

Falls City to seek ARPA funds for additional power source

(KLZA)-- The Falls City Council Monday night approved a proposal from Lucas Froeschl, the Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise Executive Director to make an attempt to acquire ARPA funds to build a second electrical transmission line to Falls City.

Froeschl said the state of Nebraska has millions of dollars in ARPA funds to be made available for projects in the state.

Froeschl says the proposal needs to be submitted to the Nebraska Legislatures Appropriations Committee during the session that begins January 3.

It was also noted that such a project would fit in the guidelines for use of the funds lined out by Governor Pete Ricketts which is for one-time only projects.

Senator Slama, OPPD and the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool are all on board for Falls City to submit a request for funding for an additional electrical transmissionline.

The new line would not be for power to serve residents of Falls City, but would be available to potential new industries and businesses wanting to build new or expand in the community. Currently Falls City has only two - three meggawats of power that is not currently utilized.

Froeschl also noted there could be other funds available to help with such a project including \$50-million allotted through the Rural Projects Act for non-profits like EDGE that want to build business railparks.

It has been noted in the past that Omaha Public Power District will not build another service line to Falls City to provide additional electric power unless there is an existing need for the extra power. The flip side of the coin is that industries that look at Falls City as a potential location, won't locate in the community if there is not sufficient power available for their business.

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