

It's real.**MEMORANDUM**

To: Mayor Don Keil and Seguin City Council
Steve Parker, Seguin City Manager

From: Kyle Kramm, Main Street & CVB Director

Through: Rick Cortes, Seguin Assistant City Manager

Subject: “Protect It” Grant – Fire Suppression Grants

Date: July 15, 2020

Since the founding of Seguin, fires have ravaged downtown Seguin leading to the loss of numerous historic landmarks, successful businesses and revenue for the City of Seguin. In addition to these losses, the continued development of downtown Seguin is hindered by the high costs of fire suppression systems that are needed to facilitate second floor development and higher occupancy uses on first floors. In an effort to protect the historic fabric of downtown Seguin and to further downtown development, staff is proposing the creation of the “Protect It” Grant to fund fire sprinkler and suppression systems within the downtown historic district.

The proposed grant awards are based on several factors including the number of platted buildings, size of buildings being protected and location of building. If multiple property owners are partnering on the project, the grant will be reimbursed on a pro rata based on square footage.

Building less than 5,000 square feet	\$20,000 or 50% whichever is less
Buildings between 5,000 and 15,000 square feet	\$30,000 or 50% whichever is less
Buildings 15,000 square feet or greater	\$40,000 or 50%, whichever is less
Additional Funding is Awarded for Projects that meet the following criteria:	
Multiple platted properties sharing a tap	Additional \$5,000 to max award
Tap to be installed in TxDOT Right of Way	Additional \$10,000 to max award

The additional funding for multiple platted properties sharing one tap is due to the costs of preparing and filing legal agreements between the property owners to ensure properties do not become disconnected by future owners. The additional funding for the

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installation of a tap on a TxDOT right of way is due to TxDOT requiring engineered plans and traffic control permits which are not required on local streets.

Funding for the grant program will come from the City's Utility Fund with the amount to be determined annually by City Council. Staff intends to end this grant program in Sept. 2025 prior to the Austin Street reconstruction. For the current fiscal year, staff is requesting \$100,000 in funding for the grant program with a budget amendment following this action item.

After Council approves the funding, all grant awards will be approved by city staff to include the Main Street Department, Management, Legal and Fire. A formal grant agreement will be executed between the City of Seguin and property owner(s).

Grant applications will be accepted throughout the year and reviewed as they are submitted. Should an application come in after all funding has been awarded for the fiscal year, the application will be held until the next fiscal year or when additional funding becomes available.

Please find attached the grant program guidelines and application. Staff requests Council's approval of the "Protect It" grant.