

## **RE: First Reading Council Bill #2024-21 APPA Grid Resilience Program grant funding.**

### **Background:**

Nixa Utilities Electric Department is seeking to apply for grant funding to support the removal of ash trees that have been affected by the emerald ash borer (EAB) and pose a threat to distribution infrastructure. Our goal is to mitigate the impact of this invasive pest on our electric infrastructure and ensure the continued reliability and safety of our power grid.

This proposal is for action by City Council allowing for the application and acceptance of a matching grant from the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments program (DEED). DEED is the research and development arm of APPA. Attachments to this memo include a more detailed list of benefits as well as a couple diagrams to assist in understanding some of the items.

### **Analysis:**

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle native to Asia that has had a negative impact on ash trees in North America since its discovery in Michigan in 2002. In the case of Missouri, the EAB was first detected in July 2008 in the southeastern part of the state, making its way to most of Missouri by 2009.

The (EAB) poses a severe threat to ash trees due to its destructive feeding habits, leading to significant damage to the trees. Fallen trees and large limbs during storms due to EAB damage causes power outages and disruptions in service. Preventing such incidents through proactive tree removal reduces power outages and improves overall service reliability.

The collaboration between Nixa Electric and APPA's DEED program presents a valuable opportunity to proactively address the challenges posed by the emerald ash borer. If successful in receiving the grant, results of this program will be shared with the rest of the APPA community to assist them in solving similar problems at their utility.

Total estimated cost for this project as described above, including tree removal, stump grinding, and replacement trees is \$100,000. For the grant application, staff will ask for \$50,000.00 in matching funds with the utilities portion coming

from both program expense and some in-kind labor. In-kind support is limited to no more than 10% of the total project cost. Because this is a reimbursement type grant, staff is requesting a budget amendment of the full \$100,000.00.

Provided we are successful in obtaining grant funding, the \$50,000.00 reimbursement will be returned to the department. Provided we are not successful, and no award is received, staff does not plan to expend the amended allocation and will continue to address these trees as we have been within our regular tree program.

### **Recommendation:**

Angela Brooke, Chris Huett and Tim Hammer have developed this program idea and have worked to gather all the information for the grant application. Not only would this program help the reliability of our system, but it is also one more step towards our collective goal to raise our next RP3 award status from Platinum to Diamond level, the highest level of the program today.

We will bring this Bill back for a second reading and your consideration at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting along with our recommendation for adoption. Until then, we are available to answer any questions you may have.

### **MEMO SUBMITTED BY:**

**Doug Colvin** | Assistant City Administrator, Director Nixa Utilities and Public Works  
dcolvin@nixa.com | 417-725-2353

American Public Power Association – Planned outcomes for DEED R&D Grant Program for EAB eradication.

Implementing a program to remove ash trees diseased with emerald ash borers near electric infrastructure could benefit other utilities in several ways:

1. **Improved Reliability:** By removing trees that are susceptible to falling and potentially damaging electric infrastructure, the reliability of the electric grid can be enhanced. Fallen trees during storms or due to disease can cause power outages and disruptions in service. Preventing such incidents through proactive tree removal reduces downtime and improves overall service reliability.
2. **Cost Savings:** Utilities spend significant resources on repairing damage caused by fallen trees and conducting maintenance to prevent such incidents. By removing diseased ash trees before they become a problem, utilities can save on these operational costs associated with emergency response, repairs, and ongoing maintenance.
3. **Collaborative Efforts:** Collaborating with Nixa Municipal Electric on such a program can foster partnerships and knowledge sharing among utilities. Techniques, best practices, and lessons learned from managing tree risks near infrastructure can be shared among different utility companies, benefiting the industry as a whole.
4. **Environmental Impact:** While the primary goal is to prevent damage to infrastructure, tree removal programs can also have positive environmental impacts when executed responsibly. Replacing diseased trees with species that are more resilient or supporting reforestation efforts can contribute to biodiversity and ecological health in the region.
5. **Community Relations:** Utilities often face public scrutiny regarding their environmental impact and responsiveness to community concerns. Participating in programs that mitigate risks and improve community safety (by reducing the risk of power outages) can enhance public perception and strengthen community relations.

Overall, by implementing a proactive program to remove ash trees affected by emerald ash borers near electric infrastructure, utilities can mitigate risks, reduce costs, enhance reliability, and demonstrate environmental responsibility, benefiting not only themselves but also the broader community and ecosystem.



