



Town of Franklin

ARPA Funds Overview

Finance Committee
October 13, 2021

Franklin Town Council
October 20, 2021

Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator
Alecia Alleyne, Assistant to the Town Administrator

<https://www.franklinma.gov/town-budget>

Overview of Federal Funds

Previous Federal Authorizations - CARES Act

- CARES Act - \$2.92 million
 - March 2020 Congressional legislation.
 - Staff have provided numerous public accounting of these funds.
 - Spending ends Dec 31, 2021.
 - Town uses: PPE, Chromebooks, UV Lighting, HEPA Filters, staff COVID-19 leave and equipment and gear for various departments.
 - Detailed [breakdown is here](#).

Overview of Federal Funds

Previous Federal Authorizations - FEMA

- FEMA - \$593,535 (estimate to date...)
 - Reimbursement from federal & state disaster recovery declarations.
 - For the purposes of PPE, cleaning supplies, emergency personnel.
 - Have not been reimbursed yet, but will at some point.
 - During State of Emergencies for public safety, deficit spending is allowed.
 - It is typical during an average snowstorm or federal disaster declaration to have 2-3 year delay in reimbursement.

Overview of Federal Funds

Previous Federal Authorizations

- All other federal funds for Franklin Public Schools are separate appropriations, unless otherwise specified (e.g. Chromebooks, UV Lighting, HEPA Filters)
- A big THANK YOU to our Congressional and Legislative partners. These are expenses the citizens did not have to pay from town coffers and helped in a myriad of ways:
 - Helped the Town weather the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 (so far).
 - Ensured the Municipal and School Departments did not have to have deep service cuts or widespread layoffs.
 - Helped to keep our employees and citizens safe.

Overview of Federal Funds

ARPA Slide 1

- ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act - \$10,188,837.
 - Congressional legislation approved March 2021.
 - The funds are through two pots of monies (Municipal & County):
 - Municipal Allocation #1: \$1,783,919 (received June 2021)
 - Municipal Allocation #2: \$1,783,919 (anticipated June 2022)
 - County Allocation #1: \$3,310,500 (anticipated Oct/Nov 2021)
 - County Allocation #2: \$3,310,500 (anticipated Oct/Nov 2021)
 - All funds have an expiration date of December 31, 2024.
 - All county funds will have 3% taken off the top for Norfolk County to Administer the Program on behalf of the cities and towns.
 - Franklin loses \$198,630 under the County approach.

Overview of Federal Funds

ARPA Slide 2

- ARPA Funds are available for the following five/six categories:
 - Support public health
 - Economic impact
 - Revenue replacement
 - Employee premium pay
 - Infrastructure - Water & Sewer (including certain Stormwater work)
 - Infrastructure - Broadband
- August 23, 2021 meeting with Norfolk County Commissioners who are in charge of distributing the County allocations.
- On 10/8/21, the Town just received notice of a second meeting on October 14, 2021. The County said the portal would be available to apply on 10/18/21 but has not received anything further since last week. Stay tuned....
 - One note from 10/14/21 is now the County will allow us to apply for 25% of our allotment, as opposed to 50% they originally suggested.

Overview of Federal Funds

ARPA Slide 3

- Guidance on ARPA funds are still evolving and will continue to evolve.
 - Eligibility is restrictive at this point.
- Local updates and project costs may fluctuate based on the process outlined by the County Commissioners.
- These are being treated as “grants”.
- US Treasury Department has promulgated an interim rule on each use, but will continue to adapt as questions and local priorities/projects get awarded.
- Project eligibility will be an ebb and flow.
- I expect there will be a major competition for service providers which could slow projects down.

