



Legislation Text

File #: 22-832, Version: 2

GRANT REQUEST

Type Motion/Request here and complete the Grant Request Form Below:

MOTION to accept and appropriate \$20,000 to Account #20250101-50000-G0015 (Library Grants) received from *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Background:

April 19, 2023: The Library received notification of the approval of the Town's Grant Application in the amount of \$20,000.

This grant requires the Legislative Body (Town Council) to formally accept the Grant and authorize the expenditure of the funds by May 5, 2023.

Ledyard Public Library is seeking approval to apply for the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant offered by the American Library Association. The purpose of the grant is to provide "community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries" with a population less than 25,000 "to help them better serve people with disabilities." ***There are two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000, and we would apply for both.*** The funds would be used for one-time purchases such as books, programming, and building improvements.

Our target audiences in our community are adults and youth with visual and/or hearing disabilities, adults and youth with neurodiversity, and adults with mobility limitations.

The first goal is to "increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities."

We would do this by expanding our ***large print collection*** for adults and youth, creating ***programming specifically for neurodiverse*** adults and youth, ***adding a handicap accessible door to Gales Ferry Library***, upgrade our facility ***technology for those with hearing disabilities or mobility limitations***, and purchase specific items to enhance and make ***all programming more accessible***.

The second goal is to "support community engagement efforts by providing resources to help them work with impacted populations to guide improvement of library services." We would do this by expanding our collection with specific titles for our community's needs including representation, creating programming to educate our community about specific disabilities, and creating programming to develop and foster support networks within

the community.

Application Deadline: February 28, 2023

Award Notification: April 19, 2023

Attached:

- Request Narrative- How Ledyard planned to use the grant unding
- Grant Application
- Grant Frequently Asked Questions
- Grant Eligibility Guidelines

Library Director Comments/Recommendation:

Approval from the Town Council will allow us to proceed with the application process. If we are awarded the grant, the money will make a noticeable impact on how we serve our community, specifically those with disabilities. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Finance Director Comments/Recommendation:

(Type text here)

Mayor Comments/Recommendation:

I support Director Smith’s desire to seek these grant funds to improve accessibility of the library collections.

Meeting Action Detail:

Town Council Meeting 4/26/2022:

File #: [22- 832](#) Version: 2
Type: Grant

Title: MOTION to accept and appropriate \$20,000 to Account #20250101-50000-G0015 (Library Grant Expense) received from *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Moved: Saums **Seconded:** Ingalls

Action: Approved

Minute Note:

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated at their December 14, 2022 meeting the Town Council authorized the Library to apply for a 20,000 *American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Councilor Saums stated tonight's action was to appropriate the funding to the proper account so they could be expended as intended. He noted Library Director Jennifer Smith was attending remotely this evening if anyone had questions.

Library Director Jennifer Smith she received notification on April 5, 2023 that Ledyard was awarded the Grant in the full amount of the \$20,000 requested. She stated as part of this grant process that the Legislative Body (Town Council) was required to formally accept the Grant and authorize the expenditure of the funds by May 5, 2023. She stated that she would be happy to elaborate if anyone had questions.

Mayor Allyn, III, commended Library Director Jennifer Smith noting that she joined Ledyard last summer (2022). He stated Ms. Smith came out of the gate pursuing grant opportunities, noting that she secured the maximum amount allotted under this grant program. He thanked Ms. Smith for her efforts.

VOTE: 8 - 0 Approved and so declared

Action: Approved

Finance Committee Meeting 4/19/2022:

File #: [22-832](#) Version: 2
Type: Grant

Title: MOTION to recommend the Town Council accept and authorize the expenditure of \$20,000 received from *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Ingalls

Action: Recommend to Approve

Minute Note:

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saums

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated at their December 14, 2022 meeting the Town Council authorized the Library to apply for a 20,000 *American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Library Director Jennifer Smith stated she received notification late this afternoon that Ledyard has been awarded the Grant in the full amount of the \$20,000 requested. She stated as part of this grant process that the Legislative Body (Town Council) was required to formally accept the Grant and authorize the expenditure of the funds by May 5, 2023.

Councilor Ingalls stated that it was the town's practice for the Town Council to authorize grant applications. However, she stated that she did not recall having to take a formal action to accept and spend the grant after it has been approved.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated authorization to accept and spend the grant was a requirement of *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant*.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that applying for a grant did not necessarily mean that they were going to receive it. Therefore, he stated once they were awarded the grant funding for a set amount that they should then get authorization to spend the money.

