City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** December 12, 2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Shannon Simpson, Public Works Stormwater Division

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** January 13, 2026

4. **Subject:** Stormwater System Inventory and Assessment Project

5. **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Ardurra Group, Inc. in the amount not to exceed $900,000 for the initial phase of the Stormwater System Inventory and Assessment Project; and the associated budget amendment in the amount of $500,000 to utilize available Stormwater fund balance to fully fund the contract.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** Time sensitive due to substantial delays from Helene and use of federal ARPA funds that expire December 31, 2026.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** City of Asheville has been awarded and will receive a planning grant in the amount of $400,000 for phase one of the Stormwater Asset Inventory and Assessment project. Grant funds will be executed through this professional services contract.
    a. The grant will partially offset the cost of a planned project in the Stormwater Fund.
    b. Stormwater Fund has allocated up to an additional $500,000 for this project in addition to the grant.
    c. Matching funds are not required for this grant.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** Funding for the initial phase of this project is provided at least in part by a Federal grant and will follow federal outreach guidelines for the contracting process. Per federal requirements, the RFQ was posted on the HUB website.

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** N/A

10. **Identify key issues:**

- Resolution No. 23-87 adopted on April 25, 2023, gave the City Manager the authority to apply for this grant.
- Resolution No. 24-74 adopted on April 23, 2024, gave the City Manager the authority to accept this grant, provide such information as the appropriate state agency may request in connection with this project, and to execute such other documents that may be required to execute this grant.
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), funded from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, was established in Session Law (S.L.) 2021-180 to assist eligible units of local government with meeting their drinking water and/or wastewater and/or stormwater infrastructure needs.
- Under the City of Asheville's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued by the State of North Carolina in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, the City is required to develop and maintain a municipal storm sewer system map and minimize pollutants in the stormwater collection system through staff training, inspections, and routine maintenance.
- The last city-wide stormwater inventory survey was conducted in the late 1980s and early 1990s and there are inconsistent and incomplete inventories that have been collected over the years, or constructed without inspection and post construction surveying.
- Stormwater staff have been updating our asset inventory as new infrastructure projects come online and camera inspections are performed.

- Funding for this project will support the completion of a comprehensive system mapping of the City's existing stormwater conveyance system paired with standardized infrastructure condition assessments and strategic watershed planning to identify opportunities to increase resiliency, equity, and sustainability while addressing aging infrastructure.
- The planning grant partially funds this contract being awarded to Ardurra Group, Inc. to complete the first phase of the larger comprehensive, multiyear effort.
- Points were awarded in the grant application based on the parameters of the funding opportunity.
- Phase one of this project will prioritize the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Potentially Underserved Block Groups within Asheville along with areas most affected by flooding, runoff, and erosion as well as watersheds of impaired streams and waterbodies (Smith Mill Creek, French Broad River, Town Branch, Bacoate Branch, and Swannanoa River). The selected consultant will evaluate these areas and recommend the optimal locations to complete the study based on these criteria.
- Work funded by this grant will include the following:
    - Updating and collecting the first phase of the City's existing stormwater asset inventory to be compiled into an inclusive and consistent database. This proposed new comprehensive asset inventory and condition assessment will replace or verify the existing data currently in use and upgrade the data to desired format for increased function.
    - Developing and implementing a process to maintain an up-to-date stormwater asset inventory following this initial effort. This will include the development of a database maintenance standard operating procedure (SOP).
    - Integrating watershed planning with infrastructure condition assessments to identify optimal locations for green infrastructure retrofits such as stormwater control measures.
    - Integrating preliminary CIP planning with infrastructure condition assessments to identify opportunities for infrastructure rehabilitation or replacement in high-priority areas prior to imminent failure where that would result in flooding, additional infrastructure damage, and property damage.