in the discussion and that we reconvene in open session at 6:30 p.m. here in the 5th floor conference room. Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Kane, Lopez, Davis. (Commissioner Stites was online and left the meeting.)

Present for the Executive Session: Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO; presiding. (Commissioner Ramirez was online and left the meeting.) **Staff present:** Information was not available.

Mayor Garner said we are now in Executive Session. Just for point of order and clarity, anybody that's not currently in the room will not be participating, so online, electronic viewers will not have access to the meeting. We're in Executive Session.

Mayor Garner reconvened into Special Session at 6:30 p.m. **Mayor Garner** said we are going to need more time. I would like to entertain a motion to go back into Executive Session.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to reconvene back into Executive Session until 6:40 p.m. Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Burroughs, Burns, Kane, Lopez, Davis, Garner.

Mayor Garner reconvened back into Special Session at 6:40 p.m. **Mayor Garner** said we need five more minutes.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to reconvene back into Executive Session until 6:50 p.m. Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Burroughs, Burns, Kane, Lopez, Davis, Garner.

Mayor Garner reconvened back into Special Session at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Garner said there's no further business tonight and I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Burroughs, Burns, Kane, Lopez, Davis, Garner.

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:51 p.m.**

Monica L. Sparks
Unified Government Clerk

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July 24, 2025