



News Release

For Immediate Release

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August STAR Fund Allocations total \$297,000

The Williston City Commission and City Administrator David Tuan have allocated up to \$297,000 in STAR Fund incentives during the month of August. The commission approved up to \$277,000 for seven projects at its meeting August 10, 2021, while Tuan approved four mini match applications totaling \$20,000.

Williston Economic Development Executive Director Shawn Wenko explained how the STAR Fund works in a recent radio interview with Robin Travers on 660 KEYZ Radio.

"The STAR Fund is a one cent city sales tax where a quarter of the sales tax goes into the jobs creation or quality of life fund and the other three quarters goes into infrastructure debt relief," Wenko said. "There's a seven-member board that reviews the applications. They make their recommendations and that's what we take to the commission for final approval."

Six of the most recent STAR Fund recipients are either building a new facility, purchasing their current space or adding on or improving their existing site. In addition, two of the projects have to do with quality-of-life ventures including the first ever XWA Air Show and the Guns N' Hoses Softball Game (Williston Police Department versus the Williston Fire Department). The Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) has also contributed to the community events.

"These quality-of-life projects add activities to the community of Williston and bring people from outside of town," Wenko said.

The CVB partnered with the STAR Fund to enhance two existing events. Williston Basin International Airport is expanding its annual fly-in breakfast to include an air

show while the Guns N' Hoses softball game is adding a concert featuring Bonfire: A Tribute to AC/DC after the sporting event.

"Anytime we do something like this, we are always looking for matching dollars. Kudos to the CVB because they stepped up to help fund these two events."

The XWA Air Show is scheduled September 11 at the Overland Aviation tarmac while the Guns N' Hoses softball game is set for August 27 at the Aafedt Stadium and parking lot.

"The STAR Fund will help add a little more excitement and ramp up these activities a bit," said Wenko.

The city commission and city administrator typically review the STAR Fund applications at the first commission meeting of each month. The following projects received STAR Fund grants in August:

Flex PACE Grants

Point Blank Metal Works: The existing fabrication and powder coat business is purchasing a permanent location. The business was awarded up to \$33,000.

Alphabet Academy: The established daycare is purchasing the building that they have been leasing. The business was awarded up to \$27,000.

Copro Doors: The established overhead door company is building a new office/shop. The business was allocated up to \$47,000 for the project.

Mini Match Grant Allocation

The STAR Fund Board requested an allocation of \$100,000 for the remainder of 2021. As of May, the original allocation of \$100,000 had already been expended.

Community Build Grants

XWA Air Show: XWA requested a Community Build Grant for \$25,000 for its first annual air show. The event will take place September 11. The CVB will provide matching funds.

Williston Convention and Visitors Bureau: The CVB requested up to \$5,000 to help defray expenses for a concert after the 52nd annual Guns N' Hoses softball game. The event will be held August 27.

Williston Council for the Aging/NW Dakota Public Transit: The applicant received up to \$40,000 from the Community Build program to add on to and enhance the Northwest Public Transit storage facility.

Mini Match Applications (approved by the City Administrator)

The Shopper: The Shopper received up to \$5,000 for its exterior renovations.

Gracefully Unique: The women's clothing and accessory startup received up to \$5,000. The business is located inside the Ebel Building.

Tiny Arrows Daycare: The daycare received up to \$5,000. The applicant has been a daycare provider since 2018.

Strike Zone: Strike Zone received up to replace the awning on the southside of their building.

The next STAR Fund meeting is Tuesday, September 7, 2021. If you would like to start, buy or expand a business in Williston, contact Keith Olson with the Small Business Development Center at 701-713-3839 or keith@ndsbdc.org.