

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Edward Gibbons, Vice Chairman
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FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator
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Tameca P. Smith, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

AGENDA
Special Called Meeting

November 20, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Commissioners. Your participation in County government is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Acceptance of Agenda

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit.

ADJOURNMENT:

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:

Presenter(s):

Meeting Date:

Type of Request:

Wording for the Agenda:

Request to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit.

Background/History/Details:

On May 19, 2023, the Griffin Judicial Circuit was awarded \$610,663 in ARPA grant funds for the purpose of audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms. The \$610,663 expenses would be funded with General Fund balance and subsequently reimbursed by ARPA.

On September 12, 2023, the State Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) believed that the sole source, used for bidding the project, may not pass Federal scrutiny and OPB suggested rebidding the project based upon Federal regulations.

On October 26, 2023, the BOC approved the use of General Fund balance in the amount of \$610,663, for the purpose of audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms, pending uncertainty of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds reimbursement.

Given the likelihood of a pending denial, reallocating these Griffin Judicial Circuit allocated \$610,663 ARPA funds to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit would ensure these funds are not at risk of being reallocated to other districts.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval to redirect \$610,663 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds awarded in CY2023 from audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms to CY2024 for the funding of personnel and expenses to address the backlogs of court cases in the circuit.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

No additional funding required. Reallocation of grant funds from CY2023 to CY2024.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?

If so, when?

Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*

Backup Provided with Request?

*** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.**

Approved by Finance

Reviewed by Legal

Approved by Purchasing

County Clerk's Approval

Administrator's Approval

Staff Notes:



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

Cynthia H. Clanton
Director

May 19, 2023

The Honorable W. Fletcher Sams
Chief Judge
Griffin Judicial Circuit
1 Center Drive
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Re: The Judicial Council of Georgia American Rescue Plan Act Funding Award-CY23 Cycle 2

Dear Chief Judge Sams:

On behalf of the Judicial Council of Georgia Ad Hoc Committee on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Committee), I am pleased to inform you that the Griffin Judicial Circuit has been awarded an additional \$1,035,540, increasing the cumulative CY23 award to the Griffin Judicial Circuit to \$2,171,225. The effective date for the additional award begins on June 1, 2023 and will end December 31, 2023.

Attached are the CY23 Grant Agreement outlining the responsibilities and expectations of both parties and the CY23 approved budget. Please review and sign the Grant Agreement and return it within **ten days** of receipt. Upon acceptance of the award, as indicated by returning the signed agreement, the circuit will receive by email the instructions and budget reimbursement form to begin the reimbursement process. The agreement with the **original** signature may be mailed or emailed to:

Kari Kitchens, ARPA Grants Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
244 Washington Street, Suite 300 • Atlanta, GA 30334-5900
Kari.kitchens@georgiacourts.gov • 470.734.6655

For future reporting reference, the CFDA is 21.027.

Please notify me or a member of the Grants Team immediately should there be any discrepancies in the attached award or approved budget to resolve the issue.

We continue to appreciate the outstanding efforts exerted in clearing your circuit's backlog of cases and thank you for your service to the State of Georgia and the Judiciary.

Sincerely,

Regina Hailey

Regina Hailey
ARPA Grants Manager

Attachments: *Grant Award Conditions and Restrictions*
Grant Award Agreement
Approved Budget Form

cc: Jill Irvin via email to jirvin@fayettecountyga.gov
Sergio Acevedo via email to sergioa@fayettecountyga.gov
Will Simmons via email to wtsimmons@gmail.com

ARPA APPROVED GRANT BUDGET (6.1.23)

