

February 23, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

SMM

202300662

Subject: Ordinance – GCWW: OEPA Equipment Grant

Attached is an Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) in the amount of up to \$10,000 for the purpose of reimbursing the costs incurred by the Greater Cincinnati Water Works to purchase valve exercising equipment needed to meet the new Ohio EPA public water system asset management program requirements; and **AUTHORIZING** the Finance Director to deposit any such grant funds received into Water Works Fund No. 101x8527.

Approval of this Ordinance will authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) in an amount of up to \$10,000 for the purpose of reimbursing costs incurred by the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) to purchase valve exercising equipment needed to meet the new OEPA public water system asset management program requirements.

GCWW is developing a robust asset management program to meet new OEPA asset management program requirements and to maintain the infrastructure needed to provide a continuous source of safe drinking water. To meet the requirements, GCWW must acquire the necessary equipment for exercising valves in the distribution system. As part of the State of Ohio's H2Ohio Initiative to improve water infrastructure and develop the technical capacity of public water systems, the OEPA offered grants to reimburse public water systems for the initial costs of valve exercising equipment.

No local match or additional FTE are required for this grant funding. To meet the deadline of January 25, 2023, the grant application was submitted prior to passage of this Ordinance. However, no resources will be accepted without City Council approval.

The acceptance of grant funding to defray the costs of valve exercising equipment is in accordance with the "Sustain" initiative goal to "Become a healthier Cincinnati" and strategy to "Create a healthy environment and reduce energy consumption" as described on pages 179-186 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The Administration recommends passage of this Ordinance.

cc: Verna Arnette, GCWW, Interim Executive Director
Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment