

MORTLAKE

FIRE COMPANY

SUBJECT: Additional ARPA Funds Requested to Purchase New Ambulance

In 2016 we purchased a new cab and chassis for \$115,846.07 because it was the only way that we could still get a diesel engine with a short chassis. We mounted our old "box" on this chassis and are still using this ambulance today. While it was being serviced it fell off the lift and had considerable damage. It was repaired but still had problems due to that accident. That ambulance was then in a collision and out of commission for several months last year. It has reached a point where it needs to be replaced.

In 2021 Mortlake Fire Company purchased a new ambulance for \$219,394. ARPA funds became available to purchase new ambulances in 2022. Because we could not afford to purchase a replacement ambulance we applied for funding through ARPA. In 2022 (see attached article) we were told that new ambulances had increased in price by twenty to thirty percent. We could not get an actual quote due to problems getting parts to build new ambulances and the dealers had no idea when any would be available.

The Town formed a committee to review ARPA requests in February, 2022. A request form was not decided on till October, 2022. We estimated a price of \$260,000 (just under twenty percent of our latest ambulance). We finally got a contract with the Town in July, 2023, to receive ARPA funds to purchase the new ambulance. We placed the order but could not get a final price until January, 2024. This took two years to accomplish.

The price is now \$351,528.00 which is a 60% increase over what we paid in 2021. We will receive a \$10,000 trade in price for our old ambulance, so our cash requirement is \$341,528 – or \$81,528 more than our estimate from two years ago. We expect to receive the ambulance in late May or early June.

Mortlake Fire Company cannot afford to pay the additional price without assistance from the Town. If we cannot get additional ARPA funding, we will need to submit a Capital Project request.

Lisa Mileski

From: Joe Bellavance <joe@jbellavance.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Lisa Mileski
Cc: Keith Gosselin
Subject: Request for Additional ARPA Funding
Attachments: Additional ARPA Funding.docx

Lisa,

Thank you for reaching out to the BBA announcing additional ARPA funding availability. On behalf of the BBA and Keith Gosselin (BBA President, cc here) I wish to submit the attached ARPA request for additional funding.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this request. Thank you again for making us aware of this opportunity. We continue to be excited by the prospects of growing BBA membership. 😊

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Bellavance - Vice President, BBA

President/Founder
JBellavance Consulting
joe@jbellavance.com
jbellavance.com
(c) 774-757-7712

To: Austin Tanner – First Selectman, Town of Brooklyn
From: Brooklyn Business Association (BBA)
Re: Request for additional ARPA funds
Date: April 4, 2024

This letter is in response to your letter dated March 21, 2024 seeking requests for additional ARPA funds. The BBA would like to formally request additional ARPA funding at this time.

Reason for Additional Request: As previously stated in our initial ARPA request, the BBA suffered a detrimental impact to our membership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many businesses were forced to close or cut budgets considerably, impacting membership. While initial funding helped create awareness through social media advertising and mailer outreach, we continue to struggle to get membership to pre-pandemic numbers.

The initial funding (which has been exhausted) created a new awareness of our organization. Since January we have installed new officers, consolidated our membership directory, and created a monthly speaking engagement opportunity at each meeting. These efforts have grown monthly meeting attendance from 5-6 members to 20 attending members since January, 2024.

Though there has been positive momentum, paid membership continues to stagnate at 35-40 members. The BBA goal is to increase active, paid membership to 60 members in the coming year.

Requested Funds: \$3,000

Funding Allocation: The BBA respectfully request these funds to continue our positive momentum to grow BBA membership. Our newly engaged members are excited by the changes we have made to monthly meetings that include presentations on small business taxation/accounting, cyber security insurance, and updates on town activities by the Recreation and Parks department.

A common refrain when seeking new members is “What’s the value?” and “I don’t have time”. We have begun the difficult work of creating value with our monthly speakers and engagement. Now we seek a stronger online presence showing additional value and the ease of joining this dynamic and evolving organization.

The funds we request will be used to update the BBA’s website, making it easier for potential new members to engage with the organization. A key issue for new member growth is the ability to complete a membership form and pay annual dues online. The current process requires new (and renewing) members to complete a membership form, write a check and mail it to the organization. In today’s world this is seen as archaic and a major barrier to membership growth. The BBA desires to update its online presence, create an online payment option, and develop a “monthly member spotlight” on its website. These additional features will assist our growth as an organization.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooklyn Business Association



Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

326 Taft Pond Road • Pomfret Center, CT 06259
www.4hcampct.org

Foundation / Registrar
860-974-3379

Camp Office
860-974-1122

Fax
860-974-3327

wc4hfounders@gmail.com

Town of Brooklyn
Attn: Austin Tanner, First Selectman
PO Box 356
Brooklyn, CT 06234A

April 4, 2024

Selectman Tanner,

The Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc. would again like to thank the Town of Brooklyn for providing ARPA funding to repair and rebuild the dam supporting our pond at the Windham - Tolland 4-H Camp. We previously submitted to the town of Brooklyn a request for reimbursement of \$15,000 for expenses primarily related to the design of the rebuild and related costs. At this time the project has taken on an urgency due to recent storm damage and continued erosion of the dam. As a result we have been working closely with DEEP and we have been granted an emergency Permit to do repairs. The repairs will be approximately 75% permanent and 25% temporary. These repairs are scheduled to begin in mid-April and will be complete before June 1, allowing us to hold a full camp season and for DEEP to review the full repair permit and hopefully issue it in the Fall.

The Foundation has been working diligently to raise the necessary funds for this project and to date we have secured more than \$300,000. While we will not know the full costs until the final plans are approved by DEEP, we anticipate all repairs to cost in the area of \$1 million dollars. We are currently requesting additional funding of \$39,082 to help us reach our goals. These additional funds will reimburse us for all expenses related to the design and permit fees spent to date and allow us to put 100% of donations towards the construction costs. Fundraising continues and we are looking at all resources to secure funding and are greatly appreciative of opportunities like this

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Rider, President
Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

The Brooklyn Public Schools

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Brooklyn, CT 06234
Phone: (860) 774-9732
Fax: (860) 774-6938

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent
buell@brooklynschools.org

Town of Brooklyn
ARPA Committee

April 2, 2024

Dear ARPA Committee Members,

Please find the updates regarding the following ARPA Projects and funds allocated by you to the Brooklyn Public Schools.

#1. ARPA Phone System Replacement: \$135,000

The phone systems took much longer to complete due to many factors. We have been integrating the phones, PA system and myriad of other safety systems tied into the phones that were originally impacted by a lightning strike. Today we hope to have completed our final test of the system in the second school. The phones have the capability to identify locations and transmit that in the event of an emergency and the 911 system is now compliant. They are now tied into the PA system and other safety features for the school district.

*How much
Ins. claim?*

Summary: We have expended \$81,517.30 and will be making the final payment of \$53,482.70 once the final tests are complete. We already have the contract for this project and will make final payment soon. Any balance will be paid out of the insurance claim that was paid to the district.

#2. ARPA HVAC Project: Original Request: \$450,000 reduced to \$150,000

The HVAC funding was requested to offset the cost of the HVAC Project. Initially the State reported that for a DAS reimbursable project, that we could not use any other grant funds such as ARPA. The Town ARPA Committee approved \$150,000 to complete drawings in preparation for the DAS HVAC project. Since that time, the CT Legislature has changed the requirements and now requires every five years a significant HVAC assessment be completed and we are due to complete that work now. In working with the Board's attorney, we have crafted a RFQ/RFP to have the drawings and HVAC assessment completed. This project is projected to cost approximately \$500,000, based on other towns who have had this work done. We do NOT have this amount in the budget and have frozen all non-essential spending in hopes that we can offset the expense from some of this year's unspent budget. It is unlikely that we will be able to cover the full cost of this project.

Summary: The Brooklyn Public Schools is requesting an additional \$350,000 to be used toward the HVAC assessment and drawings to be ready for the HVAC DAS grant submission once the next round of HVAC funding becomes available. The Brooklyn Public Schools believes this is an appropriate expenditure of the ARPA funds as this addresses air quality, an essential outcome of the COVID

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

The Brooklyn Public Schools

Pandemic and would impact the entire student and school employee populations. The schools are used by many members of the community and would provide a benefit to the entire community. Currently the Brooklyn Public Schools has numerous costly repairs that we are waiting to address as these could be addressed as a larger HVAC project that would be eligible for state reimbursement under the Department of Administrative Services construction project.

The request is based on numerous factors including quotes from 2022, estimates from other districts for their projects and the assumption that Brooklyn Board of Education will have excess funds in the amount of \$63,000 to apply toward the cost of the project out of the current budget.

We respectfully request additional funds in the amount of \$350,000 to prepare for a larger HVAC project that we will apply for DAS grant funding under the construction grant.

Backup Materials:

1. The drawings were quoted in 2022 at \$89,000 for each school, we would need two sets of drawings with a cost of \$178,000.
2. You will see an email from Director of Business, Somers Public Schools regarding the cost to have someone complete the designs for three schools HVAC projects was \$580,000. It is likely that our cost would be approximately two-thirds their cost or \$385,000.
3. **Anticipated costs for this project would be: $\$178,000 + \$385,000 = \$563,000$. We currently have \$150,000 and based on this estimate would need an additional \$413,000.** This assumes that we would be able to apply \$63,000 of unexpended funds from the current school year to cover the anticipated balance of this project.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent

Cc: Mae Lyons,, Brooklyn Board of Education Chairperson
Donna DiBendetto, Brooklyn Public Schools Business Manager
Gabe Bryant, Brooklyn Public Schools IT Director
Craig Barrette, Brooklyn Public Schools Facility Director

PFA: General Leger Report for Phone System
Quote for drawings from a prior RFQ (2)
Email Communication from Somers Public Schools

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.