



# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** June 10, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Committee

**LIAISON:** Scott Saindon, Fiscal Services Manager

**FROM:** Wayne Jernberg, Water System Manager  
Water System

**SUBJECT:** **Budget Amendment in the amount not to exceed \$298,671 for the Water System and Environmental Services Department to expand and regionalize its Water Career Program**

In alignment with the City's Strategic Plan, Strategic Priority of Government Excellence, and Engaged and Connected Community, the City has collaborated with Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) and Bay College since 2021 to develop and implement the Water Career Program. The program aims to address labor shortage and aging workforce issues, which have been and continue to be a common trend among public water and wastewater utilities nationwide.

Building on the program's success, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invited GRCC to submit a second grant proposal to expand and regionalize it. As a result, the EPA awarded \$1 million to GRCC, Bay College, the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Holland, the City of Wyoming, the City of Muskegon Heights, and Plainfield Charter Township. As a sub-recipient, the City is eligible to receive up to \$298,671 for all allowable costs incurred during the grant period from January 2025 to July 2027.

Therefore, a budget amendment is needed to appropriate these funds to the accounting codes listed below.

<u>Sources/Appropriations</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount (From)/To</u>
2730-53607-50240000-EPA25-W23WCP0000	Water Career Program – Federal Other Agencies-Pass Thru	(\$298,671)
2730-53607-80110000-EPA25-W23WCP0000	Water Career Program – Contract Employees-Temporary Services	\$289,345
2730-53607-75200000-EPA25-W23WCP0000	Water Career Program – Supplies - General	\$9,326

Cc: Tai Verbrugee, Utility Financial Officer  
James Ouzts, Environmental Services Manager