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SELMA LITTLE LEAGUE RECEIVES FUNDING BOOST AS SEASON APPROACHES



In a decision that brought smiles to young athletes and relief to parents, the Selma City Council approved a \$1,500 donation to the Selma Little League on March 4, 2025. The funding will help cover the costs of essential equipment, just in time for the upcoming baseball season, which kicks off on March 22.

Little League officials expressed their gratitude, noting that the organization had been struggling financially. According to representatives, the league started the season with just over \$4,100 in its account—barely enough to cover operating expenses. Compounding the issue, their storage facility suffered from a pest infestation, destroying helmets, first-aid kits, and other vital equipment.

"With more kids signing up, we're growing, but that also means more expenses," said Michelle Roque, the league's secretary. "We needed help, and we're grateful the [city council](#) stepped up."

The approved funding will go toward purchasing new catcher's gear, gloves, and other equipment, allowing players to start the season fully equipped. However, some council members noted that Little League and other youth sports organizations often face financial struggles, leading to questions about whether the city should have a more structured



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approach to funding such programs.

In past years, Selma's Parks and [Community](#) Services Commission had the ability to allocate up to \$2,500 in discretionary funding for youth programs, but it's unclear when or why that policy changed. [Council members suggested revisiting the city's](#) budget to determine whether a dedicated funding source for youth sports could be established, ensuring that leagues don't have to seek emergency funding each year.

Beyond financial support, the discussion also emphasized the importance of community involvement. Council members encouraged residents and local [businesses](#) to donate, sponsor teams, or volunteer their time to support youth athletics. Some even offered to share fundraising strategies that have helped similar leagues in nearby cities stay afloat.

For now, the immediate crisis has been resolved, and [Selma's](#) young athletes can look forward to a fully equipped and exciting baseball season. But the larger question remains: Should the [city create a more structured plan](#) for funding youth sports in the future?