

## **American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

### **Stokes County - \$8,855,517**

Through the Federal Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the County of Stokes was delivered with \$8.8 million in relief funds. These monies were provided to support local government response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The program allowed for substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet their own local needs.

One of the major expenditures allowed through these funds is investment in broadband infrastructure to expand affordable access to broadband internet. Stokes County designated \$2.4 million in ARPA funds for this purpose. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out by the County to invite qualified firms to create a wireless and fiber network using these funds. After receiving and reviewing proposals from three different businesses, RiverStreet networks was awarded the contract as they had the best overall proposal in response to the RFP. Stokes County is partnering with RiverStreet Communications of North Carolina for the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) state grant that aims at expanding broadband. Grant awards have not been made yet by the State and this project will commence when additional funding is secured.

The Stokes County Board of Commissioners agreed to use \$843,905 of the County's ARPA monies for funding a portion of the Stokes County School's current expense request during the budget process for FY 2022-2023. The schools asked for additional funds from the County to cover operating expenses, and this portion of ARPA funds is designated as such.

Many necessary County needs, capital and otherwise, were able to be covered by this funding. Several pressing projects that needed attention are being taken care of with the use of this money:

- Building of a new Animal Shelter for Stokes County
- Renovating Green Box Sites for Pinnacle and Walnut Cove
- Building of a new Board of Elections site

The remainder of the American Rescue Plan Funds are being used to cover major necessary requests made by departments that would otherwise not be covered in the budget or have to be cut out. These include requests from replacement of roofs and HVAC systems for County building to EMS and Emergency 911 systems and equipment.

*Please review the below spreadsheet detailing how every ARPA dollar Stokes County received is being spent.*

