

# INVESTING IN SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

AUGUST 2022

Five Year Spending Plan and Narrative on  
Suggested Uses of Coronavirus State and  
Local Fiscal Recovery Funding Under the  
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021



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## TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



Seated (from left to right): Commissioners Peter Wilson, Eddie Graham (President), and Baird Standish  
Standing (from left to right): Commissioners James Lee, Michael Maxwell, Susanna Ratsavong, and Jonathan Cobb

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Eddie Graham, President,  
Ward 7 Commissioner

James Lee, Vice-President,  
Ward 3 Commissioner

Baird Standish, Ward 5 Commissioner  
Peter Wilson, Ward 4 Commissioner  
Michael Maxwell, Ward 1 Commissioner  
Jonathan Cobb, Ward 6 Commissioner  
Susanna Ratsavong, Ward 5 Commissioner

### TOWNSHIP MANAGEMENT

Michael Taylor, Township Manager/Secretary  
Brandon Ford, Assistant Township Manager  
Michael Pitkow, Chief of Police  
Craig Lloyd, Finance Director  
Ian Hammer, Public Works Director  
Mark Penecale, Building & Zoning Director  
Emily Baiada, Parks & Recreation Director  
MaryCatherine McGarvey, Library Director

# INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2021, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to offset the economic impact relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund provides \$350 billion in emergency COVID-19 pandemic recovery assistance to eligible state, local, territorial and Tribal governments.

**Springfield Township will receive an allocation of \$2.08 million in ARPA funds, which will be received in two equal allotments in June 2021 and August 2022.** These funds represent a historic investment opportunity for Springfield Township by helping to address existing and anticipated capital equipment needs, improve our park system, and enhance our local stormwater infrastructure.







SPRINGFIELD  
TOWNSHIP  
will receive

**\$ 2.08 MILLION**  
IN ARPA FUNDS

MUST BE SPENT  
BY 2026

## ELIGIBLE USES OF ARPA FUNDS

ARPA provides significant resources to municipalities to assist them in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the resulting economic impact caused by the pandemic. With the ARPA funds, municipalities are able to fund programs and projects within several eligible use categories:

 <b>Support Public Health Response</b> Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff	 <b>Address Negative Economic Impacts</b> Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
 <b>Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss</b> Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic	 <b>Premium Pay for Essential Workers</b> Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
 <b>Water and Sewer Infrastructure</b> Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure	 <b>Broadband Infrastructure</b> Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access

Source: US Department of Treasury, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Quick Reference Guide

## ELIGIBLE USE CHANGES WITH THE FINAL RULING

The use of ARPA funding is subject to the requirements specified in the Final Ruling adopted by the United States Department of the Treasury in January 2022 and subsequent revisions. A new provision in the final ruling included **the ability of municipalities to claim up to \$10 million in revenue loss. Recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount – in many cases their full award – for government services.** Government services, as defined by the U.S. Treasury, generally includes any service traditionally provided by a government. Springfield Township selected the standard allowance in April 2022 for the full ARPA funding allocation of \$ 2.08 million.

## RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF ARPA FUNDS

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While municipalities have considerable flexibility on the use of ARPA funds to address community needs, some restrictions on the use of funds apply:

### FUNDS CANNOT BE USED TO OFFSET A REDUCTION IN NET TAX REVENUE

- **Recipients may not use ARPA funds to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation beginning on March 3, 2021, through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** If a recipient cuts taxes during this period, it must demonstrate how it paid for the tax cuts from sources other than ARPA, such as by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If ARPA funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be repaid to the Treasury.

### FUNDS CANNOT BE DEPOSITED INTO PENSION FUNDS

- **No recipients except Tribal governments may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury defines a “deposit” as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability.

### ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Additional restrictions and requirements that apply across all eligible use categories include:

- **Funds cannot be used for debt service or replenishing financial reserves.** Since ARPA funds are intended to be used prospectively, recipients may not use ARPA funds for debt service or replenishing financial reserves (e.g., rainy day funds)
- **Funds cannot be used to satisfy settlements and judgments.** Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding is itself not an eligible use.
- **Additional general restrictions.** ARPA funds may not be used for a project that conflicts with or contravenes the purpose of the ARPA statute (e.g., uses of funds that undermine COVID-19 mitigation practices in line with CDC guidance and recommendations) and may not be used in violation of the Award Terms and Conditions or conflict of interest requirements under the Uniform Guidance. Other applicable laws and regulations, outside of ARPA program requirements, may also apply (e.g., laws around procurement, contracting, conflicts-of-interest, environmental standards, or civil rights).



# FIVE YEAR SPENDING PLAN



Photo Courtesy of THE ORELAND LIONS CLUB

Over the next five years, Springfield Township aims to optimize the use of the \$2.08 million in ARPA funding received to strengthen the communal and operational capability of the municipality and ensure the future prosperity and welfare of the community.

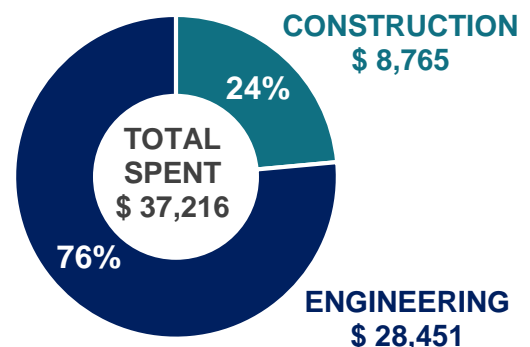
The Five Year ARPA Spending Plan was developed at the direction of the Springfield Township Board of Commissioner to explore suggested spending options for the ARPA funding. This spending plan details a list of suggested projects and programs that represent viable uses of the ARPA funds that would address the community’s capital needs and fulfill previous commitments made by the Board of Commissioners based on the initial eligible ARPA spending categories.

## YEAR-TO-DATE ARPA SPENDING

As of July 1, 2022, precisely \$37,216 in ARPA funds has been spent by the Township across five projects since June 2021 (see Figure 1). The total amount spent to date represents 1.8% of Springfield Township’s total ARPA funding allocation.

Of the year-to-date ARPA expenditures, \$8,765 (23.6%) funded construction costs for two stormwater projects on Burton and Carlisle Roads. The remaining \$28,451 (76.4%) in year-to-date expenditures funded ongoing engineering for four major stormwater projects on Burton Road, Integrity Avenue, Skyline Drive, and in Mermaid Park. These expenditures were pursued upon the direction of the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners at their October 11, 2021 workshop meeting and were based on the preliminary ARPA use eligibility guidelines available from the U.S. treasury in summer/fall 2021.

FIGURE 1. YTD ARPA Expenditures  
As of July 1, 2022



## PROPOSED EXPENDITURES (BY CATEGORY)

After accounting for YTD expenditures, approximately \$2.04 million, or 98.2%, of Springfield Township’s ARPA funds remain to be utilized on eligible projects and programs. With the expanded eligibility afforded through taking the standard allowance in revenue loss for the full \$2.08 million in ARPA funding, Springfield Township finds itself in a position to spend the remaining \$2.04 million in ARPA funds on capital projects and expenditures that meet the U.S. Treasury’s definition of government services.

