

Most of Madison County's ARP funding still unspent

Government entities received \$55M to be spent by 2027

KEN DE LA BASTIDE
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — Madison County communities have received \$55 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds, but to date the majority remains unspent.

Madison County received \$25 million that has to be appropriated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

The county moved \$10 million of the federal funds to the unrestricted category that allows the money to be spent in a number of areas.

As of March 1, the Madison County Council has approved

allocations of \$7.2 million.

The county approved \$2.5 million for premium pay for county employees, \$3 million for four studies and \$1.7 million for the criminal justice system.

County officials are still working on the process to handle requests for funding from non-governmental entities.

The city of Anderson received \$23.1 million.

The Anderson City Council approved \$3 million for premium pay to employees and has set aside \$9 million for upgrades to the city's water system.

Currently committees

of city officials and local residents are reviewing applications for up to \$7.8 million.

The approved funding requests are expected to be announced in May.

The deadline for local businesses and not for profit organizations to apply for funding is April 13.

Greg Winkler, executive director of the Anderson Economic Development Department, said in early March that not many applications have been received.

"I'm encouraging local businesses and organizations to apply for funding," Winkler said. "It takes about three or four hours to complete the

application."

In their spending plan for the American Rescue Plan funds, city officials have allocated \$2.2 million for small business assistance, \$2.2 million for nonprofits, \$2,250,000 for homeowner assistance, \$2,250,000 for affordable housing and \$900,000 for homeless programs.

The administration of Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr. has earmarked \$575,000 for the Anderson Housing Authority project to renovate the Lincolnshire Apartments.

The city of Elwood is planning to spend the \$1.7 million in American Rescue Plan funds for infrastructure improvements in the city.

Mayor Todd Jones recently received approval to spend \$20,000 with the YMCA for improvements to the basketball court and water fountains.

The town of Pendleton has approved \$125,000 for the purchase of new patrol cars and \$130,000 for the purchase of body cams for the officers.

The town received \$910,000 in federal funds.

Alexandria received \$1 million and has not expended any of the funds, but plans to utilize them for the purchase of public safety equipment.

Budding businesses could be getting starter sites should the Entrepreneur Village project become reality.

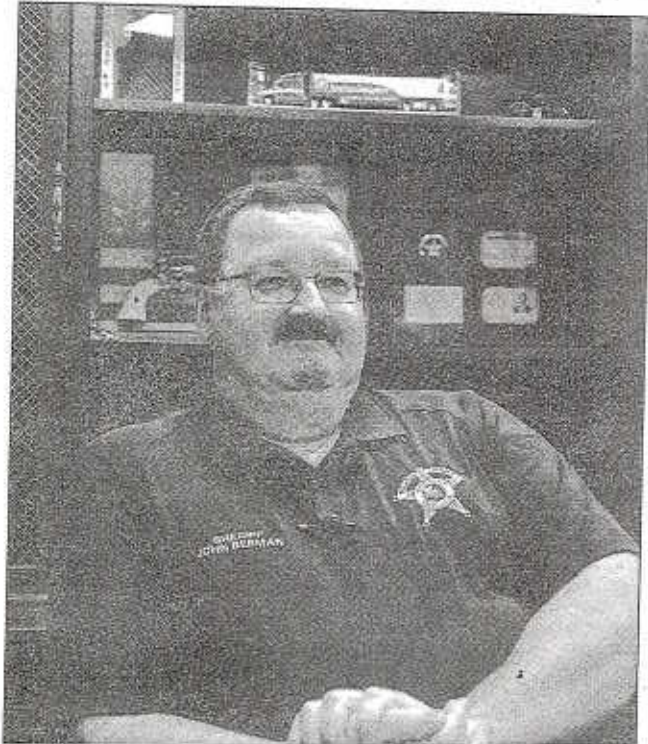
"About a year ago, Amy (McCurry) came up with

the idea of doing a 'pop up incubator' on the Broyle's lot (200 block of North Harrison Street, across from McCurry's Osity Shop)," said Alan Moore, Alexandria's director of economic development.

"There'd be little sheds where people could test if a business is going to work before going into a bigger shop."

McCurry prefers that funding would come from the city's American Rescue Plan funds, which are federal funds distributed to various entities, including cities, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Follow **Ken de la Bastide** on Twitter @KendelaBastide, or call 765-640-4863.



Timing was right for Beeman's candidacy

He is county's first Republican elected sheriff since 1978

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ANDERSON — Timing is everything and for Republican John Beeman last year was the perfect opportunity to seek an elective office.

Beeman, 57, retired from the U.S. Marshal's Service on Dec. 31, 2021 and filed to seek the Republican Party nomination for sheriff on the first day of filing for the 2022 primary election.

He defeated Anthony Emery and Kim Stigall in the primary election and went on to

of Elwood and graduated from Madison-Grant High School in 1984. He served four years in the U.S. Army and then graduated from Ball State University in 1991 with a degree in Criminal Justice.

"I was always interested in law enforcement," he said from his office in the administrative wing of the Sheriff's Department.

Beeman worked part-time in the Marshal's Service while attending Ball State in Fort Wayne.

At the time he worked 39 hours per week and attended the academy in 1992.

Beeman worked in Fort Wayne until 2006 in the war on drugs and organized crime.

He oversaw the operations in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan

Beeman said there are a lot of challenges facing the office, the biggest being the construction of a new jail.

saw how local jails were being operated.

"I thought I could bring a different perspective," he said.

Beeman said he considered running for Madison County Sheriff in 2021.

Because of the Hatch Act that prohibits federal employees from being involved in politics, he was not active in the local Republican Party.

"It was a big step," Beeman said of running for sheriff. "There was a lot of discussions with my family before I jumped into the fray."

He said there are a lot of challenges facing the office, the biggest being the construction of a new jail in Madison County.

Beeman has been married to his wife, Rhonda, for 28 years and the couple has two sons.

John P. Beeman, 22, is currently serving in the military and has applied for a position with the U.S. Marshals Service.

Ethan, 18, is a student at Ivy Tech Community College.

Beeman was a coach and instructor with 4-H for 12 years; and a coach with the