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

Municipal Allocations

- Municipal Allocation #1 (\$1.73 million) has been received.
 - The current priority will be to save the money. Why?
 - With the pandemic far from over, these monies should be reserved for potential costs to the town, schools and general public in the event we are able to hold booster clinics, vaccine clinics, or other public health related emergencies.
 - The Town's Public Health Nurse has started, which allows the Town to coordinate vaccine clinics on our own.
 - There are no other resources available to Franklin if there is an emergency this winter.
- Municipal Allocation #2 (\$1.73 million) is expected to arrive next June 2022.
 - The objective would be to ration allocation #1 until this allocation #2 arrives and we are through the winter season. Revisit these funds come Summer 2022.

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

County Allocations, slide #1

- County Allocation #1 (\$3,211,185):
 - Must be applied for through the County this fall.
 - Anticipated date October 2021, but towns have not received any new information since the [August 23, 2021 County Commissioners meeting](#).
 - County is behind schedule. It is unknown when the Town will *receive* its funding.
 - The County is aiming to police the federal funds with legal review.
 - The County announced last week, towns can apply for 25% of their allotment, rather than the 50% noted here.
 - Proposed project list is on next slide.
- County Allocation #2 (\$3,211,185) anticipated Fall/Winter 2022.

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

County Allocations, slide #2

- County Allocation #1 (\$3,211,185) Projects list.
 - Project #1: Year 3 Water Main replacement plan - \$1,250,000
 - Project #2: (eligible) Stormwater infrastructure - \$736,000
 - Project #3: Public Safety/Wireless Broadband Tower - \$972,000
 - Project #4: Mental Health Clinician Franklin Police Department - \$250,000
 - Project #5: Commercial Vax Fridge - \$3,185

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

County Allocations, slide #3

- Project #1: Year 3 Water Main replacement plan - \$1,250,000
 - Will pay for the water main replacements or roadwork for the Year 3 scheduled work.
 - Water ratepayers will not have to subsidize these projects.
 - Year 3 projects are: Arlington Street neighborhood.
 - 3,000 feet of 6" cast iron pipe with 8" ductile iron pipe, and stormwater improvements. Also, the requisite roadwork.
 - Stabilizes water rates.
 - FYI: Year 4 water main program is the Country Club Drive neighborhood and another section of Jordan Road.

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

County Allocations, slide #4

- Project #2: (eligible) Stormwater infrastructure - \$736,000
 - Drainage Basins
 - Scarboro Court, Charles River Drive, Woodhaven/Dena, Brook Street @ Shepherd's Brook, Townline Road
 - Outfalls
 - 70 Highland Street area.
 - Culverts
 - 74 Elm Street area, 59 Daniels Street area, Daniels @ Addison area, 63 Mill Street area
 - These monies will go toward the Town's year 4 of the MS4 permit.
 - While these are solid improvements to our stormwater compliance, these movies will not be to avoid addressing this issue systemically. The Town is still required to finance additional work.

Town of Franklin Initial Plan

County Allocations, slide #5

- Project #3: Public Safety/Wireless Broadband Tower - \$972,000
 - Proposed 180 foot tower in North Franklin
 - Fills public safety radio dead zones near Populatic “Bowl”.
 - Expands broadband reach and power for all of North Franklin
 - 500 students are in this area
 - Anticipate long term lease RFP to all mobile carriers.
 - Attempting to fill the massive dead zones and public safety gaps in wireless in North Franklin.
- Project #4: Mental Health Clinician Franklin Police Department - \$250,000
 - A second mental health clinician would be hired from Advocates, Inc.
 - Would allow for a second shift.
 - Mental Health cases/calls continue to rise.
 - Town Administrator hopes for more investment through ARPA process.
- Project #5: Commercial Vax Fridge - \$3,185
 - [Aegis Vaccine Refrigerator](#)
 - One purchased last year at FD. A second will be at Senior Center in the office of the new Public Nurse, RN.

Helpful Links

- Town website: <https://www.franklinma.gov/town-budget>
- Massachusetts Municipal Association website:
<https://www.mma.org/resources/federal-funds-resources/>
- United States Treasury:
<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>