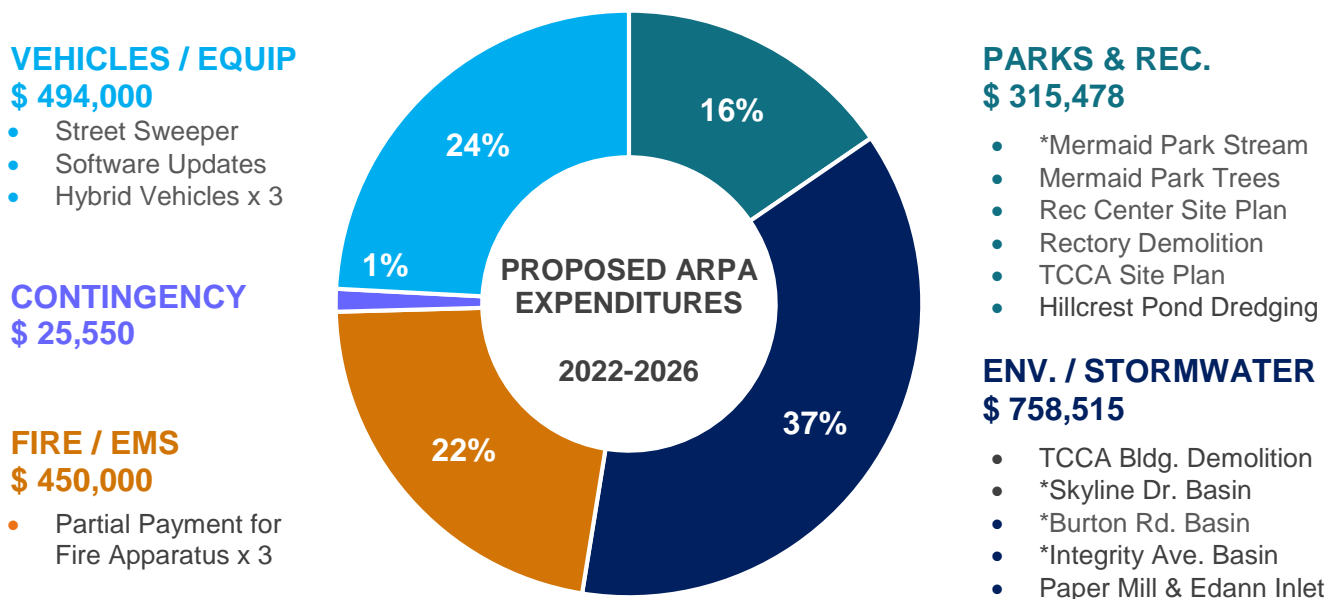
### FUNDING SUGGESTIONS

Springfield Township officials have developed this Five Year Spending Plan to explore options for the use of ARPA funds in meeting the community’s immediate needs and provide long-term, transformative investment for the future welfare and prosperity of the Township. As outlined in Figure 2 below, this plan proposes to spend the remaining \$2.04 million in ARPA funds on fifteen (15) projects categorized into four (4) spending priorities and a contingency to serve as a reserve for potential cost overruns.

Of the fifteen projects identified in this plan, eleven (11) represent new proposals and four (4) denote projects already underway that were approved by the Board of Commissioners in October 2021. These four projects were selected based on the interim ruling released by the U.S. Treasury on the eligible use of ARPA funds. These initial projects include streambank stabilization work at Mermaid Park, the construction of a new stormwater basin on Integrity Ave, and improvements to the existing stormwater basins located on Skyline Dr. and behind Burton Rd. on property owned by Sandy Run Country Club.

**FIGURE 2. Proposed ARPA Funding Recommendations**

\*Asterisks denote projects that were approved by the Board of Commissioners in October 2021.



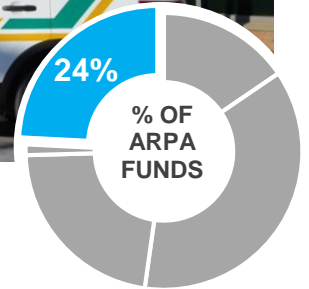
**This Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve on an annual basis as the Township responds to the needs of the community.**

# PROJECT INVENTORY



MUNICIPAL FLEET PARKING AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING

**ARPA CATEGORY:** VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT  
**PROPOSED FUNDING:** \$ 494,000.00



**PROJECT: STREET SWEEPER**  
**COST: \$ 314,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2022**

The Township’s current street sweeper is ten years old and in need of replacement. The sweeper sees regular use and is utilized on an almost daily basis in ensuring the cleanliness of local roadways.

**PROJECT: POLICE HYBRID CRUISER (X2)**  
**COST: \$ 90,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2023**

Starting in 2021, the Township started the process of transitioning the municipal fleet to hybrid vehicles as a means to reduce emissions and fuel consumption. Currently 1/5 of the police fleet has been converted to hybrid vehicles. This project seeks to continue the transition with the purchase of two additional hybrid police cruisers.

**PROJECT: MICROSOFT OFFICE UPDATE**  
**COST: \$ 50,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2023**

The Township’s office equipment currently operates on the 2013 Microsoft Office Suite. This version is outdated and needs to be updated to the latest version for approximately sixty devices.

**PROJECT: RECREATION DIRECTOR HYBRID**  
**COST: \$ 40,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2023**

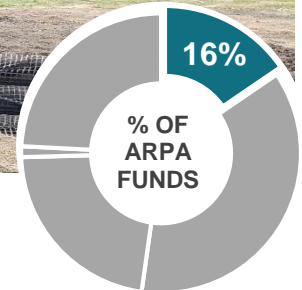
In line with the commitment to transition the municipal fleet to hybrid vehicles, one suggested use of the ARPA funds is to initiate the transition of non-police vehicles to hybrid models. It is suggested that this process start with the vehicle assigned to the Township’s Parks & Recreation Director.



