



Request for Council Action

TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Tim Murray, City Administrator
FROM: Deanna Kuennen, Com and Econ Dev Director
MEETING DATE: January 26, 2021
SUBJECT: Resolution 2021-023 Authorize Submission of a Grant Application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Level 2 Electric Vehicle Chargers

Background:

In early 2020, the City purchased two electric vehicles to replace three older vehicles scheduled for replacement in the Department of Community and Economic Development. The electric vehicles serve the City well. However, City Staff charges the vehicles using a standard 120-volt outdoor outlet (known as a Level 1 charging station). While City Staff has gotten by charging the fleet with the Level 1 charging station, it can take 18 hours or more to fully charge an electric vehicle, occasionally presenting challenges.

The City should have at least one dual-head, Level 2 charger at City Hall. A Level 2 charger operates on 240 volts as opposed to the standard 120-volt outlet. A Level 2 charger can charge an electric vehicle roughly five times faster than a Level 1 charger. It is also much more convenient to use, and it will reduce conflicts with scheduling the use of the vehicles based on the amount of time necessary to charge.

Many variables affect the installed cost of a Level 2 charger, including the charger's quality and location. Although the City does not have an official cost estimate to install a Level 2 charger at City Hall, the City Planner believes it may be possible to install a Level 2 Charger for roughly \$3,000 to \$5,000. However, if the City were to place a Level 2 charger in a location that requires additional cost to provide electrical service to the charger, the cost could be roughly \$10,000-\$15,000.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is offering financial assistance to a limited number of cities interested in installing Level 2 chargers for city fleet vehicles and/or public use. If the city allows the public to use the charger, the MPCA grant will pay awarded cities 80 percent

of the installed charger's cost. If the City limits the charger's use to City fleet vehicles, the MPCA will pay 60 percent of the installed cost. The MPCA will limit financial assistance to a maximum of \$7,500 per charger.

Many cities will apply for a grant, but the MPCA grant will only fund 22 Level 2 chargers in the state. Nevertheless, the grant application is not difficult or time-consuming to complete. Therefore, City Staff requests that the City Council authorize the submission of a grant application.

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2021-023 Authorize Submission of a Grant Application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for Level 2 Electric Vehicle Chargers

Attachments:

- Resolution 2021-023

CITY OF FARIBAULT

RESOLUTION #2021-023

AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY FOR LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

WHEREAS, the City of Faribault has a strong need for a Level 2, dual-head electric vehicle charger at City Hall, and, if feasible at other locations, such as the library and community center; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is offering a grant to financially assist a limited number of cities with the cost of installing Level 2 chargers; and

WHEREAS, if the MPCA awards the City of Faribault such a grant, the MPCA will then reimburse the City 80-percent of the cost of an installed Level 2 charger available to the public, and the MPCA will reimburse the City 60 percent of the cost of an installed Level 2 charger limited to use by City fleet vehicles – not to exceed \$7,500 in MPCA assistance per charger; and

WHEREAS, the installed cost of a Level 2 charger could range from \$3,000-\$15,000, depending on the charger's quality and location; and

WHEREAS, City Staff recommends that the City of Faribault apply for a grant to assist the City in installing a Level 2 charger at City Hall and, if feasible, at an additional location, such as the library.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Faribault hereby authorizes the Mayor and City Administrator to apply for a grant to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to financially assist the City with the cost of installing one or more Level 2 chargers in Faribault.

Date Adopted: January 26, 2021

Faribault City Council

Kevin F. Voracek, Mayor

ATTEST:

Timothy C. Murray, City Administrator