



REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION
CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
February 24, 2022

Department Finance

Director Approval Lacey Lies

AGENDA ITEM Consider authorizing the submission of a BASE Grant application with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION City staff recommends authorizing the submission of a BASE grant with the Kansas Department of Commerce.

BACKGROUND In December 2021, the SPARK Executive Committee approved \$100M in available federal COVID-19 relief funding for eligible economic development and infrastructure proposals. Projects submitted are required to document how the project was delayed or affected negatively due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting negative economic conditions. “The Building a Stronger Economy (BASE) program enhances our state’s competitiveness and resiliency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” **Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said.** “The BASE Grants will provide a foundation for communities to develop infrastructure and economic assets that will set the stage for long-term business and community growth across Kansas.” Projects to be funded by BASE would support infrastructure investments associated with economic development projects including:

- Development of new business parks
- Development of infrastructure required to support business expansions
- Renovation of existing business parks to bring them up to modern standards
- Development of infrastructure such as railroad spurs, water, wastewater, stormwater and other utilities
- Driveway aprons
- Business park signage
- Parking facilities directly associated with business attraction projects
- Speculative industrial office and residential space
- Development of infrastructure related to cybersecurity investments
- Other projects that achieve the goal of expanding the state’s base of businesses and residents.

BUDGET IMPACT The City along with any private contributors, would be required to provide a minimum of 25% match. The City’s share of matching monies will be funded through our available funding sources, including ARPA funds, our water/sewer capital reserve, economic development funds, bond proceeds and general fund dollars.

SUGGESTED MOTION I move to authorize the submission of the City’s BASE Grant Application.