

Today's CFAC meeting was held to discuss four different proposals: the reversion of unspent allocations, state public health and safety payroll costs, local government direct COVID-19 healthcare costs, and Bonner County's request for additional federal funding beyond their initial allocation.

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 4:01pm. All members were present except for Chief Allan.

To start the meeting Chairman Adams discussed the reversion of unspent dollars that were appropriated by the committee. Joshua Whitworth presented from the state Controller's Office, who has handled the distribution of the funds, stating that the request for fund reimbursement dramatically increased in the last week leading up to the December 11th deadline. Because of this large spike in volume at the end of the deadline, Chairman Adams stated that the committee would give the Controller's Office a few more days to clean up the data to see what exactly has been left unspent.

Next, Chairman Adams presented a request to cover state public health and public safety payroll costs. The proposal covers staff from the Attorney General Office, Department of Correction, Department of Juvenile Correction, Idaho State Police, Department of Health and Welfare, and Health Education programs for a total of \$150,585,940. Senator Wintrow asked if this allocation of payroll costs would free up General Fund dollars for the state to use at another point in time; Chairman Adams stated that primary goal is to cover the allowable expense of public health and safety payroll costs, given that these individuals have been substantially dedicated to COVID response and mitigation. Jani Revier moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Lisa Hettinger. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Adams presented a plan to cover direct reimbursements for healthcare expenses that are related to COVID-19 for local governments. This includes III-A and the GEM Plan for a total of \$2,100,000. Mayor John Evans commented that this would especially help small cities and counties who have had to deal with COVID-19 in their offices and the financial burden because of it. Bobbi-Jo Meuleman moved to approve the proposal, seconded by Seth Grigg. The motion passed unanimously.

Last, Paul Fraidenburgh, counsel for Bonner County, presented Bonner County's request for additional CARES Act funding support. This proposal would give Bonner County \$2.06 million to participate in the Governor's Public Safety Initiative program that it originally declined to take part of. Fraidenburgh stated that at the time the counties L2 was due, the commissioners were still unsure of the risks surrounding the program, but more recent Treasury guidance has removed doubt surrounding the appropriate parameters of the program.

The committee discussion centered on the fairness of the request. It was noted that Bonner County was essentially asking to create a new program that would apply only to them, and the committee discussed whether this was appropriate or if it should be open to all local governments who were similarly situated. Following this discussion, Matt Newton moved to deny Bonner county's request for additional federal funds, seconded by Shawn Keough.

Joshua Whitworth made an alternate motion to hold the proposal in the committee, seconded by Seth Grigg. Shawn Keough stated that she believed that in denying proposal, the committee would not be hindered in future projects as they would be entirely new projects that include all cities and counties, rather than just Bonner County. Following discussion, Joshua Whitworth withdrew his motion.

Matt Newton proposed to rewrite the initial motion to state that the committee denies Bonner County's request for the Governor's Public Safety Initiative, but any new proposals should include all cities and counties. Mayor Evans seconded the amended motion. Senator Bair stated that he believed the committee was leaning towards setting policy, which was outside of its purview. Matt Newton stated that he agreed and would withdraw his amendment to the motion.

The original motion to deny Bonner County's request, was re-made by Matt Newton and re-seconded by Shawn Keough, and passed unanimously with Chairman Adams abstaining from voting. Lt. Governor McGeachin did not respond during the roll call vote.

Chairman Adams concluded the meeting, stating that the committee will meet one final time next week to deal with the final allocations of the CARES Act.