



MEMO TO: Mayor Cerkenik and Board of Trustees

FROM: Sarah Catanzarite, Assistant Town Manager

DATE: February 18th, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Fraser Business Enhancement Grant Applications

Matter before the Board:

Approval of Fraser Business Enhancement Grant Applications for funding.

Background:

The Fraser Business Enhancement Grant program is intended to support current businesses and improve the economic vitality of Fraser by encouraging enhancements to the physical appearance of business properties, improvements of public infrastructure, amenities and gathering places, and increased ADA accessibility. Maximum grant awards are \$25,000 with a required match (minimum 50% of project total).

Applicant Eligibility:

- Must own or lease the commercial property slated for improvements
- Properties must be within Fraser's Riverwalk or Business Districts or in a commercial/mixed-use planned development
- Home occupations and standalone residences are not eligible
- Applicant must be in good standing with the Town, including required licenses
- Tenants must have written consent from property owners
- Single application may be submitted for multiple spaces or properties for a particular scope of work

Eligible Projects:

ADA improvements, publicly displayed art, landscaping and streetscape improvements, exterior decorations, building façade improvements/renovations, painting, signage, awnings, cornices, sidewalks, exterior lighting, gathering spaces, public amenities, patios, or other related exterior improvements

Ineligible Projects:

- New building construction, property acquisition, refinancing, interior remodels expansion, equipment, or fixtures (apart from ADA accessibility improvements)
- Residential properties or home occupations (unless part of a qualifying mixed-use property)
- Completed projects or costs incurred before grant approval

Evaluation Criteria:

Improvements that provide the most public benefit will be prioritized. This includes projects that increase ADA accessibility, provide gathering spaces and amenities for public use,



improve public infrastructure, and/ or contribute to the beautification and uniqueness of Fraser.

Fraser Business Enhancement Grants are considered as part of a competitive process and awarded at the sole discretion of the Fraser Board of Trustees. If an application is approved, grant funds are provided upon project completion and submission of certification of project expenses. All projects should be completed within the calendar year the award is granted, unless a written request for an extension to complete the project is received and approved. The grantee may be subject to receiving a Form 1099 under the Internal Revenue Service and therefore must fill out a W-9 form. All projects must comply with applicable laws, ordinances, building codes, and zoning requirements.

Application Submissions and Review:

7 applications were submitted by the February 1st priority deadline. The grant review committee included DiAnn Butler (Grand County Economic Development), Abbey Samuelson (DDA Board member, business owner, resident), Bill Palmer (DDA Board member, business owner, resident), Sarah Catanzarite (staff) and Garrett Scott (staff). The committee met February 3rd to review the applications. All applications were deemed to meet eligibility requirements. They were scored on the merits of project readiness, applicant's prior funding/ grant compliance, and community benefit. The accompanying Resolution includes the list of recommended awards based on the committee's evaluation.

Notes:

- The Public Arts Committee is planning to designate the Black Tie Ski Rental building for the Mural Fest mural commission so that request has been removed from the applications presented to the Board (will be funded by PAC).
- The committee recommended that Zerex 40 LLC (Fraser Post Office Building Façade Renovations Project) be awarded \$50,000 of the \$75,000 requested, based on the US Post Office and Fraser Winter Park Tire and Auto being located within the building to be improved.
- All awards will be subject to meeting outlined grant requirements including obtaining required permits.

Recommendation:

- Approval of Business Enhancement Grant applications is at the full discretion of the Board of Trustees. Town staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve award



amounts in line with the recommendations of the Business Enhancement Review Committee though the Board may choose to make their own determinations in the case of some or all awards. The Board may consider including certain conditions on grant awards such as improved ADA compliance in the case of the Post Office Building or requiring dark sky compliance for lighting and electronic signage.

Appendixes:

Resolution No. 2026-02-02

Business Enhancement Grant Applications Summary

Business Enhancement Grant Applications