Councilor Saums stated that he recalled appropriating grant funds to a specific account once they were received. Therefore, he suggested the Finance Committee approve the motion this evening with the understanding that they would have the account number to appropriate the funds to for the Town Council's April 26, 2023 meeting.

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared

Action: Recommend to Approve

Town Council Meeting 12/14/2022:

File #: [22- 832](#) Version: 2
Type: Grant

Title: MOTION to accept and authorize the expenditure of \$20,000 received from *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Saums

Action: Recommend to Approve

Minute Note:

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saums

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated at their December 14, 2022 meeting the Town Council authorized the Library to apply for a 20,000 *American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Library Director Jennifer Smith stated she received notification late this afternoon that Ledyard has been awarded the Grant in the full amount of the \$20,000 requested. She stated as part of this grant process that the Legislative Body (Town Council) was required to formally accept the Grant and authorize the expenditure of the funds by May 5, 2023.

Councilor Ingalls stated that it was the town’s practice for the Town Council to authorize grant applications. However, she stated that she did not recall having to take a formal action to accept and spend the grant after it has been approved.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated authorization to accept and spend the grant was a requirement of *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant*.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that applying for a grant did not necessarily mean that they were going to receive it. Therefore, he stated once they were awarded the grant funding for a set amount that they should then get authorization to spend the money.

Councilor Saums stated that he recalled appropriating grant funds to a specific account once they were received. Therefore, he suggested the Finance Committee approve the motion this evening with the understanding that they would have the account number to appropriate the funds to for the Town Council’s April 26, 2023 meeting.

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared

Action: Recommend to Approve

Town Council Meeting 12/14/2022:

File #: [22832](#) Version: 1
Type: Grant

Title: MOTION to authorize the Mayor to submit an American Library Association Application to obtain a - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* in the amount of up-to \$20,000 to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Moved: Saums Seconded: Ingalls

Action: Approved and so Declared

Minute Note:
Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated the Ledyard Public Libraries were seeking approval to apply for the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant* that was offered by the American Library Association to communities with a population of less than 25,000. He stated the purpose of the grant was:

- **First Goal** was to “*Increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities.*”
- **Second Goal** was to “*support community engagement efforts by providing resources to help them work with impacted populations to guide improvement of library services.*”

Councilor Saums went on to explain that this was new Grant Program provided by an anonymous funding

source. He noted there were two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000; and the Library would apply for both grant levels. He stated if the Library does not received the \$20,000 grant that they would then be considered for the \$10,000 grant amount. However, he stated that they could not receive both levels of funding. He noted Library Director Jennifer Smith was present this evening to answer questions.

8 - 0 Approved and so declared

Action: Approved and so Declared

Finance Committee Meeting 12/7/2022:

File #: [22832](#) Version: 1
Type: Grant

Title:

Title: MOTION to authorize the Mayor to submit an American Library Association Application to obtain a - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* Grant in the amount of up-to \$20,000 to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Ingalls

Action: Recommend to Approve

Minute Note:

Discussion: Councilor Saums noted Library Director Jennifer Smith was present this evening and he asked her to provide an overview of the - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* Grant Program.

Library Director Jennifer Smith noted Ledyard Public Libraries were seeking approval to apply for the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant that was offered by the American Library Association. She stated the purpose of the grant was to provide “community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries and to help them better serve people with disabilities.” She stated based on Ledyard’s population of less than 25,000 they were eligible to apply for this grant program.

Ms. Smith continued by noting the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* Grant was a new program provided by an anonymous funding source; and she explained that there were two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000. She stated with the Town Council’s authorization that the Library would apply for both grant levels. She stated in attending the webinar she learned that they could apply for both grant levels and she explained if Ledyard was not approved for the \$20,000 grant, that they could then be considered for the \$10,000 grant amount. Therefore, she stated that they would have a better chance of receiving some grant funding is they applied for both. She stated the funds would be used for one-time purchases such as books, programming, and building improvements.

Ms. Smith went on to explain that the Library’s target audiences in the community were adults and youth with visual and/or hearing disabilities, with neurodiversity, and with mobility limitations. She provided an overview of the Library’s goals as follows:

- **First Goal** was to “Increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities.”