# PROJECT INVENTORY



STREAMBANK STABLIZATION AT MERMAID PARK



**ARPA CATEGORY:**      **PARKS & RECREATION**  
**PROPOSED FUNDING:**   **\$ 315,478.39**

**\*PROJECT: MERMAID PARK STREAM RESTORATION\***  
**\*COST:      \$ 92,159.45**

**TARGET YEAR      2022**

In 2022, the Township initiated streambank stabilization work in Mermaid Park. Stabilizing the streambank will prevent future erosion from stormwater runoff and will decrease the rate of sediment accumulation in Mermaid Pond. This project was authorized by the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners in October 2021.

**PROJECT: MERMAID PARK TREES & LANDSCAPING**  
**COST:      \$ 11,318.94**

**TARGET YEAR      2023**

An extension of the Mermaid Park streambank & habitat project, one suggestion is to fund the planting of seventeen trees along the stream to further reinforce stabilization efforts and provide additional shade to the stream. Shading the creek will decrease water temperature and help prevent eutrophication, the process by which excessive nutrient deposits accelerate aquatic plant growth, reduces oxygen levels, and degrades the local habitat.

**PROJECT: REC.CENTER MASTER SITE PLAN**  
**COST:      \$ 50,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR      2023**

The former Seven Dolars Church campus at 1200 Willow Grove Avenue in Wyndmoor has served as the Township's recreation center for several years, but its functionality remains limited due to the limited amount of parking and age of the structures. It is suggested that a site plan be developed to explore the feasibility of constructing a new township recreational facility in place of the existing structures that would meet current and future recreational needs of the community.





**FORMER RECTORY AT 1200 WILLOW GROVE AVENUE**

**PROJECT: 1200 WG RECTORY DEMOLITION  
COST: \$ 12,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2024**

In line with the previously suggested development of a master site plan for the township recreation center at 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, it is suggested that a portion of the ARPA funds serve as a match for a 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) obtained by the Township from Montgomery County to demolish the currently unused and vacant rectory building.

**PROJECT: TANK CAR MASTER SITE PLAN  
COST: \$ 50,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2024**

In 2015, Springfield Township acquired the former Tank Car Corporation of America site located at 1725 Walnut Avenue in Oreland with the intended purpose of redeveloping the blighted industrial site into a public park. With the proposed abatement and demolition of the remaining on-site structures (proposed in the environmental/stormwater section of this project inventory), the Township suggests that a master site plan be developed to engage residents and explore the future uses and amenities of the site as a future township park.

**PROJECT: HILLCREST POND DREDGING  
COST: \$ 100,000.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2025**

Hillcrest Pond at Cisco Park, located in Erdenheim, serves as a popular recreational destination in the Township and hosts an annual fishing clinic organized by the Friends of Hillcrest Pond. As an important body of water that carries water from Paper Mill Run to the Wissahickon Creek, the pond was last dredged in 2016. Since then that time, fierce storms and upstream erosion has resulted in accelerated sediment accumulation in the pond. Dredging Hillcrest Pond will remove that sediment and protect this cherished community fishing spot.

# PROJECT INVENTORY



**ARPA CATEGORY:** ENV. / STORMWATER  
**PROPOSED FUNDING:** \$ 758,515.00

**PROJECT: PAPER MILL & EDANN INLET**  
**COST: \$ 7,875.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2022**

Once the aftermaths of 2021’s Tropical Storm Ida was a reassessment of the Township’s stormwater infrastructure. In addition to stormwater basin enhancements and streambank stabilization efforts, the Township believes that replacing traditional curb stormwater inlets with Type M inlets, which extends the stormwater capture area into the street, at the intersection of Paper Mill and Edann Roads in Oreland will enhance the functionality of the Township’s stormwater system and reduce localized flooding on St. Clair Road and the adjoining neighborhoods.

**\*PROJECT: BURTON ROAD/SANDY RUN BASIN**  
**\*COST: \$ 150,000.00**

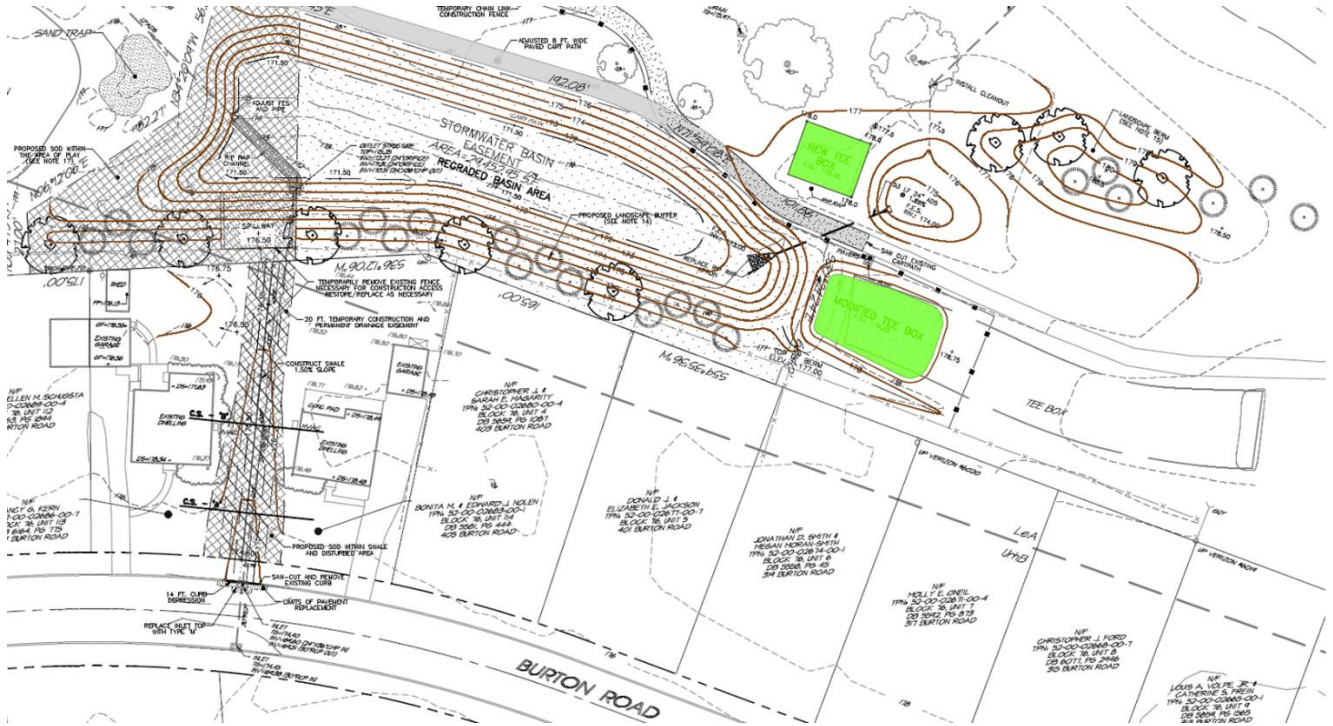
**TARGET YEAR 2022**

The existing stormwater basin situated on the Sandy Run Country Club property behind Burton Road in Oreland is to be deepened in order to increase the basin’s retention capacity. Additionally, the proposed installation of a spillway between the basin and the Township’s stormsewer on Burton Road is intended to reduce flooding in the residential neighborhood. This project was authorized by the Board of Commissioners in October 2021.

**PROJECT: TANK CAR ABATEMENT & DEMOLITION**  
**COST: \$ 210,640.00**

**TARGET YEAR 2023**

In line with the intended redevelopment of the former Tank Car Corporation of America site located at 1725 Walnut Ave in Oreland into a Township-owned public park, the Township suggests that a portion of the ARPA funds serve as a match to a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) obtained by the Township in 2021 from Montgomery County to abate and demolish the existing on-site structures in preparation for future development into a park.



**PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR BASIN IMPROVEMENTS OFF BURTON ROAD**

**\*PROJECT: SKYLINE DRIVE BASIN**

**TARGET YEAR 2024**

**\*COST: \$ 110,000.00**

The existing stormwater basin on Skyline Drive connects to the Township stormsewer system and outflows into Paper Mill Run. The Township intends to improve the inlet structure in the basin to facilitate greater stormwater retention and ease capacity demand on the Township’s stormsewer. Additionally, the bottom of the basin is to be naturalized leading to enhanced water quality. This project was authorized by the Board of Commissioners in October 2021.

