LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM

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LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM AWARDED GRANT TO STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE ELECTRIC GRID

Lafayette, LA– Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) has been awarded **$3,982,500** in federal Section 40101(d) grid resiliency grant funding to strengthen and modernize the LUS electric system. Matched with local utility funds for a total investment of nearly **$8 million**, this award marks the first federal electric resiliency grant secured by LUS. This major capital investment reinforces LUS's commitment as a publicly owned utility to deliver high-quality, reliable service while directly supporting the community's infrastructure needs.

While LUS routinely performs daily electric system maintenance, system upgrades, and grid improvements, securing this outside funding allows LUS to fast-track targeted projects that were originally slated for long-term capital plans. Instead of completing these upgrades in multi-year phases using solely local funds, LUS can immediately condense implementation timelines to enhance system-wide reliability.

The combined $8 million investment will fund targeted system upgrades designed to increase grid resiliency, improve service quality, and shorten response times during severe weather events. Key capital initiatives include:

- **Infrastructure Hardening:** Replacing aging wooden poles with high-durability structures and updating overhead distribution lines to strengthen physical grid integrity.
- **Grid Automation & Modernization:** Installing automated technology to enable real-time outage detection, allowing LUS dispatchers and restoration crews to pinpoint and resolve power outages faster.
- **Essential Service Protection:** Fortifying power circuits that supply key municipal, public health and public safety, and business facilities to maintain continuous service during emergency events and to enhance and continue commerce.

"This funding means a stronger, more reliable electric system, faster response when outages happen, and better protection for the critical services Lafayette depends on," said **Lafayette Mayor-President Monique B. Boulet.** "By securing outside funding, we're able to move these important infrastructure projects forward faster while making every local dollar go further."

"These system hardening and resiliency projects were already identified in our long-term capital plan," said **LUS Director Jeffrey Stewart.** "Securing this grant funding allows us to stretch our local dollars

further, get these critical electric updates off the ground much faster, and improve our overall response times for LUS customers."

LUS Mission Statement: As a publicly owned utilities system, we provide high quality, competitively priced services that exceed our customers' expectations and contribute to the Consolidated Government to support other community needs.

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