



2016-2017 Graham Business Beautification Grant

The Business Beautification Grant is a matching grant program funded by the City of Graham to encourage private investment in the renovation and rehabilitation of existing properties along the city's corridors. The program will provide financial assistance in the form of a grant to non-residential property owners for the purpose of improving the street-side appearance of their existing buildings and site features. The goal is to enhance the city's corridor appearance and achieve compliance with current regulations where necessary.

The Graham City Council has budgeted \$15,000.00 for the *Business Beautification Grant*.

Application Process

- Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis and processed by the City of Graham Appearance Commission.

Award Criteria

- The Graham Appearance Commission will determine grant awards based on an on-site evaluation and a criteria established by the Commission.
- Project scope, cost and proposed building elevations/materials and site improvements must be approved by the city prior to final award determination.
- Only one (1) award will be made per owner or tenant within a twelve-month period, per platted lot.
- First-time applications will be given priority.
- Projects are funded on a 50-50 matching basis up to a maximum \$5,000 per award.
- Applicant agrees to maintain all improvements in "like new" condition for a period of five (5) years after completion of the work or until property is sold.

Eligibility

- Applicants may be either owners or current tenants (must provide owner's written consent) of existing non-residentially-developed properties fronting on a roadway corridor within the city limits or ETJ of Graham.
- Current or proposed use of the property must conform to applicable zoning regulations. Non-conforming uses will *not* be considered.
- Applicant shall not have any outstanding debt to the city.

Eligible Expenses

- Site work eligible for funding includes but is not limited to:
 - installation of public or handicap accessible sidewalks
 - signage
 - landscaping.
 - removal of non-conforming or illegal site elements such as signage.
- All contractor expenses incurred by the applicant for material and labor *are* eligible for reimbursement.
- The finished product must match the drawings and materials submitted by the applicant and be approved by the city in order to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Partial or incomplete work will *not* be eligible for reimbursement.

Reimbursement

- Submission of completed work must be received by the City of Graham no later than close of business on June 1, 2017.
- Reimbursement will be made by the city within forty-five (45) days after completion of the project and city approval of applicant's written request for reimbursement.