

\$3.3M sought from stimulus

By Anthony McConnell, Cody Enterprise

The city of Cody is seeking \$3.3 million from President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package.

"We got a call (in late December) from the Wyoming Business Council saying the governor was asking all cities and counties to submit infrastructure projects that were economic development related," city administrator Andy Whiteman said. "We submitted \$3.3 million worth of projects.

"We don't know what the governor did with that list," he added. "But I'm sure we're going to see some of those projects funded."

Which projects for how much is still unknown.

"No one knows how the federal dollars are going to flow down to local government," Whiteman said. "We hope they get it all sorted out before the start of construction season.

"These are shovel-ready projects," Whiteman said. "We're ready to go to bid and get started as soon as we get the green light."

Park County Commission Chairman Bill Brewer said he is unaware of any stimulus package funding sought by the county.

Cody's stimulus package requests are:

- Resurfacing 11th Street from Sheridan to Beck" \$37,250.
- Resurfacing 12th Street from Elm to Salsbury" \$136,800.
- East Sheridan Avenue from 35th Street to Beacon Hill Road" \$1.4 million.
- Water tank installation and transmission main for County Road 2AB area" \$894,110.
- 10th Street water main replacement" \$47,520.
- Heart Mountain Street water main replacement" \$11,880.
- Belfry Highway water main replacement" \$149,600.
- Canyon Meadows sewer project" \$440,895.
- Relocate electrical lines for road reconstruction along East Sheridan Avenue" \$208,760.

Stimulus expected to help Wyoming

The stimulus package signed into law in Denver Feb. 17 by President Barack Obama reportedly will provide economic assistance in Wyoming several ways:

- Wage-earners soon will see the first paycheck evidence of tax breaks that will total \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples.
- It will create or save 3.5 million jobs.
- Recession victims will get extended unemployment benefits and help with health care coverage, as well as more food stamps and job training opportunities.
- States will get cash to prevent them from cutting aid for schools and local governments.

- Billions will be allocated for road and bridge construction, mass transit, high-speed rail and national parks.
- Middle-income and wealthy taxpayers will be spared from income tax increases.
- First-time home buyers, new car buyers, college students, poor families with several children and people who make their homes energy efficient will get tax breaks.
- Money will be allocated for three top items on the president's agenda" expanding computerized information technology in the health care industry, creating "green" jobs aimed at helping wean the country off foreign oil dependence, and improving the quality of K-12 education.

County yet to apply

While Park County has not yet applied for any stimulus package funds, county representatives will participate in a Web seminar Wednesday, Feb. 25, to discuss possibilities.

Commissioner Jill Shockley Siggins said county representatives at the seminar will include Park County engineer Dave Kieper.

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