

**PRELIMINARY  
MINUTES**

**BUILD KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 25, 2024  
Room 546-S—Statehouse

**Members Present**

Senator Ty Masterson, Chairperson  
Representative Troy Waymaster, Vice-chairperson  
Senator J.R. Claeys  
Senator Usha Reddi  
Representative Shannon Francis  
Representative Henry Helgerson  
Representative Kyle Hoffman  
Representative Stephanie Sawyer Clayton (Substitute for Representative Vaughn)

**Members Absent**

Senator Tim Shallenburger  
Representative Lindsay Vaughn

**Staff Present**

Eric Adell, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Chardae Caine, Legislative Research Department  
Murl Riedel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Susan McClacherty, Committee Assistant

**Conferees**

Matthew Volz, Executive Director, Kansas Infrastructure Hub

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Masterson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Approval of March 14, 2024 Minutes**

*Representative Waymaster moved, Senator Claeys seconded, approval of the minutes for March 14, 2024. The motion carried.*

## **Presentation on Applications to the Build Kansas Matching Grant Fund**

The Chairperson recognized Vanessa Lamoreaux, Kansas Department of Transportation. Ms. Lamoreaux introduced Matthew Volz, who is serving as the Executive Director of the Kansas Infrastructure Hub. Mr. Volz informed the Committee on the Kansas Infrastructure Summit, which occurred on April 24, 2024, in Salina and involved over 200 participants from the public and private sectors, as well as state agency representatives.

Mr. Volz, on behalf the Build Kansas Steering Committee provided, presented 13 applications for review. He noted three additional applications were ready for review, but these would be presented at a later meeting due to time constraints.

The following applications were reviewed:

1. # 2024-022-NoEDD is from the City of Topeka. The city is seeking funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to complete sewer improvements in the Southwest Prairie Road and 23rd Street area, which involves new reinforced concrete pipe and inlets. The local match requirement is 25.0 percent. The city requests \$223,750 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$895,000 in federal funds. (Attachment 1)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

2. # 2024-023-SCKEDD is from the Little Walnut Hickory Watershed Joint District #18. The District is seeking funding for the High Hazard Potential Dam Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Floodwater Retarding Dam (FRD) 19 was built in 1966, located 2 miles north of Beaumont, Kansas. The project would raise the spillway, reinforce the dam, add a filter drain, remove some downstream at-risk structures, which would achieve a low hazard classification. The local match requirement is 35.0 percent. The District is seeking \$153,725.50 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$570,982 in federal funds. (Attachment 2)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

### **Grid Resiliency Projects**

Mr. Volz noted that the following 11 applications relate to the 40101(d) Grid Resiliency Grant program offered through the U.S. Department of Energy. This is a pass-through grant program administered by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), which selected these 11 projects involving small regional or municipalities utilities. Replacement of old power poles and transformers compose the majority of the projects. This is the first year for this federal grant program. The local match requirement for projects under this program is 32.58 percent..

3. #2024-028-40101d is from the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative in South Hutchinson. The project will install overhead conductors, underground cables, new monitoring and control technologies, and relocate power lines. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The Cooperative is seeking \$235,421 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$487,079 in federal funds. (Attachment 3)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

4. #2024-029-40101 is from the City of Blue Mound. The project is to build a new substation, relocate transformers, and replace old and deteriorating poles and lines. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$130,534 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$270,070 in federal funds. (Attachment 4)

A member commended the applicant for providing some local funding for the project.

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

5. #2024-030-40101d is from the City of Anthony. The City plans to rebuild two sections of a critical power line and replace some outdated switching, a recloser station, and a control center. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$131,161 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$271,368 in federal funds. (Attachment 5)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

6. # 2024-031-40101d is from the City of Garden City. This project is called the Northeast Underground Replacement Project and will replace underground conductors and transformers. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$302,590 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$626,049 in federal funds. (Attachment 6)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

7. # 024-032-40101d is from City of Horton. The City plans to replace an outdated substation, power line, facilities, and other systems. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$529,494 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$1,095,506 in federal funds. (Attachment 7)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

8. # 2024-033-40101d is from the City of Pratt. The project is called the Substation Hardening Project and involves the installation of a transformer, new transformer technologies, and new monitoring systems. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$1,034,550 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$2,140,449 in federal funds. (Attachment 8)

A member noted that the applicant indicated it could provide \$750,000 in local match funding, but chose not to do so.

