



Legislation Text

File #: 17-0170, **Version:** 1

Approval of submittal of an application for an Urban & Community Forestry Program Grant

SUMMARY: The Crossville Tree Board is requesting approval to apply for the 2017 Urban & Community Forestry Grant to fund the part-time Urban Forester position (less than 30 hours per week) for the second year. The 2016 grant was awarded for \$32,000 with the City's actual cash match of \$11,000 plus salary and in kind matches.

As discussed last year, the second year of funding would be reduced to 80% of \$32,000; therefore, offering \$25,600 in grant funds. The City will be responsible for the remaining 20% (\$6,400) plus \$11,000 (routine tree board operating expenses and horticulture supplies) for a total actual cash match of \$17,400.

Some accomplishments of the City of Crossville's Urban Forester, Seth Harrison:

- Tree pruning workshop for Public Works and Cumberland County School System
- Complete inventory for the City managed trees at municipal buildings, parks, and streets
- Visual assessment of condition of City owned trees
- Planned the removal of dead trees in park areas
- Planned and in process of tree planting project along Miller Avenue
- Increased tree canopy over City with each new planting project
- Increased economic value of City's urban forest
- Managing sale of timber project on Maryetta Avenue and at Crossville Memorial Airport
- Inventoried Tree Board event supplies
- Created connection between Crossville and Knoxville's Urban Forester for ideas and practices
- Tree plantings at City Hall and Centennial Park
- Collaborated with UT for management plan at Meadow Park Lake
- Reviewed trees for ADA compliance along sidewalks
- Organized City's Arbor Day Event and collaborated with the State of Tennessee's Forestry Department to hold State Arbor Day Event in Crossville
- In progress of submitting approval to City Council to complete application for Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Grant to purchase trees for the City
- Developing a working relationship with Habitat for Humanity on new neighborhoods to promote tree plantings
- Diversified current urban forest with a wide variety of species being planted
- Technical advisor during acquisition of right-of-ways and determining tree valuation

Work still to be accomplished based upon requests from Crossville Tree Board

- Continue training of personnel on proper tree maintenance
- Continue to assess tree canopy in the City
- Monitor trees for health, damage, and pruning needs

- Continue to promote the need for a healthy urban forest
- Educate the public on benefits of trees (i.e. stormwater reduction and utility cost reduction)
- Continue to serve on Tree Board and coordinate with the city's maintenance department
- Represent City of Crossville with state urban forestry
- Seek grant money
- Community outreach and general tree consultant to the residents of Crossville
- Aid in past invasive species removal in the City. Crossville has a high population of privet, bush honeysuckle, and Bradford Pear throughout.
- Work with Meadow Park Lake Commission on forest management plan and ensure that its coordinated with the City of Crossville's plan
- Continue to implement the tree planting program in order to increase the City's future canopy

BUDGET ACCOUNT:

NECESSARY COUNCIL ACTION: Approve application for Urban & Community Forestry Grant