				Calendar Year 2023	
Grant Administration and Clerical (include in application section (E) (6))	Salary	Quantity	Total		
Grants Manager - Administrator (Cycle 2)	\$ 40,000	1	\$	40,000	
Personnel Services	Salary	Quantity	Total		
Personnel Directly Responding to Case Backlog (include in application section (E) (1))					
Assistant District Attorney(Cycle 1)	\$ 80,227	3	\$	\$240,681	District Attorney
Assistant Solicitor, Fayette County(Cycle 1)	\$ 88,670	1	\$	\$88,670	Fayette - Solicitor
Assistant Court Clerk, Spalding County(Cycle 1)	\$ 45,687	2	\$	\$91,374	Spalding
Court Reporter, Superior Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 280	200	\$	\$56,000	Circuitwide
Deputy Sheriff, Spalding County(Cycle 1)	\$ 58,218	2	\$	\$116,436	Spalding - Sheriff
Investigator, Spalding State Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 85,000	1	\$	\$85,000	Spalding - State Court
Senior Judge, Superior Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 664	50	\$	\$33,200	GJC
Senior Judge, Spalding State Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 618	50	\$	\$30,900	Spalding - State Court
Senior Judge, Fayette State Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 648	50	\$	\$32,400	Fayette - State Court
Assistant Court Clerk, Upson County(Cycle 1)	\$ 33,204	1	\$	\$33,204	Upson - Court Clerk
Additional Bailiffs(Cycle 1)	\$ 75	300	\$	\$22,500	Fayette \$10,000, Other \$12,500
Spalding Magistrate Constable(Cycle 2)	\$ 31,457	1	\$	\$31,457	Spalding - Magistrate Court
Contract Senior Judges, Fayette State (Jul - Dec 2023)	\$ 3,417	6	\$	\$20,503	Fayette - State Court
Total Personnel Costs:			\$	\$922,325	
Administrative/Indirect Costs:	Amount		Total		
ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses (include in application section (E) (6))					
Equipment, District Attorney's Office(Cycle 1)	\$ 2,000		\$	2,000.00	District Attorney
Equipment, Spalding Magistrate Constable(Cycle 2)	\$ 525		\$	525.00	Spalding - Magistrate Court
Equipment, Fayette State Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 4,999		\$	4,999.00	Fayette - State Court
Printing, Publications, and Media, Fayette Assistant Solicitor(Cycle 1)	\$ 180		\$	180.00	Fayette - Solicitor
Supplies and Materials, Fayette Assistant Solicitor(Cycle 1)	\$ 450		\$	450.00	Fayette - Solicitor
Supplies and Materials, Fayette Administrative Costs(Cycle 1)	\$ 12,000		\$	12,000.00	Fayette / Other
Supplies and Materials, District Attorney's Office(Cycle 1)	\$ 4,500		\$	4,500.00	District Attorney
Juror Expenses(Cycle 1)	\$ 225,926		\$	225,926.00	Fayette \$100,000, Other \$125,926
Identification:photos & badges, District Attorney's Office(Cycle 1)	\$ 160	2	\$	320.00	District Attorney
CLE, Bar Dues, District Attorney's Office(Cycle 1)	\$ 1,200	3	\$	3,600.00	District Attorney
Contract Court Reporters, Fayette and Spalding State Court(Cycle 1)	\$ 20,000	2	\$	40,000.00	Fayette \$20,000, Spalding \$20,000
Contract Court Reporters - State Court (Jul - Dec 2023)	\$ 1,000	6	\$	6,000.00	Fayette \$3,000, Spalding \$3,000
CLE, Bar Dues, Fayette Assistant Solicitor(Cycle 1)	\$ 1,925		\$	1,925.00	Fayette - Solicitor
Audio-visual equipment modernization(Cycle 2)			\$	946,475.00	Fayette \$610,913, Spalding \$335,562
Total Administrative Costs:			\$	1,248,900	
TOTAL OVERALL BUDGET				\$	2,171,225

CY 2023 ARPA - AV Equipment Modernization Awarded / Quote

<u>Courtroom</u>	<u>Awarded</u>	<u>Quote</u>
1A - Ott		
1B - Ruppenthal	123,717.00	123,467.00
1C - Jackson		
2A - Sams	121,799.00	121,799.00
2B - Ballard	121,799.00	121,799.00
2C - Visiting Judge	121,799.00	121,799.00
2D - Thompson	121,799.00	121,799.00
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	\$ 610,913.00	\$ 610,663.00

COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department: Presenter(s):
Meeting Date: Type of Request:

Wording for the Agenda:

Request to approve the use of General Fund fund balance in the amount of \$610,663, for the purpose of audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms, with no reimbursement expected from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Background/History/Details:

On March 23, 2023, the BOC approved a request from Chief Superior Judge, Fletcher Sams, to apply, on behalf of the Griffin Judicial Circuit (GJC), for \$851,917 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds, for the purpose of audio-visual modernization. The BOC approved using General Fund fund balance for the expenses, with the understanding that these costs would be reimbursed.

On May 19, 2023, Chief Superior Judge Sams received an award letter from the Judicial Council of Georgia in the amount of \$1,035,540. Allocating \$610,663 for Fayette County court rooms and \$335,812 of these funds for Spalding County court rooms. The award amount decreased from \$851,917 to \$610,663 because the Probate Court and Magistrate Court rooms were deemed ineligible.

On June 1, 2023, the effective date of the grant, Fayette County Purchasing received an email from the Judicial Council of Georgia Legal Department stating we could move forward with the sole source. Fayette County issued a Notice to Proceed to Sound Principles, LLC, the existing technology vendor, to maintain technological consistency throughout the County.

On September 12, Chief Superior Judge Sams, sent an email stating that the State Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) believed that the sole source may not pass Federal scrutiny and OPB suggested rebidding the project based upon Federal regulations. Staff are still requesting OPB approval, but in an abundance of caution, request approval to utilize general fund balance in case such a reimbursement request fails.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Request to approve the use of General Fund fund balance in the amount of \$610,663, for the purpose of audio-visual modernization for the Griffin Judicial Circuit Fayette County court rooms, with no reimbursement expected from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

If this item requires funding, please describe:

The 375-GJC22 project is currently funded with General Fund fund balance; however, no reimbursement is expected from ARPA.

Has this request been considered within the past two years? If so, when?
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request? Backup Provided with Request?

*** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.**

Approved by Finance Reviewed by Legal
Approved by Purchasing County Clerk's Approval
Administrator's Approval

Staff Notes: