THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

Subject: Stormwater Asset Inventory and Assessment Project

Staff Resource(s): Amy Deyton, Director, Public Works Department
Derek Wainscott, Stormwater Division Manager, Public Works
Shannon Simpson, NPDES Regulatory Program Manager, Public Works

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Ardurra Group, Inc. in the amount of $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.

Background:

- Resolution No. 23-87 adopted on April 25, 2023, gave the City Manager the authority to apply for a Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) grant funded by ARPA.
- 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. Stormwater staff have been updating our asset inventory as new infrastructure projects come online and camera inspections are performed. The current system inventory is inconsistent and incomplete due to projects being constructed without inspection or post construction survey prior to the establishment of the stormwater program.
- The broader stormwater Project is a comprehensive multiyear initiative delivered through multiple phases and contracts that encompasses updated stormwater system mapping, condition assessments, and strategic watershed planning for the entire City.
- Funding for this contract will support the first phase of 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.
    - An RFQ was issued for a Professional Services Contract (Engineering) on October 2, 2025, 10 firms responded and Ardurra Group, Inc. was selected as the most qualified firm.

    - The planning grant partially funds this contract being awarded to Ardurra Group, Inc. to complete the first phase of the larger comprehensive, multiyear effort.
    - 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 ().
    - Based on these criteria, Ardurra will evaluate areas like Smith Mill Creek, French Broad River, Town Branch, Bacoate Branch, and Swannanoa River and will recommend the optimal drainage basin to complete the initial phase of the inventory analysis.
- 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.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:
- Funding for the initial phase of this project is provided at least in part by a Federal grant administered by the State of NC and followed federal guidelines for outreach to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs).
- Federal funds require alternative outreach and engagement requirements involving outreach to appropriate businesses through the NC Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB). Per federal requirements, the RFQ was posted on the HUB website.

Council Vision:
- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment
- A Well-Planned and Livable Community
- Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):
- NA

Pro(s):
- This contract allows the City to more quickly and comprehensively assess and maintain its stormwater system in the face of significantly aging, sometimes failing infrastructure and changing climate as required by our NPDES Stormwater Permit issued by NC Department of Environmental Quality.
- Taking proactive action to update and maintain the stormwater system protects public safety, property, and the health of our natural resources by improving roadway drainage, water quality and reducing flooding.

Con(s):
- Staff time to provide instruction and materials to the consultant and coordinate payment and reimbursement requests for the distribution of federal funds.

Fiscal Impact:

- The City of Asheville has been awarded a planning grant in the amount of $400,000 for the initial phase of the Stormwater Asset Inventory and Assessment Project.
- The remaining $500,000 will be funded from the Stormwater fund balance, which will be added to the operating budget with the attached budget amendment.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing 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 Stormwater fund balance to fully fund the contract.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 26-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH ARDURRA GROUP, INC. FOR THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE STORMWATER SYSTEM INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS**,** the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has awarded Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments (LASII) / ARPA grant funding for Stormwater Asset Inventory and Assessment services in the amount of $400,000 to perform the work detailed in the grant application and included in this contract; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed upon scope of work in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the initial phase of this multiyear, comprehensive stormwater system mapping 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; and

WHEREAS, Ardurra Group, Inc. was selected as the most qualified firm out of ten firms that responded to the City's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for professional services by a team comprised of four Public Works management staff and one representative from the Sustainability Department; and

WHEREAS, Public Works Stormwater Division has an additional $500,000 to support a larger scope of services contract with Arudurra Group, Inc. for a total not to exceed amount of $900,000 for the initial phase of the Stormwater Asset Inventory and Assessment Project; and

WHEREAS, the City's Procurement, Purchasing and Contracting Policy requires Council approval for Professional Services Contracts valued at $90,000 or greater.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized 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.

Read, approved and adopted this the 13th day of January, 2026.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 1 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $500,000 in the Stormwater Fund for the Stormwater System Inventory and Assessment Project. Funds will be provided with Stormwater fund balance:

STORMWATER FUND

Revenues:

Stormwater Fund Balance	$500,000

Appropriations:

Stormwater System Inventory and Assessment Project	$500,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 13th day of January, 2026.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney