

Downtown Building Improvement Eligibility

Program Purpose Statement:

The City of Fort Scott Downtown Building Improvement Grant is to serve as an incentive for full occupancy of buildings in the Historic District by assisting building owners with the financial burden of maintaining and improving the structures.

Eligibility:

- Properties listed in the Fort Scott Downtown Historic District (both contributing and non-contributing).
- At the time of application, all taxes, fees or other debts owed to the City by the applicant or building owner are paid up-to-date.*
- The City will dedicate \$30,000 for this program from the Economic Development Budget.
- Grants will be made on a maximum of two buildings per calendar year per owner.
- Eligibility is not retroactive.
- The Grant Committee will evaluate the program on an annual basis to determine if any changes to the guidelines are needed.

Qualifying improvements:

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Windows
- Doors
- HVAC
- Structural
- Code Footprint required for occupancy permit
- Building Inspections (potential buyer may apply with written consent by the property owner)
**excludes potential buyer*
- Historic Renovation and Rehabilitation
- Safety (i.e. entry/exit signage, emergency lighting, smoke detection)
- Energy efficiency improvements considered upon request

Terms:

- Grant monies will fund 50% of a qualifying improvement project, up to the amount of a building's current, annual property taxes.
- Grant monies will fund 100% of building inspection or code footprint costs up to the amount of a building's current, annual property taxes.

Application Procedure:

1. Before construction begins, the applicant shall obtain at the City of Fort Scott a Downtown Building Improvement Grant Application from the Director of Economic Development, and the appropriate permit from the Code Department.
2. The applicant shall be responsible for submitting a copy of any permit along with the completed and signed application to the Director of Economic Development.
3. A Grant Committee, consisting of the Code' and Director of Economic Development, will review the application and provide the applicant with an approval letter for grant funds.
4. It is required that the project commences within 30 days, and complete within 12 months of grant pre-approval date.
5. Upon completion of the project, the applicant shall notify the Code Director for review of work and provide copies of itemized project invoices and receipts to the Director of Economic Development for reimbursement.
6. The Director of Economic Development will disburse grant monies to the applicant.