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

9. #2024-034-40101d is from the Victory Electric Cooperative. Association, Inc, in Dodge City. The Victory Electric South Dodge City Resiliency Project will install trip safer devices in approximately 325 locations to reduce blown fuses caused by storms, wildlife, and vegetation. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The Association is seeking \$715,395 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$1,480,128 in federal funds. (Attachment 9)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

10. #2024-035-40101d is from the Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative in Girard. This project will leverage strategically placed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)-controlled reclosers to enhance electric service reliability in Linn County. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$200,403 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$414,627 in federal funds. (Attachment 10)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

11. #2024-036-40101 is from the City of Attica. This 34.5 kilo-volt feeder line project will rebuild two miles of power lines and replace 6 transformers and 28 poles. The local match is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$143,370 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$296,629 in federal funds. (Attachment 11)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

12.#2024-037-40101d is from the Pioneer Electric Cooperative in Ulysses. This project will improve resiliency, vulnerability, and innovation, and replace aging power line infrastructure, upgrade grid vulnerabilities with pole testing and change outs, and invest in technologies to better monitor the grid. The local match is 32.58 percent. The Cooperative is seeking \$1,575,449 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$3,259,551 in federal funds. (Attachment 14)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

13. # 2024-039-40101d is from the City of Holton. The project and will add a transformer to the city's system. The local match requirement is 32.58 percent. The City is seeking \$796,360 from the Build Kansas Fund, which potentially unlocks \$1,647,640 in federal funds. (Attachment 14)

*There being no objection, the Committee approves the application and recommends to the State Treasurer that it be funded.*

#### **Follow-Up to Items Considered on March 14, 2024**

Mr. Volz updated the Committee on aspects of four applications considered at the previous meeting. The applications include:

#2024-010-GP is from the City of Dodge City. An award from the Build Kansas Fund was approved on March 14, 2024, pending outcomes of the applicant's funding request to Kansas Water Office. Mr. Volz referenced a memo from the Kansas Water Officer indicating the project was ineligible for KWO funding.

*Given this outcome, the Committee confirms approval of the application to the Build Kansas Fund.*

#2024-015-NWKPDC is from the City of Hays. An award from the Build Kansas Fund was approved on March 14, 2024, contingent upon receiving documentation that the City of Hays is

collaborating with the City of Russell on this project. Mr. Volz referenced a letter from the City of Russell to Representative Waymaster expressing the City's support for the project and confirming collaboration between the two cities.

*Given the letter satisfies concerns, the Committee confirms approval of the application to the Build Kansas Fund.*

#2024-020-GP is from the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 3. An award was approved on March 14, 2024, pending outcomes of the applicant's funding request to Kansas Water Office. Mr. Volz stated that grant awards from the KWO were announced on April 16, 2024, and the project was not among them.

*Given this outcome, the Committee confirms approval of the application to the Build Kansas Fund.*

#2024-018-MARC is from the City of Edgerton. The City requested \$520,000 from the Build Kansas Fund. On March 14, 2024, the Committee requested further consideration of the application due to concern. Mr. Volz stated that subsequent to the meeting, the Kansas Infrastructure Hub learned that there is no local match requirement for the associated federal grant program because 60.0 percent of the project occurs in a rural area. However, the City is seeking Build Kansas Funds because such support can strengthen the federal application. Mr. Volz indicated the City of Edgerton has requested the application to the Build Kansas Fund be tabled and revisited at a later date.

*Representative Waymaster moved, Senator Claeys seconded, to table the Build Kansas Fund request. Motion carried.*

## **Operating Expenditures Request**

The Kansas Infrastructure Hub requests \$4.3 million, all from the Build Kansas Fund, and 3.0 FTE positions for operating expenditures for FY 2025. This includes contractual services for program consultants and technical assistance, IT support, and overhead. This also includes commodities and capital outlay such as furniture and equipment.

The Committee concurs with the Hub's request and acknowledges the Committee has been advised.

## **Discussion**

Mr. Volz informed the Committee that an application to the Build Kansas Fund was declined by the Steering Committee because the applicant submitted after the federal deadline. Mr. Volz stated 3 applications to federal agencies had been approved, which included two applications from the City of Ozawie and an application from the Manhattan airport.

The Committee discussed the following items;

Senator Reddi requested information on all applications received by KCC regarding the 40101(d) Grid Resiliency Grant program, including those not selected.

The Committee discussed establishing a policy in the future that would required applications to provide a local match for each project, which could include in-kind contributions.

## Adjourn

Chairperson Masterson adjourned the meeting at 12:58.

Prepared by Susan McClacherty  
Edited by Murl Riedel

Approved by the Committee on:

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(Date)

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