

## Sections

**TEXARKANA, Ark. — The city Advertising and Promotion Commission on Wednesday allocated more than \$411,000 in taxpayer funds to 23 local organizations with the goal of helping bring visitors — and the economic stimulus they bring with them — to town.**

**It was the first annual distribution since 2019 of the 3% hotel tax and 2% restaurant tax the Commission collects and controls, after it canceled any funding awards last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**During a four-hour meeting Wednesday, dozens of organizations made their pitches to the Commission, which then voted on how much each would receive. It was the culmination of an application process that included providing the Commission with financial and other information such as plans for the money and whether organizations have nonprofit status.**

**Funding requests topped \$1 million, but the Commission awarded only about 38% of that total. Seven organizations making requests received no funding.**

**The largest award was \$142,000, about 35% of the total given out, to the city Parks and Recreation Department for new lighting at ball fields. Parks and Rec also got \$25,000 for the new recreation center on Legion Drive and \$58,300 for general facilities improvements.**

**On the other end of the scale, the Arkansas Red River Welcome Center received \$450.**

**The Commission does not not make cash disbursements but reimburses organizations for the projects and other spending it has approved.**