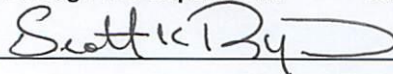




**County of Lancaster  
Request for ARPA Funding**

Organization Columbia Borough Fire Department Date 08-31-22 Submitted By Scott K Ryno, Fire Chief  
 Authorized Signature  Email Address:   
 Phone: 

Please attach any supporting documentation for consideration. Submission should be in PDF Format.

<p>Project/Item Description</p>	<p align="center">Volunteer Fire Company Facility Upgrade Emergency Services</p> <p>Columbia Borough Fire Department (CBFD) was formed on August 15, 2015, as a result of a merger of Fire Companies within the Borough of Columbia. CBFD is now the sole provider of Fire/Rescue services to the approximately 11,000 citizens in the Borough. Through a dedicated staff of 60 volunteer firefighters, CBFD will respond to a projected 825 calls in 2022 as the busiest all volunteer fire station in Lancaster County.</p> <p>A large portion of the annual operating budget for CBFD is derived from the social hall and social club that are attached to the facility that also houses the fire apparatus and equipment. The entire facility is located on Manor Street in Columbia Borough with parking across the street as well as an adjacent parking lot. The parking facilities are shared by the citizens that attend events and patronize the social club as well as the volunteers that respond to emergencies. Due to the proximity of the roadway (see attached pictures) this creates a dangerous situation for patrons entering and exiting the facility and especially when there is an emergency incident, and the volunteers are responding and attempting to park. In the past, there have been accidents in front of the facility as well as people have been struck and injured in front of the facility. This facility is utilized 7 days a week between the bingo program, hall rentals and the social hall as well as the social club, thus the needs are pressing and will be utilized daily.</p> <p>Based on the above, the leadership of CBFD has elected to complete a project that would relocate the entrance to the facility as it related to the social hall and social club to the parking lot side of the building. The benefits of this would include: an enclosed vestibule, eliminating entering and exiting along Manor Street in an unsafe manner as well as the elimination of the unsafe conditions that exist during emergency response activities. This project will also allow for upgraded lighting and electrical components that will also serve to increase the overall safety.</p>
<p>Clearly state the amount being requested. What is the total cost? How was the cost derived?</p>	<p>Columbia Borough Fire Department clearly understands the value of maximizing the available dollars for the citizens of Lancaster County. Therefore, our volunteer leadership team spent considerable time and effort to insure that we obtained competitive quotations/proposals for the proposed work under this grant request. The enclosed cost estimate/proposal will outline those details and you will see that the vendor is Lancaster County based. We felt it was important to maximize the dollars available through benefiting the local economy with providing work to a local business partner right here in Lancaster County. Thus, this project will benefit our organization, our citizens and community as well as the local economy – a win for all stakeholders.</p> <p>The requested project and financial budget will be as follows:</p> <p>Columbia Borough Fire Department proposes to partner with the County of Lancaster on this grant request with 50% of the funds being committed by the Volunteer Fire Company (\$132,104.50) and the remaining \$132,104.50 to be allotted from the County of Lancaster ARPA funding.</p>

While this project has been in the planning stages, the overall finances for the project have been significantly affected by the COVID losses as it relates to fundraising activities. During the height of COVID, the volunteers had to cancel many events that included the weekly bingo program, chicken BBQ fundraisers and most notably, there was a period that the social club was required to be closed.

Due to the above stated losses, Columbia Borough Fire Department currently can commit 50% of the overall funding to make this project a reality, however we're unable to commit 100% due to the tens of thousands of dollars that were lost during COVID-19.

Soon, the 100% Volunteer Fire Company will also have a need to complete a replacement of our aerial device (ladder truck) at a projected cost of \$1,300,000.00. So, while this project has also been in the financial planning for a period of time, we do have other significant financial obligations in the near future.

**Total Project Costs as noted above: \$264,209.00**

**Columbia Borough Fire Department: \$132,104.50**

**TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THIS ARPA GRANT APPLICATION: \$132,104.50**

**Which County ARPA Community-wide Benefit(s) does the project meet?**

Public Safety (Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire)

**Briefly explain how the project meets the County's guidelines.**

As a Volunteer Fire Company in Lancaster County we're here to protect the lives and property of our local citizenry, neighboring communities and Lancaster County in total 24/7/365. It is our belief that this clearly showcases a community-wide as well as county-wide benefit under the guidelines for ARPA funding requests. Our request would be in line with category #3 – Public Safety (Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA, Fire). As a volunteer public safety agency, we rely heavily on donations and fundraising activities to support the organization. During the many months of COVID, our organization was unable to raise the level of income that we once did or pre COVID. We saw a decrease in revenue through fundraising efforts as well as a decrease in our hall rental income and the social hall revenue that supports the overall Fire Department operations. We believe this loss of funds that is directly correlated to COVID is exactly what the CARES Act funds were made available for. Therefore, we believe this request is in line with Lancaster Counties desire to provide ARPA funding for community projects and community organizations such as Columbia Borough Fire Department – the busiest all volunteer fire company in Lancaster County.

**Why should this project be a priority and how will it help the County? Also, if this application is for more than one project, please identify each one, provide information and rank them in order of your priority.**

The facility upgrades that are requested in this application will have an immediate and on-going positive effect on the residents of Columbia Borough, surrounding communities and Lancaster County in its entirety. A portion of the Columbia Borough Fire Department facility (included in this project) could be utilized by Columbia Borough and West Hempfield Township residents as an evacuation location, therefore there will be a direct benefit derived by the citizens through the award of these funds to our organization. This project will also serve to support our community infrastructure during an emergency.

**Will this project require ongoing expense (maintenance, updates) or frequent replacement? Are expenses already being incurred, if so, can they be reduced through this project?**

The requested project will require on-going funds for maintenance and upkeep, however these funds are already budgeted and planned on an annual basis by Columbia Borough Fire Department and supported by an annual funding allotment from Columbia Borough. However, through this project and the ability to ultimately upgrade the facility, we will be able to realize a cost savings through an energy savings and upgraded equipment and technology.

**Project Timeline – start to finish, and when funding will be needed.**

Columbia Borough Fire Department (CBFD) has completed the planning phase for this project as the facility upgrade project was in the planning discussion prior to COVID. However, due to COVID and the loss of funding from fundraising activities the project was

delayed, thus the request for ARPA funding to move the project forward. As shown in this submission, we've already obtained the quotation/proposal for the requested work. Therefore, we're ready to move forward with the project immediately upon securing the necessary funding. The fire company leadership fully understands the deadlines for the ARPA funds and will be able to contract and complete all the proposed work prior to the 12/31/2024 deadline. If the funds are awarded prior to the close of 2022, it is our expectation that we will contract and complete all work in 2023.

Are other organizations part of this project? If yes, please list them and their role, including funding. If not, explain why.

As a 100% volunteer fire company we rely heavily on partnerships and community support. As such, we work collectively with local entities such as Columbia Borough. We consider the Borough as a key partner in this proposed project and grant request and we have spoken to the Borough officials in regard to this project and proposed funding request. The Borough of Columbia will benefit through this project by being able to insure the residents of the Borough a timely emergency response through adequate facilities and increased safety measures for patrons frequenting our facilities as well as our volunteers. The Borough relies on our facility as a primary evacuation point for their residents as well as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for our Emergency Management Agency, thus a well-equipped and modernized facility at the fire company will be of great value to the overall Borough.

ARPA Committee Comments

ARPA Committee Recommendation

Funding Amount Recommended (if recommended for approval)

\$

