## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Subject:	Action Required:	Approved By:
To ratify the expenditure of public funds over \$50,000, which were necessary to protect the health and safety of residents and employees during the COVID-19 outbreak.	Ordinance √ <b>Resolution</b>	Bruce T. Moore City Manager
SYNOPSIS	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Scott declared a local emergency on March 12, 2020. To protect the health and safety of residents and public employees during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City incurred costs over \$50,000 to improve the telework capabilities of public employees; to have safe and efficient public meetings that allow for both virtual and live attendance; to provide additional broadband access to those engaged in virtual education, including at community centers and various parks and through the purchase of hot spots; to implement public health measures through modification and cleaning of various city facilities and through the procurement of personal protective equipment, additional alternate response vehicles for the Little Rock Fire Department, and other FEMA-eligible expenses for which a 25% match is required.	
FISCAL IMPACT	The Budget Amendment of I personnel costs for the CC \$7,666,985.00 in FIRE EMT Grant Fund to be offset I reimbursement. The Budget A transfers out to offset unbudge purchase orders, and encumb pandemic and accumulated in a of \$4,506,860.00.	OVID-19 reclassification of public safety salaries to the by the State CARES Act mendment further increased ted COVID-19 expenditures, prances incurred during the

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION NOVEMBER 17, 2020 AGENDA

## **RECOMMENDATION** Approval of the resolution.

BACKGROUND The CARES Act requires expenses to be necessary due to the pandemic and not included in existing budgets; eligible categories of expenses include administrative costs, improving telework capabilities of public employees, payroll for public health and safety employees, personal protective equipment, personnel and services diverted to a substantially different use, facilitating distance learning, and public health expenses. The CARES Act requires expenses to occur between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020. To protect the health and safety of residents and employees during the emergency, the City incurred costs in categories eligible for reimbursement under the CARES Act. Costs included those associated with improving telework capabilities of public employees; providing additional broadband access for those engaged in virtual education, including at community centers and parks and with hot spots; administrative costs to continue the work of the City; and to implement public health measures, including reconfiguring office spaces for employees, cleaning various City facilities, and procuring personal protective equipment, additional alternate response vehicles for the Little Rock Fire Department, and FEMA-eligible expenses that require a 25% match.

Although federal guidance was issued in September 2020 that made it possible for the City to apply for reimbursement for some public health and safety payroll costs that were already budgeted, these are expenses for which the City had planned to seek federal reimbursement under the CARES Act, which is reflected in the Budget Amendment of November 2, 2020.