- ✓ Expand Library large print collection for adults and youth.
- ✓ Create programming specifically for neurodiverse adults and youth.
- ✓ Add a handicap accessible door to Gales Ferry Library.
The Gales Ferry Library has a handicap ramp with a set of double doors that lead into another set of doors to get into the building. Those in a wheelchair or with other disabilities currently have to call the Library for someone to go out and open the doors. She also noted that measurements have not been taken yet to determine if the space could accommodate automatic doors. However, she stated if they received the grant funding and they find the space was not large enough for the automatic doors that the funding would be used for another item on the list.
- ✓ Upgrade the facility technology for those with hearing disabilities or mobility limitations. I-pads, upgrade portable microphone system and projection system.
- ✓ Purchase specific items to enhance and make all programming more accessible.
- **Second Goal** is to “*support community engagement efforts by providing resources to help them work with impacted populations to guide improvement of library services.*”
- ✓ Expand the Library collection with specific titles for the community’s needs including representation.
- ✓ Create programming to educate the community about specific disabilities such as American sign language books/program.
- ✓ Create programming to develop and foster support networks within the community.

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the Library has prioritized the list of purchases or projects in the event they do not receive the \$20,000 grant. Ms. Smith stated that she was in the process of obtaining cost estimates and quotes; and therefore, she has not prioritized the projects noting that they had an extensive list.

Councilor Ingalls questioned whether this was a new grant program and whether any local matching funds were required. Ms. Smith stated the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* was a new program provided by an anonymous funding source that was being offered through American Library Association. She stated no local matching funds were required.

It was noted that the Application Deadline was February 28, 2023; and the Award Notification was April 19, 2023.

VOTE: 3-0 Approved and so declared

Action: Recommend to Approve

Please Complete the Grant Request Form Below:

TOWN OF LEDYARD
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
GRANT APPLICATION POLICY AND PROCESS

The Ledyard Town Council will approve all grant applications submitted by the Town to any governmental agency or private foundation on behalf of the Town; and any items that are offered to the Town by any entity, and items taken in forfeiture by the Town. Every department, commission, or board acting on behalf of the Town of Ledyard when seeking grants or responding to an offer to the Town of grant funds or items must follow this policy and process.

Grants, for these purposes include:

1. Grants that require a Town match -- whether the match is a dollar figure, an in-kind contribution, or a combination thereof
2. Grants that are 100% funded
3. Items or services that are offered (“gifted”) to the Town such as land, equipment, buildings, or vehicles
4. Items that are taken by forfeiture and intended to be retained by the Town
5. Items granted to a fire company’s 501(c)3 organization but expected to be maintained and/or insured by Town operating dollars

When applying for any grant, the grant seeker will create a legislative file and attach a completed GRANT REQUEST FORM and any pertinent information about the grant and grantor. The legislative file will be set up to go to the Town Council using the Finance Committee workflow.

When applying for Federal funding, the grant seeker must include acknowledgement in the GRANT REQUEST FORM that they have read and understand the Federal Government procurement standards for federal funding in 2 CFR 200.318 through 200.325 (See Attachment 1).

Amended and Approved by the Town Council: on: July 22, 2020

Linda C Davis

Linda C. Davis, Chairman

Revisions: “General Government Grant Application Policy and Process” Adopted: May 8, 2018.

History: Paragraph 5 added the following: *“When applying for Federal funding, the grant seeker must include acknowledgement in the GRANT REQUEST FORM that they have read and understand the Federal Government procurement standards for federal funding in 2 CFR 200.318 through 200.325 (See Attachment 1).”*

Below the Form added: *FOR FEDERAL GRANTS: “I confirm that I have read and understand the federal general procurement standards in 2 CFR § 200.318 through 200.325”*

Added to the Policy Attachment 1 *“Code of Federal Regulations: 2 CFR”* to Policy.

GRANT REQUEST FORM

Requestor Library Director Jen Smith

Date 11/30/2022

Dept/Commission/Board Ledyard Libraries

Name of Grant *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant up to \$20,000

Type of Grant (State of CT, Federal, Private Foundation, Individual - if combination, explain)

American Library Association

Reason for Applying for this Grant

To improve library services for adults and youths in our community with visual and/or hearing disabilities, adults and youth with neurodiversity, and adults with mobility limitations.

