

FEB 23 2022

Fulton County  
Arkansas

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04

**A Resolution declaring support for the process set forth by Fulton County Judge Gary Clayton to consider proposals for American Rescue Plan funding**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2020 was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, Fulton County will receive approximately \$2.4 million in ARP funds, with half having been received in 2021 and the second half to be received in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Treasury stipulates that these funds should be allocated and disbursed in a way that is accountable, transparent, user friendly, and focused on recovery; and

WHEREAS, the County Judge has prepared a statement outlining the criteria for consideration for funding, consistent with the United States Department of the Treasury's established rules, In order to objectively consider any and all proposals.


**Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Quorum Court of Fulton County,, Arkansas:**

**SECTION 1:** The Fulton County Quorum Court pledges it support for Fulton County Judge Gary Clayton to initiate all actions necessary to implement the process of utilizing the ARP funds; and

**SECTION 2:** All recommended proposals, along with an application setting forth the planned usage of the funds, as well as all required resolutions and contracts, will be presented to the Fulton County Quorum Court for final approval before any funding will be released.

**SECTION 3:** That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

DATED: February 22, 2022

APPROVED:   
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Gary G. Clayton,  
Fulton County Judge

ATTEST: Vickie Bishop

Vickie Bishop  
Fulton County Clerk



## **PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION FOR UTILIZING AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN FUNDING TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURTROOM FACILITIES FOR FULTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

Fulton County proposes to utilize a portion of its allocation under the American Recovery Plan to complete the construction of new courtroom facilities.

Justification for this expenditure is provided as follows:

- (1) On January 18, 2022, the Fulton County Quorum Court passed Ordinance No. 2022 – 1 establishing a County General Sub-Fund to be called the ARPA Revenue Replacement Fund.
- (2) Fulton County's existing courtroom facilities are inadequate to provide for social distancing and other preventive measures necessary as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic. Necessary personnel and affected parties are allowed in the courtroom as cases are called and others there for court gather in hallways, etc., which are utilized by the public, thus creating a potentially dangerous situation in terms of controlling exposure to the virus.
- (3) As a result of the aforementioned problems, various courts have had to be postponed numerous times, in some cases, outside facilities have been rented in order to conduct court, caseloads have been backlogged making them increasingly hard to handle, and in general, justice has been delayed for those involved in the system.
- (4) Collections of fines and assessments have been down significantly as a result of the aforementioned problems.

Completion of construction of new facilities to accommodate our court system will aid significantly in addressing the problems outlined above and will allow the administration of justice process to proceed unencumbered. The new facility will provide for adequate social distancing, will have proper air treatment capability, and will assist greatly in curbing the spread of the virus and, at the same time, allow a necessary component of our criminal justice system to be fully operational.

This course of action regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan funding is being presented to the Fulton County Quorum Court as a means of evaluating any and all requests for funds

Use of the ARP funds should be utilized based on the following criteria, with the goals of addressing issues that are Coronavirus-related and that will have the most impact on the greatest number of Fulton County residents.

- (1) ARP funds should be utilized in pursuing transformative projects that will positively impact all of, or as many as possible, of Fulton County's population.
- (2) ARP funds should not be utilized for projects that are hard to quantify or have the potential to set vacant awaiting outcomes that are outside of the control of the Quorum Court.
- (3) Projects should not create continuous financial obligations, to the greatest extent possible, for future Quorum Courts
- (4) Proposals from established organizations with a history of service to specific groups that have been impacted by Coronavirus will be preferred.

It will be the objective of the County Judge and Quorum Court to undertake an objective, transparent process to ensure public confidence that the taxpayer funds provided to Fulton County through the American Rescue Plan are spent in an accountable manner that will benefit the greatest number of Fulton County residents possible.