



# Press Release

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## Commission approves investing more than \$7 million in water projects for rural Washington County

The Water Task Force identified fourteen projects with its municipal partners and the need for a work crew to assist with the completion of several projects.

An exact funding source for the projects will be determined in the future. Potential funding could include U.S. Department of Agriculture grants or loans, general obligation bonds or American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Water projects are approved under the current guidance from the federal government, but that guidance has yet to be finalized. The projects would serve an estimated 323 households.

Since the County does not have its own water system, it relies on the City of Kingsport, the City of Johnson City and the Town of Jonesborough to provide and maintain water lines throughout the county. All three municipal water providers selected projects that could be committed within 48 months to meet the guidelines of ARPA.

Projects Approved by the Water Task Force, Public Works and Budget that are headed to the full Commission, and each municipality's respective board, are as follows:

**City of Kingsport:** Deakins Road, Double Springs Road and Hunt Road

**City of Johnson City:** Grassy Valley Road, Bill Bennett Road, Hartmantown Road and Pleasant Valley Road.

**Town of Jonesborough:** Greenwood Drive (East and West), Dry Creek Road, portions of Highway 81 South, Ralph Hoss Road, Treadway Trail, Malone Hollow and Bill Cox Roads, and the east end of Saylor Hill Road.

Additionally, Taylor Bridge was discussed previously and the county has applied for a Community Development Block Grant for that particular project.

The proposal from the Water Task Force also includes the creation of a work crew, funded by the County, to assist with the installation of water projects.