There are two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000, and we would apply for both.

The first goal is to “*increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities.*”

The second goal is to “support community engagement efforts by providing resources and programming to educate our community about specific disabilities, and creating programming to develop and foster support networks within the community.

Amount of Town Match N/A

Source of Town Match N/A

In-Kind Match - Explain

N/A

FOR FEDERAL GRANTS: I confirm that I have read and understand the federal general procurement standards in 2 CFR § 200.318 through 200.325 (Appendix 1)

Signed Name

Printed Name

Date

ATTACHMENT 1

Code of Federal Regulations: 2 CFR

§200.318 General procurement standards.

(a) The non-Federal entity must use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State, local, and tribal laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and the standards identified in this part.

(b) Non-Federal entities must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.

(c)(1) The non-Federal entity must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity.

(2) If the non-Federal entity has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local government, or Indian tribe, the non-Federal entity must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest means that because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-Federal entity is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization.

(d) The non-Federal entity's procedures must avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.

(e) To foster greater economy and efficiency, and in accordance with efforts to promote cost-effective use of shared services across the Federal Government, the non-Federal entity is encouraged to enter into state and local intergovernmental agreements or inter-entity agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services.

(f) The non-Federal entity is encouraged to use Federal excess and surplus property in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs.

(g) The non-Federal entity is encouraged to use value engineering clauses in contracts for construction projects of sufficient size to offer reasonable opportunities for cost reductions. Value engineering is a systematic and creative analysis of each contract item or task to ensure that its essential function is provided at the overall lower cost.

(h) The non-Federal entity must award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. See also §200.213 Suspension and debarment.

(i) The non-Federal entity must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.

(j)(1) The non-Federal entity may use a time and materials type contract only after a determination that no other contract is suitable and if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to a non-Federal entity is the sum of:

(i) The actual cost of materials; and

(ii) Direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

(2) Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, each contract must set a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the non-Federal entity awarding such a contract must assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

(k) The non-Federal entity alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the non-Federal entity of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. The Federal awarding agency will not substitute its judgment for that of the non-Federal entity unless the matter is primarily a Federal concern. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or Federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 79 FR 75885, Dec. 19, 2014; 80 FR 43309, July 22, 2015]

§200.319 Competition.

(a) All procurement transactions must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of this section. In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include but are not limited to:

(1) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;

(2) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;

(3) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;

(4) Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;

(5) Organizational conflicts of interest;

(6) Specifying only a “brand name” product instead of allowing “an equal” product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and

(7) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

(b) The non-Federal entity must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts state licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering (A/E) services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

(c) The non-Federal entity must have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures must ensure that all solicitations:

(1) Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description must not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a “brand name or equivalent” description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated; and

(2) Identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

(d) The non-Federal entity must ensure that all prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. Also, the non-Federal entity must not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 79 FR 75885, Dec. 19, 2014]

§200.320 Methods of procurement to be followed.

The non-Federal entity must use one of the following methods of procurement.

(a) Procurement by micro-purchases. Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (§200.67 Micro-purchase). To the extent practicable, the non-Federal entity must distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable.

(b) Procurement by small purchase procedures. Small purchase procedures are those relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, or other property that do not cost more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

(c) Procurement by sealed bids (formal advertising). Bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed price contract (lump sum or unit price) is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all the

material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price. The sealed bid method is the preferred method for procuring construction, if the conditions in paragraph (c)(1) of this section apply.

(1) In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions should be present:

- (i) A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- (ii) Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- (iii) The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

(2) If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

(i) Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;

(ii) The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

(iii) All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly;

(iv) A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of; and

(v) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

(d) Procurement by competitive proposals. The technique of competitive proposals is normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, and either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. It is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

(1) Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;

(2) Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources;

(3) The non-Federal entity must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients;

(4) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered; and

(5) The non-Federal entity may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional

services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

(e) [Reserved]

(f) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

(1) The item is available only from a single source;

(2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;

(3) The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity; or

(4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 79 FR 75885, Dec. 19, 2014; 80 FR 54409, Sept. 10, 2015]

§200.321 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms.

(a) The non-Federal entity must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b) Affirmative steps must include:

(1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;

(2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;

(3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;

(4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;

(5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and

(6) Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section.

§200.322 Procurement of recovered materials.

A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 79 FR 75885, Dec. 19, 2014]

§200.323 Contract cost and price.