Emerald Ash Borer – Adult green metallic beetle about ½" long



An Ash tree damaged by EAB infestation.  
This tree is located right here in Nixa

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NIXA AMENDING THE 2024**  
2 **ANNUAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY**  
3 **ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT CERTAIN GRANT FUNDING IN**  
4 **THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE REMOVAL OF**  
5 **TREES AFFECTED BY THE EMERALD ASH BORER.**

6  
7 **WHEREAS** Section 67.040 RSMo. provides that after a budget has been approved  
8 no increase in the revenues or expenditures from any fund shall be made unless the  
9 governing body adopts a measure setting forth the facts and reasons making the increase  
10 necessary and authorizing the increase; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS** Section 8.7 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to amend  
13 budgeted revenues and expenditures upon the request of the City Administrator; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS** the City Administrator has requested a budget amendment in the  
16 amount of \$100,000.00, as reflected in "Council Bill Exhibit A," for the purposes  
17 referenced herein; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS** the City has an opportunity to apply for grant funding from the  
20 American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Development  
21 program to support the removal of ash trees which have been affected by the emerald  
22 ash borer; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS** trees affected by the emerald ash borer pose a threat to the City's  
25 electric power distribution infrastructure; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS** removal of trees affected by the emerald ash borer helps prevent  
28 outages and disruptions in service of the City's electric power distribution infrastructure;  
29 and

30  
31 **WHEREAS** said grant funding requires the contribution of matching funds from the  
32 City; and

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34 **WHEREAS** the total estimated cost for this project, which includes tree removal,  
35 stump grinding, and replacement of trees is estimated at \$100,000; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS** City staff anticipates requesting \$50,000.00 in grant funding and  
38 providing \$50,000.00 in matching contributions through a combination of funds and in-  
39 kind labor; and

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41 **WHEREAS** the City Council desires to amend the City's 2024 budget for the  
42 purposes identified herein; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS** City Council desires to authorize staff to apply for and accept the grant  
45 funding described herein.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
48 NIXA, AS FOLLOWS, THAT:  
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50 SECTION 1: The City of Nixa’s 2024 Annual Budget is hereby amended in the  
51 accounts and the amounts as shown on “Council Bill Exhibit A,” which is attached hereto  
52 and incorporated herein by this reference.  
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54 SECTION 2: City Council finds that the budget amendment enacted by this  
55 Ordinance has been recommended by the City Administrator. The City Administrator is  
56 directed to cause the appropriate accounting entries to be made in the books and records  
57 of the City to reflect the budget amendment enacted by this Ordinance.  
58

59 SECTION 3: The City Administrator, or their authorized designee, is hereby  
60 authorized to apply for and accept grant funding from the American Public Power  
61 Association’s Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Development program to support the  
62 removal of ash trees which have been affected by the emerald ash borer in the amount  
63 of \$50,000.00.  
64

65 SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final  
66 passage by the City Council and after its approval by the Mayor, subject to the provisions  
67 of section 3.11(g) of the City Charter.  
68

69  
70 ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

71  
72 ATTEST:  
73  
74 \_\_\_\_\_  
75 PRESIDING OFFICER CITY CLERK  
76

77  
78 APPROVED BY THE MAYOR THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

79  
80 ATTEST:  
81  
82 \_\_\_\_\_  
83 MAYOR CITY CLERK  
84

85  
86 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
87  
88 \_\_\_\_\_  
89 CITY ATTORNEY

City of Nixa, MO  
Budget Amendment

<u>Budget Amendment Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>G/L Description</u>	<u>G/L Line #</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>
\$ 100,000.00	Electric	Grant Expense	01-700-5130050	Current Revenues

Explanation: To amend the current budget of the City of Nixa by \$100,000.00 to appropriate funds for APPA grid resilience program grant funding with \$50,000.00 being reimbursable.

This proposed Budget Amendment has been approved and requested by the City Administrator, pursuant to City Charter section 8.7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Liles, City Administrator

Authorized by Passage of Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Budget Amendments by Department Year to Date:

Electric	\$1,581,850
Water	\$59,300
Wastewater	\$31,600
ARPA	
Admin	
Legal	
Economic Development	
Police	\$201,472
Street	\$375,100
Park	
Planning & Development	
TOTAL	<u><u>\$2,249,322</u></u>