

CAO Committee Questions

1. How is your locality planning on utilizing your American Recovery Plan (ARP) monies from the federal government?

Chesapeake: If possible, we'd like to use a significant portion of our ARP funds for broadband deployment. We also have some additional facility, infrastructure, and technology needs that we intend to address. The revenue replacement provisions appear generous, so that is also an option that could help make fund utilization easier.

Franklin: We are continuing to review the guidance and are very interested in what other municipalities will be utilizing the funds for. We hope to utilize the funds for a number of water and sewer projects, bathroom upgrades at various City facilities, and to offset payroll for EMS providers.

Gloucester County: Gloucester is looking predominantly at funding broadband infrastructure and utilities projects. We're going to review other uses such as requests from the Sheriff's Department and the volunteer F&R Departments.

Hampton: We have not made allocation decisions. We do plan to take the full amount we can through revenue recovery so that we have more flexibility in use of funds. We do plan to use some of the ARP money for efforts that address pandemic effects (such as mental health/trauma counseling, increases in youth violence, etc.) and some for infrastructure (especially coastal resiliency).

Isle of Wight County: Water and sewer projects.

James City County: We are still discussing best use of these fund and plan to discuss with our Board in July. I anticipate we will recommend some Revenue Replacement to free up funds, likely put some funding towards infrastructure that is allowed, and may discuss a business/non-profit grant program (although we have not heard much from our business or non-profit community in several months).

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Newport News: It is still a work in progress for us as I am sure everyone else. We have developed an outline/spreadsheet for possible use of the funds. We are generally categorizing our dollars for various projects in keeping with City Council's strategic priorities of People, Neighborhoods, Good Government. Categories are broad enough that just about everything we want to do should fall in one of the areas. In general, we are looking at projects related to Affordable Housing, housing rehabilitation programs/ homelessness – transitional housing, small or new business support and development, early childhood development and child care initiatives, some revenue replacement, a fixed amount for potential future operating expenses related to the pandemic response, health and wellness trails, some technology enhancements, and exploring broadband options. This list is not all inclusive. It appears that the goals of the act are very much in keeping with providing support for our CNI revitalization efforts and closing some funding gaps or accelerating some initiatives.

The City has hired a firm to assist us with our ARP efforts. They are currently reviewing our CIP and our projects to determine what may be eligible and providing some guidance and they will be writing the justifications, etc. for the reporting process. I will be providing City Council at their next Work Session with a very high overview of the act and our process that we will be considering.

Norfolk: We are looking at large capital projects for our funds. This could include infrastructure improvements for Military Circle redevelopment as well as a renovation of Chrysler Hall.

Poquoson: We are still working through it. The Peninsula Managers are meeting together in the near future to compare notes and share ideas.

Portsmouth: Portsmouth is exploring a variety of options at this point. The items that have surfaced as priorities are a Homeless Shelter, improvements to our water/sewer infrastructure, and other projects meeting the guidelines.

Smithfield: We don't have any definitive plans yet as we are still waiting for our final numbers since we are a NEU. We are looking at a program that may be pretty heavily geared towards utility improvements.

Southampton County: Preliminary planning has focused on infrastructure projects (water/sewer) and potential leverage in the expansion of broadband. At this writing, it remains unclear to me what types of broadband expenditures are eligible.

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Suffolk: Developing plan for City Council consideration. We anticipate that a majority of the funding will be used for capital improvements (water, sewer, & drainage) in underserved areas. In addition, Southside Network Authority fiber ring is being considered as a project.

Surry County: We are looking at upgrades to water system primarily.

Virginia Beach: Still developing a plan on how to utilize.

Williamsburg: We are unsure yet how we will use ARP money. We will recommend that the Council use the majority of what we receive to fund major capital projects such as a police station, library, and school projects. This will reduce the long-term debt service needed in our CIP.

Windsor: As currently envisioned, mostly on water main/service line replacement projects.