(a) The non-Federal entity must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, the non-Federal entity must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals.

(b) The non-Federal entity must negotiate profit as a separate element of the price for each contract in which there is no price competition and in all cases where cost analysis is performed. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration must be given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

(c) Costs or prices based on estimated costs for contracts under the Federal award are allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices would be allowable for the non-Federal entity under Subpart E-Cost Principles of this part. The non-Federal entity may reference its own cost principles that comply with the Federal cost principles.

(d) The cost plus a percentage of cost and percentage of construction cost methods of contracting must not be used.

§200.324 Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity review.

(a) The non-Federal entity must make available, upon request of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, technical specifications on proposed procurements where the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity believes such review is needed to ensure that the item or service specified is the one being proposed for acquisition. This review generally will take place prior to the time the specification is incorporated into a solicitation document. However, if the non-Federal entity desires to have the review accomplished after a solicitation has been developed, the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may still review the specifications, with such review usually limited to the technical aspects of the proposed purchase.

(b) The non-Federal entity must make available upon request, for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity pre-procurement review, procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates, when:

(1) The non-Federal entity's procurement procedures or operation fails to comply with the procurement standards in this part;

(2) The procurement is expected to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold and is to be awarded without competition or only one bid or offer is received in response to a solicitation;

(3) The procurement, which is expected to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, specifies a “brand name” product;

(4) The proposed contract is more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold and is to be awarded to other than the apparent low bidder under a sealed bid procurement; or

(5) A proposed contract modification changes the scope of a contract or increases the contract amount by more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold.

(c) The non-Federal entity is exempt from the pre-procurement review in paragraph (b) of this section if the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity determines that its procurement systems comply with the standards of this part.

(1) The non-Federal entity may request that its procurement system be reviewed by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to determine whether its system meets these standards in order for its system to be certified. Generally, these reviews must occur where there is continuous high-dollar funding, and third party contracts are awarded on a regular basis;

(2) The non-Federal entity may self-certify its procurement system. Such self-certification must not limit the Federal awarding agency's right to survey the system. Under a self-certification procedure, the Federal awarding agency may rely on written assurances from the non-Federal entity that it is complying with these standards. The non-Federal entity must cite specific policies, procedures, regulations, or standards as being in compliance with these requirements and have its system available for review.

§200.325 Bonding requirements.

For construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may accept the bonding policy and requirements of the non-Federal entity provided that the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity has made a determination that the Federal interest is adequately protected. If such a determination has not been made, the minimum requirements must be as follows:

(a) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The “bid guarantee” must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

(b) A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A “performance bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.

(c) A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A “payment bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

§200.326 Contract provisions.

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in Appendix II to Part 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

Meeting Action Detail:

Moved by Councilor Ryan, seconded by Councilor Saums

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated at their December 14, 2022 meeting the Town Council authorized the Library to apply for a 20,000 *American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* to be used to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Library Director Jennifer Smith stated she received notification late this afternoon that Ledyard has been awarded the Grant in the full amount of the \$20,000 requested. She stated as part of this grant process that the Legislative Body (Town Council) was required to formally accept the Grant and authorize the expenditure of the funds by May 5, 2023.

Councilor Ingalls stated that it was the town's practice for the Town Council to authorize grant applications. However, she stated that she did not recall having to take a formal action to accept and spend the grant after it has been approved.

Mayor Allyn, III, stated authorization to accept and spend the grant was a requirement of *The American Library Association - Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant*.

Finance Director Matthew Bonin explained that applying for a grant did not necessarily mean that they were going to receive it. Therefore, he stated once they were awarded the grant funding for a set amount that they should then get authorization to spend the money.

Councilor Saums stated that he recalled appropriating grant funds to a specific account once they were received. Therefore, he suggested the Finance Committee approve the motion this evening with the understanding that they would have the account number to appropriate the funds to for the Town Council's April 26, 2023 meeting.

VOTE: 3 - 0 Approved and so declared

Town Council Meeting 12/14/2022:

File #: [22832](#) Version: 1
Type: Grant

Title: MOTION to authorize the Mayor to submit an American Library Association Application to obtain a - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* in the amount of up-to \$20,000 to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities.

