



## CALHOUN COUNTY Office of the Administrator/Controller

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

### FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board

2024 Tier-IV Grant Recipients

On Tuesday, August 20, 2024 the **FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB)** met to consider grant applications totaling nearly \$750,000 for local government projects countywide. This marks the first time since 2019 that the FLRSB has offered Tier IV Discretionary Grants.

The board voted unanimously to award FLRSB grants for **25 local projects**, totaling **\$439,263**, paid for out of unspent discretionary accumulated funds from 2020-2024. This grant program is made possible by the State's Compact with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe, which gives local flexibility after the majority of the Revenue Sharing Board's annual revenues are distributed by formula. Criteria for project evaluation included potential benefit to countywide residents, shared funding by the governmental unit and other sources, and a clear local governmental purpose.

This year the Board also focused somewhat on projects with lasting impact and ongoing useful lives, versus current operational requests. "I'm honored to be one of six on a board that demonstrates through our unanimous votes a shared commitment toward improving the lives of our residents and visitors", said Derek King, Chair of the County Commission and current Treasurer of the FLRSB. "The grants we awarded in 2024 for public safety, higher education scholarships, infrastructure and other essential services will have a lasting impact for years to come. We are thankful for the NHBP Tribe and their contributions to the community through the revenue shared from the Casino's Electronic Gaming Net Win."

### Awarded Projects

**Athens Area Schools - \$25,000**

Add controlled access points and increased monitoring at all buildings.

**Athens Township - \$4,000**

Add AEDs, first aid kits, air purifiers, and cognitive therapy kits to improve health and safety within Library.

**Calhoun County - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - \$6,718.35**

Purchase Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Receiver to enable completion of a more accurate address point dataset for the County's GIS and CCCDA offices to use to increase safety and decrease dispatched response times.

**Calhoun County – Sheriff's Office - \$24,450.41**

Equip all boats with standardized sonar equipment, to enhance sonar search capability for rescue and recovery of drowning victims, and build underwater to surface communication capability.

**Calhoun County - Youth Center - \$19,986**

Purchase new outdoor walk-in freezer to allow for better food storage in conjunction with Center's current renovation and expansion project.

**City of Albion - \$25,000**

Constructing new trail sections and repairing existing infrastructure to bridge gaps in existing trail network and connect significant city parks, enhancing recreational accessibility.

**City of Battle Creek - City Hall - \$25,000**

Install parking lot security camera system to enhance security for City Hall and neighboring institutions.

**City of Battle Creek - Translation Services - \$9,495**

Purchase hardware and software to enable real-time translation in 200+ languages as well as accessibility for those with communication disabilities.

**City of Battle Creek - Verona Pumping Station - \$17,267**

Replacement of Pumping Station laboratory's heating/cooling system to ensure water samples for daily testing remain at controlled temperature for accuracy.

**City of Marshall - \$9,736.10**

Purchase of utility vehicle to improve fire department response times for large events or crowded areas.

**City of Springfield - \$25,000**

Replacement of 3 footbridges that provide pedestrian crossing over Helmer Creek within Begg Park.

**Eckford Township - Lights - \$9,233.90**

Install new parking lot lighting at Township Hall.

**Eckford Township - Lots - \$12,425**

Install a concrete parking lot at Township Hall.

**Emmett Township - Parks - \$25,000**

Engage consultant to conduct research and sample site for future development of a park on vacant parcel on River Road along Kalamazoo River to increase recreational opportunities.

**Homer Area Fire Authority - \$7,565**

Purchase water rescue equipment and active shooter response equipment. Funding would cover 2 kayaks and 8 ballistic vests and helmets.

**Kellogg Community College - \$25,000**

Continue to build existing FLRSB Endowed Fund at Kellogg Community Foundation by adding to already endowed \$45,000; would allow for 5 scholarships per year.

**Marengo Township - Cemetery - \$11,200**

Replace 4 wood signs in 4 cemeteries and install 1 new matching sign in 5th cemetery to enhance visitor experience, improve safety, and preserve historical significance.

**Marengo Township - Fire Department - \$3,700**

Purchase enclosed rescue trailer to allow rapid access to equipment to reduce time between call and actual response, especially for specialized rescue such as ice, water and grain bin recoveries.

**Marshall Township - Fire Department - \$18,486**

Purchase new extrication hydraulic spreader to replace outdated equipment and improve quality and efficiency of rescue responses.

**Newton Township - Fire Department - \$25,000**

Purchase new battery operated extrication tools and vehicle stabilization equipment to replace outdated equipment and improve quality and efficiency of rescue responses.

**Pennfield Charter Township - Parks - \$10,000**

Establish new park, including signage, picnic tables, garbage cans, grill, and park benches.

**Pennfield Charter Township - Public Safety - \$25,000**

Add a crosswalk/sidewalk on the east side of North Ave to allow NorthPointe Woods residents and others to travel more safely near intersection of Roosevelt Ave and North Ave.

**Tekonsha Township - \$25,000**

Upgrade lighting on the 2010 fire truck that came from Florida Public Safety with sun-faded lights.

**Village of Athens - Public Works - \$25,000**

Replace a portion of 103 residential lead water service lines, as mandated by State of Michigan.

**Village of Homer - \$25,000**

Replace 2009 police vehicle with new 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe and equip to Sheriff's Office specifications.

Before awarding the 2024 Discretionary Grants, the FLRSB distributed \$6.1 million earlier this year to local governments to reimburse for actual increased costs related to the Casino or Tribal reservation, payments in lieu of property taxes and other formula-based allocations.

**2024 Members of the FLRSB are,**

- Chairperson, Deb Belles, Emmett Township Supervisor
- Vice Chair, Greg Moore, Consumers Energy
- Treasurer, Derek King, Calhoun County Commissioner
- Secretary, Rebecca Fleury, Battle Creek City Manager
- Jim Schwartz, Marshall City Mayor
- Ariel Boonstra, NHBP Tribal Treasurer

*The Office of the County Administrator/Controller provides accounting, Board support and communication services to the FLRSB through an Administrative Services Contract.*

**For media inquiries, contact**

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