



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Jennifer
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Wortz
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
City of Bronson
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
141 S. Matteson St. Bronson, MI 49028
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
n/a
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Jennifer Wortz 35
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The purpose of this legislatively directed spending request is to replace the aging ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system at the City of Bronson's wastewater treatment facility. The current system, a Trojan 3000 model installed in 1993, is well beyond its intended lifespan. Parts are increasingly difficult to source, and the control panel, critical for automated system operation, was recently disabled by a lightning strike. As a result, the system is currently being operated manually based on fecal coliform test results, which introduces public health risks and regulatory compliance concerns.

This funding request seeks to support the installation of a modern, energy-efficient UV disinfection system that will restore automated control, enhance reliability, and ensure consistent disinfection of treated effluent. The new system will help the city meet or exceed state and federal water quality standards, protect the environment, and improve public health outcomes.

Public Benefit

Replacing the outdated UV system will directly benefit public health, the local environment, and the quality of life for residents. A new system will ensure safe, continuous wastewater treatment by reliably removing harmful pathogens before effluent is released into local waterways. This is particularly critical for protecting recreational water use, aquatic ecosystems, and downstream communities.

Moreover, public utilities like Bronson's wastewater system are essential to ensuring equitable access to critical services for all residents, regardless of income or background. These grant funds will help offset capital costs and keep sewer rates more affordable for households and small businesses. The City of Bronson is already designated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) as a significantly overburdened community, reflecting the economic challenges our residents face. Without assistance, the financial burden of essential infrastructure upgrades would continue to fall disproportionately on ratepayers.

High utility rates can also discourage business development and hinder economic growth. Making targeted investments in public infrastructure, particularly when paired with grant support, essential for helping Bronson to remain competitive and attractive to potential employers.

Commitment to Infrastructure Investment

This project is part of a broader, strategic effort by the city to modernize and sustain its wastewater system. Bronson has already committed \$2.6 million for Phase 1 of a major inflow and infiltration (I&I) reduction initiative in its collection system. This project, scheduled for completion in October 2025, includes lining and grouting, manhole rehabilitation, and point repairs to significantly reduce groundwater and stormwater intrusion into the sanitary system, an essential step toward ensuring long-term system health and efficiency, while also addressing the City's Administrative Consent Order (ACO).

Additionally, the city is in the design phase for the construction of two new lift stations, with construction anticipated to be completed by fall of 2026. These lift stations are critical components of the wastewater network and will improve system performance, redundancy, and resiliency.

Responsible Use of Taxpayer Funding

This funding request represents a responsible and forward-thinking use of taxpayer dollars. It addresses an urgent need within an essential public utility, ensures environmental and health protection, and supports economic equity by limiting rate increases for a financially vulnerable population. By investing in system-wide upgrades now, with the help of state and federal resources, Bronson is taking proactive steps to ensure reliable, modern wastewater service for current and future generations—without placing undue financial strain on its citizens.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

608970

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

April 2026-July 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes