



Blount County Government

TO: Blount County Commissioners

FROM: Brian Baldwin, Finance Director

RE: TDEC Utility Projects Grant Contract

DATE: July 1, 2023

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is investing American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars allocated to Tennessee toward water infrastructure projects throughout the state. Blount County is receiving an allocation of funds for two (2) drinking water projects and two (2) wastewater projects and is working collaboratively with South Blount County Utility District, Knox Chapman Utility District and the City of Friendsville to implement those projects. The Blount County Commission is being asked to approve a cost reimbursement, grant contract with the State ending on September 30, 2026 for the planning, design and construction of the four (4) water infrastructure projects.

In October of 2021, the Blount County Commission approved Resolution 21-10-014 granting the request to pursue a preliminary plan for use of Blount County American Rescue Plans Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds for utility projects. In a special called meeting of the Blount County Commission on January 27, 2022, the specific projects for South Blount County Utility District, Knox Chapman Utility District and the City of Friendsville were presented. On February 17, 2022, the Blount County Commission approved Resolution 22-02-001 appropriating ARPA and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) funds for the completion of utility projects in Blount County. The funds were re-appropriated at the November 17, 2022, County Commission meeting, Resolution 22-11-001. At the June 15, 2023, Blount County Commission approved Resolution 23-06-002 appropriating the funds for FY 23-24.