Moved: Saums Seconded: Ingalls

Action: Approved and so Declared

Minute Note:

Moved by Councilor Saums, seconded by Councilor Ingalls

Discussion: Councilor Saums stated the Ledyard Public Libraries were seeking approval to apply for the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant that was offered by the American Library Association to communities with a population of less than 25,000. He stated the purpose of the grant was:

- **First Goal** was to “*Increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities.*”
- **Second Goal** was to “*support community engagement efforts by providing resources to help them work with impacted populations to guide improvement of library services.*”

Councilor Saums went on to explain that this was new Grant Program provided by an anonymous funding source. He noted there were two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000; and the Library would apply for both grant levels. He stated if the Library does not received the \$20,000 grant that they would then be considered for the \$10,000 grant amount. However, he stated that they could not receive both levels of funding. He noted Library Director Jennifer Smith was present this evening to answer questions.

8 - 0 Approved and so declared

Action: Approved and so Declared

Finance Committee Meeting 12/7/2022:

File #: [22832](#) Version: 1
Type: Grant

Title:

Title: MOTION to authorize the Mayor to submit an American Library Association Application to obtain a - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* Grant in the amount of up-to \$20,000 to purchase books, programming, and building improvements designed to serve individuals with disabilities

Moved: Ryan Seconded: Ingalls

Action: Recommend to Approve

Minute Note:

Discussion: Councilor Saums noted Library Director Jennifer Smith was present this evening and he asked her to provide an overview of the - *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* Grant Program.

Library Director Jennifer Smith noted Ledyard Public Libraries were seeking approval to apply for the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities* grant that was offered by the American Library Association. She stated the purpose of the grant was to provide “*community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries and to help them better serve people with disabilities.*” She stated based on Ledyard’s population of less than 25,000 they were eligible to apply for this grant program.

Ms. Smith continued by noting the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* was a new program provided by an anonymous funding source; and she explained that there were two grant levels: \$20,000 and \$10,000. She stated with the Town Council's authorization that the Library would apply for both grant levels. She stated in attending the webinar she learned that they could apply for both grant levels and she explained if Ledyard was not approved for the \$20,000 grant, that they could then be considered for the \$10,000 grant amount. Therefore, she stated that they would have a better chance of receiving some grant funding if they applied for both. She stated the funds would be used for one-time purchases such as books, programming, and building improvements.

Ms. Smith went on to explain that the Library's target audiences in the community were adults and youth with visual and/or hearing disabilities, with neurodiversity, and with mobility limitations. She provided an overview of the Library's goals as follows:

- **First Goal** was to “*Increase the accessibility of library facilities, services, and programs for people with disabilities.*”
 - ✓ Expand Library large print collection for adults and youth.
 - ✓ Create programming specifically for neurodiverse adults and youth.
 - ✓ Add a handicap accessible door to Gales Ferry Library.
The Gales Ferry Library has a handicap ramp with a set of double doors that lead into another set of doors to get into the building. Those in a wheelchair or with other disabilities currently have to call the Library for someone to go out and open the doors. She also noted that measurements have not been taken yet to determine if the space could accommodate automatic doors. However, she stated if they received the grant funding and they find the space was not large enough for the automatic doors that the funding would be used for another item on the list.
 - ✓ Upgrade the facility technology for those with hearing disabilities or mobility limitations. I-pads, upgrade portable microphone system and projection system.
 - ✓ Purchase specific items to enhance and make all programming more accessible.
- **Second Goal** is to “*support community engagement efforts by providing resources to help them work with impacted populations to guide improvement of library services.*”
 - ✓ Expand the Library collection with specific titles for the community's needs including representation.
 - ✓ Create programming to educate the community about specific disabilities such as American sign language books/program.
 - ✓ Create programming to develop and foster support networks within the community.

Councilor Ryan questioned whether the Library has prioritized the list of purchases or projects in the event they do not receive the \$20,000 grant. Ms. Smith stated that she was in the process of obtaining cost estimates and quotes; and therefore, she has not prioritized the projects noting that they had an extensive list.

Councilor Ingalls questioned whether this was a new grant program and whether any local matching funds were required. Ms. Smith stated the *Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant* was a new program provided by an anonymous funding source that was being offered through American Library Association. She stated no local matching funds were required.

It was noted that the Application Deadline was February 28, 2023; and the Award Notification was April 19, 2023.

VOTE: 3- 0 Approved and so declared

[Action:](#) Recommend to Approve