

April, 2024 Message

Last month's column we addressed street paving and this month I'd like to continue to expand upon this topic. As I mentioned last month, the City's paving project was ranked high enough for the project to be forwarded for small government competition among the state's districts where it will be ranked against both public water/sewer and paving projects. This is the reality of both competing for and being awarded paving grants.

Let us take a closer look at the actual budget considerations for maintenance and streets within the city budget. Approximately \$263,000 is allocated from gasoline tax receipts along with both motor and extra motor registration fees. This income is distributed from the General Fund and is used to fund the yearly maintenance and repair of streets. The City discontinued additional transfers from the General Fund to M&R due to insufficient General Fund balances and lack of available dollars.

If the City's paving grant application is approved, this will be the first project to be funded since 2020. Ideally, it would be our goal to be able to plan and prioritize future paving projects. Moving forward, we would estimate the City's match to be 40-50% of project costs.

So why doesn't the city go to bond for paving projects? The City issued \$350,000 in street paving notes of which we will be paying until 2028. For years, the City was successful in securing grant awards through Community Development funding but this program no longer funds paving projects.

We appreciate you taking the time to read and comment on the monthly columns. We have visited police and street paving along with a general review of grants and projects. In the upcoming months we will continue to address services provided by the City's to you.