**\*PROJECT: INTEGRITY AVE BASIN CONSTRUCTION**

**TARGET YEAR 2024**

**\*COST: \$ 280,000.00**

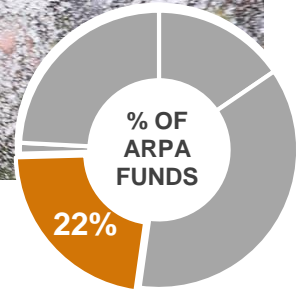
Flooding is a chronic issue for the 300 Block of Integrity Ave. and adjacent neighborhoods on Lorrain Ave and Oreland Mill Road. The Township has identified an undeveloped area on Integrity Ave. where an easement could be obtained for the construction of a stormwater basin. The basin is intended to ease localized stormwater runoff flooding in nearby residential neighborhoods of the Township. This project was authorized by the Board of Commissioners in October 2021.



## PROJECT INVENTORY



ARPA CATEGORY: **FIRE / EMS**  
PROPOSED FUNDING: **\$ 450,000**



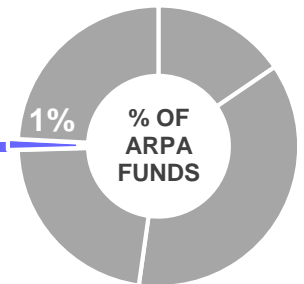
PROJECT: FIRE APPARATUS  
COST: \$ 150,000.00 for each Fire Co.

TARGET YEARS 2023, 2024, & 2025

Springfield Township is serviced by three volunteer fire companies (Flourtown Fire, Oreland Fire, & Wyndmoor Hose). Each of these entities owns and maintains a variety of vehicles including fire engines. Many of these engines are decades old and in need of replacement. This suggested use would provide \$150,000 to each of the volunteer fire companies to offset the cost of a new engine.

## PROJECT INVENTORY

ARPA CATEGORY: **CONTINGENCY**  
PROPOSED FUNDING: **\$ 25,550**



Approximately \$25,550, or 1%, is suggested to be reserved to potentially be used to offset any projects exceeding their estimated budgets.



## SPENDING SCHEDULE & REPORTING

Springfield Township has until 2024 to allocate the remaining \$2.04 million in ARPA funding towards specific projects. Additionally, the ARPA legislation has mandated that **all funding received by the Township needs to be spent by December 31, 2026.**

With this deadline in mind, all fifteen projects detailed in the inventory preceding this section have been assigned a “target year” as part of a tentative spending schedule outlined below. These target years are subject to change but were determined based on project readiness and annual spending thresholds.

YEAR	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
ARPA PROJECTS TO BE PURSUED	Mermaid Park Streambank	Rec Center Master Site Plan	Tank Car Master Site Plan	Hillcrest Pond Dredging	AVAILABLE FOR PROJECT OVERRUNS
	Burton Road Basin	Tank Car Abate/Demo	Integrity Avenue Basin	Fire Engine 3 Partial Pay	
	Street Sweeper	Mermaid Park Trees	Rectory Demolition		
	Paper Mill & Edann Storm Inlet	Police Hybrid Vehicles	Skyline Drive Basin		
		Rec. Director Hybrid Vehicle	Fire Engine 2 Partial Pay		
		Fire Engine 1 Partial Pay			
COST	\$ 577,534	\$ 614,009	\$ 680,950	\$ 250,000	-

## REPORTING & AUDITING

An annual expenditure report is required to be submitted by the Township to the U.S. Treasury by April 30 of every year between 2022 and 2027. The annual ARPA report is intended to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria outlined by the U.S. Treasury and monitors the expenditures of federal funds.

It is important to note that **the annual federal spending threshold for municipalities is \$750,000 in a single calendar year.** Municipalities that spend more than \$750,000 in federal funds, including ARPA, must undertake a federal single audit for those funds. The single audit process is a more extensive financial review than the regular annual audit conducted by auditing firms hired by municipalities. Single audits are an additional process at an additional cost, meaning that the Township would still be required to undertake its annual audit. **Single audits are not an eligible use of ARPA funds.**

## ANNUAL REVIEW

This Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve on an annual basis as the Township responds to the needs of the community.