York County: This is my preliminary thinking on ARPA (80% capital, 10% operating buffer, 10% community programs to be defined). We expect a high percentage of the money to be recycled as surpluses... but still used more or less with this type of breakdown. What may impact us is the hugely disproportionate allocation to cities as opposed to counties. I fear they will use a lot of that money to inflate salaries and then we will be forced to respond. The most extreme example I have found is Roanoke County vs Roanoke City. They have approximately the same population but Roanoke County receives \$18 million and Roanoke City @\$56 m. If you add the school disparity it magnifies further. In our case Hampton and Newport News will get something like \$90 to \$100 mil combined city and schools. Our combined number is \$19 million.

2. Is your locality staff all back working in person, or is there still staff teleworking in your locality?

Chesapeake: We're letting the nature of the work drive the decision on in person vs. remote working and leaving it to the discretion of the Directors.

Franklin: All of the City staff are working in person and have been throughout the entire pandemic. We have been fully reopened to the public since July of 2020.

2. Is your locality staff all back working in person, or is there still staff teleworking in your locality?

<p>Gloucester County: Yes</p>
<p>Hampton: Our locality is all back to working in person with the exception of existing teleworking or newly formed teleworking arrangements developed with the City Manager’s Office/Human Resources and/or special accommodations approved by HR</p>
<p>Isle of Wight County: We still have a few departments that continue to rotate staff between telework and in office, but most are working in person.</p>
<p>James City County: Officially, we all returned to the office at the end of March. We allowed employees with medical concerns or those that had children at home do to remote learning to continue teleworking as needed. Most of those with children were home a few days and in the office a few days each week. As of mid-June, as school finishes up, all but a handful of employees will be back full-time. Pre-COVID, we had started teleworking with our DSS staff due to office space limitations, so we will continue with many in DSS teleworking a few days each week. We are going to discuss teleworking for other departments with our Board in June and recommend they allow us to extend this option, at least a few days per week, to positions that qualify.</p>
<p>Newport News: for the most part everyone is back to work. We have some Departments with employees teleworking, but that is in keeping with the City’s teleworking policy as well as other policies and practices not necessarily related to the pandemic. It is situational and Departments have discretion in terms of managing the work and schedules of their people in keeping with existing policies. However, we do have one larger Department that we are working with to consider possibly 80% of their workforce continuing to telework and that is an outcome of the approach and efficiencies that came about as a result of the pandemic situation. We also have an internal Committee reviewing the impact of teleworking on current and future work space needs.</p>
<p>Norfolk: We are doing hybrid approaches with the workforce. Departments that need to be in person are back in person, but many departments have folks teleworking</p>
<p>Poquoson: Poquoson has been in-person for 95%+ of its employees for almost the last year. Effective next Monday (6/7/21) our last two remaining virtual employees will be returning to in-person so we will be at 100% in-person.</p>

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<p>Portsmouth: The City of Portsmouth will reopen to the public effective June 7, 2021. After June 7, 2021 teleworking will be authorized for employees based on the City's needs.</p>
<p>Smithfield: All back in person.</p>
<p>Southampton County: Everyone's back in person and all public buildings are open to the public.</p>
<p>Suffolk: Suffolk re-opened City facilities on March 15th. We do allow some teleworking for staff where appropriate up to 40% of work week.</p>
<p>Surry County: All staff are in person.</p>
<p>Virginia Beach: Varies. Some departments are coming all back. Some are hybrid - offering staff 1 to 2 day</p>
<p>Williamsburg: Our staff is back in the office. We did draft a telework policy that allows for employees to apply for telework status on scheduled days. We have about 15 who have applied, and 13 have been approved.</p>
<p>Windsor: Other than the first couple of weeks of the pandemic, we have only teleworked when quarantine issues were being dealt with; we have been in person nearly the whole time.</p>
<p>York County: The County offices are open to the public as of June 1, 2021.</p>