

United States Senate

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2023 Subcommittee on Homeland Security, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator

**Smith, Tina(D-MN) Homeland Security
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
City of Claremont	Use of funds will be used to construct a basic, simple but new fire hall for our first responders.	Claremont MN	\$600
Lake Vermilion Fire Brigade	The funding request is for upgrading our helibase and providing dock access for emergency vehicles. Our facility has a gravel parking lot that is designed as a helibase. The helibase is routinely utilized by North Memorial Air Care to transfer patients to intensive care hospitals. Our helibase is graveled which is hazardous to helicopters, ambulances, and ground crews. We have access to Lake Vermilion, but no docks. The docks would facilitate response time to transfer patients to emergency vehicles. We are dependent on public docks at present, which are jammed during the summer. The helibase and docks would facilitate federal and state agencies during prescribed and wildfires.	Cook MN	\$100
City of Newport	<p>"Requesting \$350,000 of funding to complete work in the north project area including final tree removal and clean-up, parking, and river access (\$90,000). And to kick off the south project area with Mill Pond purchase/clean-up (\$100,000); secure land donation and prepare property for City management/maintenance; and inspection and planning of final amenity designs (\$160,000).</p> <p>As a small City, visionary projects like this are difficult to fund solely through property taxes and bonding alone. In Newport we face bluff land watershed issues, inflow and infiltration of sanitary sewer lines (aka I+I), older roads that are deteriorating, and other municipal infrastructure essentials that quickly consume available tax dollars. And in fact, lack of funds slowed progress on this project the past few years. We are hopeful that with your help we can get this project back on track and moving forward again. "</p>	Newport MN	\$350
Oslo Region Joint Powers Board	<p>"For the 3-Phase project to be successfully implemented, the river flow dictates the first phase of the project must be the replacement of the 1905 built railroad bridge and highway bridge, built in its shadow in the 1950s at Oslo and the water flow restrictions at the Hwy 17/317. A smaller bridge project on ND 54 at the Grand Marais also protects highway access. These bridges cannot accommodate the present-day water flow rates of a high water event. This phase is the highest cost of the project, and appropriately cost-shared from four CDS cost accounts, including Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program (CRISI), FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), and Watershed Flood Preventions Operations (WFPO).</p> <p>The second phase of the project is reductions to the overbank upstream from Oslo to remove blockages in the river channel. Modified road elevations upstream at the Oslo area protect I-29 and Hwy 1 because it maintains water flow in the natural river channel. The second phase of the project includes costs shared through HIP, FEMA and WFPO.</p> <p>In the third phase of the project, FEAM and WFPO share the cost of removing additional water flow restrictions downstream, such as unused approaches and driveways that divert water away from the river channel. "</p>	Oslo MN	\$17,998
Saint Paul	Construction of a new Fire station is needed to serve the growing needs the city's East Side community. The existing Fire Station is 91 years old and can't support the personnel or resources needed to provide adequate and equitable fire and medical response for some of the city's most vulnerable residents. The neighborhoods this station would serve are areas of concentrated poverty, with lower levels of education, are at greater risk for fires, and have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The fire department has seen an increase in emergency calls for service associated with the pandemic, caring for the city's homeless population, and an increase in traumatic injuries due to violent crimes on the city's East Side. A new Station 7 would allow the department to deploy both fire and basic/advanced life support resources to respond to the growing needs of this growing and diverse community.	Saint Paul MN	\$8,000