



2019-2020 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 **must be submitted by 5PM on September 30, 2019** to the City of Graham Planning Department, attn: Alexa Powell, PO Drawer 357, 201 South Main Street, Graham, NC 27253 or by email at planner@cityofgraham.com.
- Applications will be reviewed and processed by the Graham Appearance Commission at their meeting on October 21, 2019 at 6:30PM at City Hall 201 S. Main Street, Graham, NC 27253. Applicants are highly encouraged to attend this meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have about their project.

Award Criteria

- The Graham Appearance Commission will determine grant awards based on an on-site evaluation and the [scoring matrix](#) 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. Nonconforming uses will *not* be considered.
- Applicant shall not have any outstanding debt to the City.
- Projects located in the Graham Downtown Historic District must receive an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the work submitted in this application prior to the Appearance Commission meeting in which these grant funds will be awarded (October 21).

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 **May 1, 2020**.
- 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.

This program is administered by the City of Graham's Appearance Commission and Planning Department (336)570-6705



2019-2020 Business Beautification Grant Program Application

Property Information <i>(Please type or print clearly)</i>	Applicant Information <i>(Please type or print clearly)</i>
Street Address:	Name:
Tax Parcel ID#:	Phone Number:
Owner's Name:	Email:
Use of Building:	Relationship to Property <i>(check one)</i> :
Business Name <i>(if applicable)</i> :	Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant/Business Owner <input type="checkbox"/>

Description of Proposed Improvement

Write a brief description below and attach 1) an existing photo of the project area; 2) a drawing, sketch or picture of the proposed improvement. **(Please type or print clearly)**

Total Estimated Cost *(lowest bid quote)*: \$_____ Attach at least two itemized cost estimates from vendors/contractors for proposed work.

2019-2020 Business Beautification Grant Program Application

I [have / have not *If you answered "Have", please state from what source, amount and date of award.*

Checklist for a Complete Application

- I have read the City of Graham *Business Beautification Grant Program* overview and fully understand the agreement.
- I have met with the City Building Inspector. My project [does / does not - The owner's written and signed permission is attached, if applicant is not owner. (Not applicable)
- An existing picture of the project area and a drawing, sketch and/or picture of the proposed improvement are/is attached.
- At least two itemized project cost estimates are attached.
- If located in the Graham Historic District, I have received Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) approval for the work submitted in this application prior to the Appearance Commission meeting in which these grant funds will be awarded (October 21).

I understand that the City of Graham *Business Beautification Grant Program* must be used in the manner described in this application, and the application must be approved by the Graham Appearance Commission prior to commencement of any project.

I understand that failure to comply with the approved application may result in a forfeiture of all grant funds.

I understand that failure to complete the project by **May 1, 2020** will result in the forfeiture of all grant funds.

Applicant Signature

Date