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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
 DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES

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July 7, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court

and

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
 and the Honorable Executive Council
 State House
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, requests authorization to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) in the amount of \$4,045,000 for the purpose of improving the historic sites visited by the public within our state park system, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approvals through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ARP FRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(A) to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in the following account: 03-35-35-351510-24XXXXXX - ARPA Grant
Historic Sites

Class-Account	Class Description	FY23 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	Revised FY23 Adjusted Authorized
000-400338-16	Federal Funds		\$4,045,000	\$4,045,000
	Total Revenue	\$0	\$4,045,000	\$4,045,000
020-500200	Current Expenses		\$20,955	\$20,955
022-500255	Rents-Leases Other Than Sta		\$10,000	\$10,000
030-500311	Equipment New Replacement		\$60,000	\$60,000
040-500800	Indirect Costs		\$10,000	\$10,000
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside		\$4,045	\$4,045
048-500226	Contractual Maint Build-Grn		\$3,900,000	\$3,900,000
103-502664	Contracts For Op Services		\$40,000	\$40,000
	Total Expenses	\$0	\$4,045,000	\$4,045,000

All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH3503A-K and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602PH3503Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

EXPLANATION

The NH State Parks system, Bureau of Historic Sites is responsible for the stewardship and operation of sixteen dedicated Historic Sites. These sites include buildings, landscapes, collections and stories that speak to and educate the public about what makes New Hampshire special. All of these sites draw people from around the world helping to fuel the engines of local economies, while at the same time providing nearly fifty seasonal jobs to NH citizens. Although the regional and national significance of these resources is widely known and appreciated, they have not received any significant investment since the mid-1960's. Currently, the only stewardship resources available for these sites is through the Department's annual Moose Plate allocation, which only covers basic maintenance. Due to much higher demand for the experiences these sites offer year-round, both recreational and educational, much greater infrastructure and life safety investment is needed.

2023 marks the 400th anniversary of New Hampshire's 1623 settlement of Portsmouth. As a result, specific improvements at the State's Seacoast historic sites are a near term priority in order to time renovations and improvements with what will likely be a well celebrated and tourist-focused occasion with many local economic benefits. Approval of this request would enable investment in projects at various Seacoast sites, such as Fort Stark, Fort Constitution, the White Island Lighthouse, and the Wentworth Coolidge Mansion. Example projects at these sites include addressing safety concerns, HVAC needs, masonry repairs, interior and exterior remodeling or maintenance, and accessibility improvements.

In an effort to help address needs at our historic sites across the State, this funding would also enable investment in historic structures at Weeks State Park, Rhododendron State Park, The Northern Rail Trail at the Garish Depot, Taylor Sawmill, Fox Forest, and the Nansen Ski Jump. Example projects at these sites include addressing ADA accessibility issues, visitor center improvements, property management efficiencies, structural renovations, interior remediation, and more.

Moreover, funding would also be utilized to improve and expand upon interpretive signage at historic sites across the state.

These investments are geographically diverse, from the Seacoast to Fitzwilliam and from Derry to Milan, with Lancaster, Allenstown, Hillsborough, and Boscawen in between. The Department also feel these projects align with the Bureau of Historic Sites mission and responsibilities.

This \$4,045,000 request to invest in the Department's Historic Sites has been generated with estimates for projects highlighted above. These projects are subject to procurement standards, and because of the pandemic and supply chain issues, project costs may come in higher than initially estimated. Some strategic decisions may have to be made to allocate the \$4,045,000 among the projects listed above to achieve maximum impact and achievement.

The following appropriation authorities are being requested:

Class 020 – Current Expenses – supplies purchased to support project implementation

Class 022 – Rents – Leases of Equipment – For costs related to renting of equipment and machinery that may be used to support maintenance efforts

Class 030 – Equipment – Equipment purchased to be used on site to complete project

Class 040 – Indirect Costs – Rate of 13.17 on Est salaries

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside – at a rate of .001%

Class 048 – Contractual Maintenance Buildings and Grounds – Maintenance projects as outlined to be contracted.

Class 103 – Contracts for Ops Services - Projects for other operational services needed to support maintenance project efforts

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support these expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner