

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between _____ and Hidalgo County, Texas.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

THIS CONTRACT made on the ___ day of _____, by and between the COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS, hereafter called County, and the City of _____, TEXAS, a municipal corporation/non-incorporated area hereinafter called CITY/ENTITY, is made under the authority of Chapter 791.001, Texas Government Code to be effective on the _____ day of _____, 2009.

City/Entity and County are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Government Code 791.001 et seq., which authorizes local governments to contract with each other to perform Governmental functions under the terms of the Act.

1.0 TERMS

- 1.1 This contract shall be for a period commencing on _____, and shall terminate on December 31, 2009.
- 1.2 After December 31, 2009, this Contract, unless terminated as provided elsewhere shall be renewed on a month-to-month basis until re-negotiated by mutual consent of both parties.
- 1.3 Either party has the option to terminate this Contract by written notification, sixty (60) days prior to cancellation.
- 1.4 The Rural Emergency Service Incident Report (Exhibit "A") form must be utilized as part of the monthly report submitted to the County Fire Marshal or his designee.
- 1.5 Any modifications to invoices shall be approved by both parties. Denial of any reimbursement shall be made within ten (10) working days after receipt of such invoice by the County Fire Marshal. Invoices which are approved shall be paid no later than thirty (thirty) days upon receipt of invoice by County. ³⁰

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 AUTHORIZED BURNING** – any incident that requires the City/Entity non-emergency response at the Fire Marshal's request to supervise and manage a controlled burn. This does not preclude the property owner from making direct arrangements with the City/Entity for the supervision. Property owner must have in their possession a valid burn permit issued by the Fire Marshal and any other State or Federal authority, adequate equipment and resources on the property to deal with any contingencies.
- 2.2 BEE ATTACK** – Any response to a situation where there is an on-going attack or a recent attack that requires first responder entrance into the immediate scene to rescue any person(s); or where there is an immediate danger to the general public from a moving swarm.
- 2.3 CATEGORY** – All responses shall be categorized in a category that will be enumerated as I, II, III, IV, V, and VI. Categories are designed to simplify reporting, queries and reimbursement requests.
- 2.4 COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL** – the person appointed by the Commissioners Court who is responsible for the administration of fire investigations, fire safety inspections, and fire prevention activities, administration of the Rural Emergency Services Contract and enforcement of the most recently adopted International Fire Code. This is a licensed peace officer position and includes any Deputy Fire Marshal.
- 2.5 CITY/ENTITY** - Parent organization for Fire Department whose members are full time, part time, paid or unpaid volunteers, and for the purposes of this contract includes any elements from any public works department that are requested or deployed to assist with the suppression, control or extinguishment of a fire.
- 2.6 EMERGENCY SERVICES** – call for services provided by the City/Entity in rural and un-incorporated areas within Hidalgo County.
- 2.7 FIRE DEPARTMENT** - any fire suppression based organization whose members are paid, volunteer, or any combination thereof, that has the capability, capacity, training and ability to respond to emergency situation.
- 2.8 COUNTY FIRE INVESTIGATORS** – Those officers designated as such, by the County Fire Marshal that are responsible for all duties which may be assigned by the County Fire Marshal.
- 2.9 DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL** – Those officers designated and commissioned as peace officers by the County Fire Marshal that are responsible for all duties which may be assigned by the County Fire Marshal.

2.10 ELECTRICAL – pertaining to or operated by electricity, electrical current used or regarded as a source of energy and/or power.

2.11 EMERGENCY CALL – any request for assistance from a City/Entity, primary or secondary, that requires the use of visual and/or audible emergency notification equipment in its' response. The discretion of the use of the visual/audible equipment shall be within the rules and regulations and/or policies and procedures of the responding fire department.

2.12 EXPLOSION – the sudden loud release of energy and a rapidly expanding volume of gas that occurs when a bomb detonates or gas explodes; a bursting with a loud noise, or a shattering of something into many pieces; a loud noise that occurs suddenly.

2.13 False Alarm – The willful and knowing initiation or transmission of a signal, message, or other notification of an event of fire when not such danger exists.

2.14 FALSE ALARM CALL - Any emergency response to a mischievous or malicious call; or fire alarm system malfunction that require fire personnel to investigate the scene or incident to make a determination as to whether or not there is a fire. If there are two or more alarms at the same location for the same reason, and from the same source, the responding City/Entity must notify the Fire Marshal by the next working date, so the property owner may be notified. The Fire Marshal shall notify the property owner and/or alarm company that any future response may result in a Class C Misdemeanor citation to the person responsible for maintaining the alarm.

2.15 FIRE ALARM – The giving, signaling or transmission to any public fire station, or company, or to any officer or employee thereof, whether by telephone, spoken word or otherwise, of information to the effect that there is a fire at or near the place indicated by the person giving, signaling, or transmitting such information.

2.16 FIREFIGHTING – Any working fire upon arrival, that involves any structure - standing or collapsed and smoldering; an explosion with or without fire, a petroleum based fire; any fire that is fueled by natural vegetation, including brush or grass; any fire involving rubbish that encompasses an area greater than one-half acres or one-half city block measured at 150'x 150'.

2.17 GOOD INTENT CALLS – Any emergency call response where fire personnel were summoned, but were not required to deal with the incident, there was no actual incident, where no actual services, investigation, or standby was rendered or needed. Response to this type of call must come through a dispatch point.

2.18 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT – any response to any incident at the first responder level, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency and/or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and includes, hazardous material containment, i.e. fuel spills, from any vehicle, including motor vehicles, trains, motorcycle or aircraft.

2.19 ICS – Incident Command System, as defined by the National Incident Management System.

2.20 INCORPORATED AREA - any area(s) within Hidalgo County that exist at time of execution thereof, and as they may be amended by reasons of annexation and/or de-annexation of property by any respective city.

2.21 LANDING ZONE – Any response where the sole purpose is to establish and assist in providing any helicopter landing zone.

2.22 LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE – any non-fire assistance rendered any law enforcement agency, and includes, but is not limited to – vehicle recovery (water), traffic control, crowd control, and “standing-by” for any situation in pursuance of a law enforcement mission.

2.23 MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT – all emergency rescues and/or recovery of victims, eight (8) victims or more, from any major incident or accident, i.e. aircraft, any passenger transportation bus, regardless of cause, building collapse, or assembly area.

2.24 MEDICAL CALL – In an emergency situation, under exigent circumstances, where there is a delayed response by the contracted EMS provider and the situation dictates immediate medical attention due to the delay by the EMS provider. It does not include immediate first aid to stabilize a victim at a scene, when already on scene. This section is not to be construed as a reimbursement plan for a fire-based department that operates an emergency medical service (EMS) otherwise covered by any other contracts that are already in place.

2.25 MUTUAL AID – Situations where a City/Entity is requested to assist another City/Entity to perform any emergency services pursuant to the provisions of Section IV or an emergency situation where a primary responding City/Entity requests assistance from another City/Entity or Department.

2.26 MUTUAL AID – A Primary City/Entity response to an emergency event where the situation is of such magnitude, either upon arrival or during the actual response, that the primary city/entity must declare a multiple alarm and request response from one or more Secondary City/Entity(s) and such assistance is necessary to control, extinguish, or otherwise assist with the response., this includes any element of public works that is called upon to help achieve the objective. Each Secondary City/Entity summoned and that responds is eligible to receive the rate of pay as the primary city/entity. The Fire Chief or designee, for the Primary City/Entity must submit written documentation detailing the reason for a multiple alarm. The call for additional resources made by the Primary City/Entity from the Secondary City/Entity may be based on the extenuating circumstances, and may be made by the on-scene incident commander, and must go through a dispatch point with approval from the most senior officer that is on duty for the City/Entity. The Fire Marshal and/or Emergency Management Coordinator may authorize and/or request mutual aid at any time whether or not on-scene, when the request is made directly to them.

2.27 NATURAL VEGETATION – The plants of an area or region, collectively – any plant life, present in or produced by nature, whether growing or not. Fuel for a wild-land or grass fire.

2.28 NIMS – National Incident Management System

2.29 OPERATIONAL PERIOD – 12 hour standard as recognized by the National Incident Management system.

2.30 PETROLEUM BASED INCIDENT – any incident or fire whose main fuel source includes propane, natural gas, liquefied gas, crude or refined oil or any other petroleum based product that may be used or processed as fuel or as a precursor for fuel. It also includes any storage container, conveyance of said product, whether by motor vehicle, pipeline or any other type of transport medium.

2.31 PETROLEUM BASED INCIDENT STANDBY – where the response is for valve shut off / capping at or before the source and/or to stand-by for utility company response.

2.32 PRIMARY CITY – the City/Entity who is a party to this contract with the County that is assigned to respond as the lead fire-based response agency to an area where the emergency occurred as per Section II, Paragraph A, of this contract. This may be based on geographical assignments or capability.

2.33 PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSE – Any incident response that requires operational support elements from what is commonly referred to as Public Works, to respond to an emergency situation, to help mitigate, control, or otherwise facilitate the overall response. This response may only be requested and authorized by the on-scene Incident Commander through the Fire Marshal or County Emergency Management Coordinator.

2. 34 RECOVERY CALL – Body - Any recovery of a drowning victim from any body of water.

2.35 REIMBURSEMENT PLAN – method by which a City/Entity is reimbursed by the County for emergency services rendered in any rural area within Hidalgo County.

2.36 REGIONAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM – response to any special situation to provide medical assistance and support for any first responder regardless of discipline. Any response for mass casualty incident to assist with medical triage or treatments of victims.

2.37 RESCUE CALLS – Any emergency rescue of person(s) in water. Any emergency rescue or extrication of person(s) from any enclosed area, i.e. elevators, building collapse, confined rescue, etc.

2.38 RESPONSE AREA – the geographical area assigned to the City/Entity within the rural areas of the County, wherein the respective City/Entity would be responsible for primary response to an emergency call for service.

2.39 RUBBISH – trash, garbage, or other unwanted things, and includes any tangible item discarded, collected, or recycled.

2.40 RURAL AREA – any non-incorporated areas within Hidalgo County, as they exist at the time of execution thereof, and as they may be amended by reasons of annexation and/or de-annexation of property by any respective city or any incorporated area within Hidalgo County that does not provide it's own emergency services or response.

2.41 RURAL RESPONSE DISTRICT – The area designated for the respective Primary City/Entity for emergency response within a delineated geographical area as depicted and described in Exhibit "B", attached hereof. The rural response district may be amended from time to time pursuant to Section III, Subsection B.

2.42 SEARCH and RESCUE CALLS – all rescues of person(s) whether living or dead, from water, high angle, confined space, or all rescue/extrication of person(s) from entanglement, entrapment, enclosed areas, elevators, building collapse, recovery of victim(s), i.e. drowning, heat exhaustion, etc.

2.43 SECONDARY CITY – the City/Entity who is a party to a cooperative agreement with the County and is assigned or requested to respond to assist the primary city in any type of emergency response to an area where the emergency occurred as per Section III, Subsection B of this contract. The response may occur anywhere within the County and may be based on geographical assignment or capability.

2.44 SERVICE CALLS – any call involving unauthorized burning, smoke scare, mischievous or malicious calls, and alarm system malfunctions requiring fire personnel to deal with an incident, but where no actual services, investigation or standby was rendered or needed.

2.45 SPECIAL SITUATIONS – Any situation in which the City/Entity performed in a manner that is not covered in any of the above described situations, or for an extended period of time (more than one operational period). The Fire Chief must justify the exigent circumstances for the response to the incident and reason for reimbursement request. If the response by the City/Entity covers two or more operational periods, this fee may charged per day, above and beyond any other fees.

2.46 STRUCTURE – any construction, or any production or piece of work artificially built or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, that is built, under construction or constructed and it includes any edifice, or building of any kind.

2.47 TRAFFIC CONTROL – Any incident response where the nature of the call is strictly for traffic control assistance.

2.48 UNAUTHORIZED BURNING – that requires City/Entity personnel emergency response to and to deal with the public and/or manage property owner extinguishment. Rubbish fires are excluded from this category, unless they fall under the auspices of Section 4.a.1. An unauthorized burn is any fire regardless of size and scope, where the property owner; does not have a valid burn permit; is conducting the burn outside the scope and authority of a valid burn permit, or initiates any fire during a burn-ban period.

2.49 VEHICLE – has the same meaning found in the Texas Transportation Code – Subtitle C. Subchapter C. Section 541.201.23.a

2.50 VEHICULAR ACCIDENT – any motor vehicle or automobile collision regardless of amount of or type vehicles involved.

2.51 VEHICULAR EXTRICATION – any emergency extrication of person(s) from wreckage entanglement as a result of an automobile collision, regardless of motor vehicle type.

2.52 VEHICLE FIRE – A working fire – upon arrival that involves any commercial vehicle or three (3) or more passenger vehicles.

2.53 VEHICULAR – relating to, involving, or for use by vehicles, especially motor vehicles; caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle

2.54 WASH DOWN – Any petroleum based spill where there is no fire and the spill is under thirty-five (35) gallons. I.e. roadway, parking lots, etc. that requires a wash down – no vehicular accident.

2.55 WILDLAND FIRE - Any fire occurring in vegetation areas regardless of ignition sources, damages or benefits. An uncontrolled fire in grassland, brushland, or land sown to crops. For the purposes of this contract any fire within the confines of the above definitions that requires a response of three (3) or more City/Entity departments to manage and control.

2.56 WIRELINE INCIDENTS – where the response is such nature that there is a “downed-wire” or “low-hanging wire” - but no fire, and the responding City/Entity must standby and await the arrival of a utility company. Any situation where there is immediate danger to the public from an electrical wire, and the situation dictate immediate traffic control, or public redirection.

3.0 CITY/ENTITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 City/Entity hereby agrees to provide emergency fire response based services, if resources are available, to the geographically assigned Rural Response District, within the County, as may be required by the County Fire Marshal or otherwise as delineated within this contract.
- 3.2 City/Entity hereby agrees to the designation of Primary (response) City within their designated Rural Response District as depicted in the attached map, as Exhibit "B". Each City/Entity Rural Response District may be amended from time to time during the period of this contract by annexation or de-annexation of property by any respective city(s), or by agreement of the County Fire Marshal, and Fire Chief(s) responsible for the existing Rural Response District. The Response Districts and assigned City/Entity will be provided to the designated 911 Coordinator and the Sheriff's Office. A map depicting the Rural Response Districts of all participating City/Entity(s) shall be maintained and provided upon request by the County Fire Marshal, at their designated office.
- 3.3 City/Entity agrees to provide the County Fire Marshal, upon request, with any and all records, reports, and documents, to include, but not limited to, statistics, data, calls for service records, dispatch logs, and any other records or other documents necessary to support the invoice or request for reimbursement as herein provided. In the absence of the Fire Marshal, said records, reports, and documents may be provided to the County Judge or his designee. The standard reimbursement request shall be timely submitted.
- 3.4 City/Entity agrees that in multi-agency response calls, the communications interoperability radio channels will be used as primary communications with the designated incident commander. The Incident Commander or assigned communications officer may designate user and sub-user groups as necessary.
- 3.5 City/Entity agrees to allow the County Fire Marshal, full access to any and all operational communications frequencies / talk groups, that the City/Entity operates on and authorize the County Fire Marshal to use those frequencies/talk groups during a response to a designated emergency situation that the City/Entity responds to. This will include assigning user-identification numbers (if available) to any County Fire Marshal communications radio.
- 3.6 City/Entity agrees to practice NIMS/ICS during any multi-agency – multi-tiered response.
- 3.7 City/Entity agrees to provide its' own insurance for equipment, vehicles, and personnel used in performing any of the services described herein. Emergency vehicles and fire-fighting equipment must be owned and/or managed by the City/Entity. City/Entity agrees to provide proof of current and adequate vehicle, equipment and workmen's compensation insurance to the County upon submission of this contract or upon request from the County Fire Marshal.

- 3.8 During extended operations as designated by the Incident Commander, the City/Entity agrees to provide adequate hydration and sustenance for its' firefighters/emergency response personnel.
- 3.9 City/Entity agrees that it will not cause, create or allow any type of "roving-patrols" or "smoke-hunting" operations by full-time employees, volunteers or paid-volunteers, in an effort to seek out emergency responses. Any simple trash burning calls will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency, i.e . Fire Marshal, Constable Office or Sheriff's Office, unless the activity is requested and authorized by the Fire Marshal in writing during an emergency situation, burn ban period, or fireworks ban period.

4.0 COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 In consideration for the City/Entitys' Rural Emergency Services, the County will reimburse the City/Entity in the manner provided herein.
- 4.2 The County shall designate a person and office that shall be known as the County Fire Marshal and County Fire Marshal's Office, who shall have the following responsibilities;

4.2.1 ADMINISTRATION

- a. Administration of Fire Marshal's Office
- b. Cause Burn Ban Signs (during designated times) to be displayed in conspicuous locations at all major roadway entrances to the County.
- c. Commercial Building Inspections
- d. Fire Safety Inspections
- e. Adult and Child Day Care Facility Inspections
- f. Health Care Facility Inspections
- g. Existing and New Construction Inspections
- h. Implementation and Enforcement of the most current version of the International Fire Code.
- i. Issuance and Regulation of Burn Permits in Rural County areas
- j. Monitor weather conditions and cause burn bans and fireworks bans to be enacted by the Commissioners Court, as appropriate.
- k. Plat/Plan Reviews and approvals

4.2.2 INVESTIGATIONS

- a. Conduct Fire Investigations
- b. Assist and guide other law enforcement agencies with Fire Code violations and enforcement.
- c. Provide Information and Reports
- d. Provide assistance to municipal departments with Fire Investigations, upon request.
- e. Issue Citations, make arrests, and file criminal cases as appropriate.

4.2.3 FIRE PREVENTION

- a. Plan, coordinate and direct activities.
- b. Conduct and participate in training with all Fire Departments.
- c. Acquire and maintain equipment.
- d. Conduct public education.
- e. Perform fire safety presentations.

4.2.4 ADMINISTER RURAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTRACT

- a. Review and process all requests for reimbursements.
- b. Will confer with appropriate Fire Chief on any discrepancies on requests for reimbursement.

4.2.5 RESPONSE

- a. When requested, respond to a fire scene within a reasonable time to conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire.
- b. Will respond to any major incidents.
- c. Will integrate into the NIMS/ICS structure as appropriate
- d. Will assist the Incident Commander with any duties as assigned.
- e. Will provide Law Enforcement assistance/coordination as needed

5.0 LIABILITY

- 5.1 City/Entity and County agree pursuant to Section 352.004, Texas Local Government Code that the acts of any person or persons travelling to or from or in a manner as defined in Section III, shall be deemed as the acts of agents or employees of the County in all respects, notwithstanding such person or persons may otherwise be employees or firefighters of the City/Entity.

- 5.2 The County of Hidalgo agrees that it will provide general liability insurance coverage for liabilities caused by vehicles, equipment, and personnel of the City/Entity performing such services under this Agreement. City/Entity shall be responsible for any damage to its vehicles or equipment used in performing services under this Agreement. Each party agrees that it shall provide general liability insurance coverage for the action of their employees and firefighters.
- 5.3 Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent either party from becoming self-insured. Each City/Entity participating and entering into this contract must provide written proof of insurance to the County when submitting the contract for approval. Upon request by the County or its duly authorized representative, the City/Entity must provide documentation of completion of any other State or Federal fire-fighting training requirements.
- 5.4 If either party cannot acquire the insurance required herein, this Agreement shall be void and the parties shall negotiate their respective obligations regarding emergency services response in the rural areas of Hidalgo County at the time. If at any time during the year the respective City/Entity loses its insurance capacity, it must immediately report this to the Fire Marshal and cease any responses to their assigned Rural Response District.

6.0 REIMBURSEMENT PLAN

- 6.1 County shall reimburse City/Entity for services provided hereunder in a lump sum with payment to be made monthly as follows:
- 6.1.1 City/Entity shall keep true and accurate records of all rural emergency services provided hereunder and shall submit, on a monthly basis, any Rural Emergency Service Incident Reports to the County Fire Marshal by the 15th calendar date of the following month in which the emergency services were provided. If the 15th calendar date falls on a weekend or holiday, the monthly reports shall be due by the next business date. Reporting is a prerequisite to receiving payments from the County. The Rural Emergency Service Incident Report form(s) shall be required as part of the monthly report. Accident Prevention Plan documentation is required from any City/Entity that utilized the County Worker's Compensation Policy, as described in Section V. (c).

6.1.2 County shall communicate and provide a written itemized list of emergency services not approved for reimbursement or any change in the reimbursement rate / category to the City/Entity with an explanation for the disapproval or change to the Fire Chief of city/entity for his approval or challenge within ten (10) working days of receipt of invoices from City/Entity.

6.1.3. County Fire Marshal shall accumulate records of all rural emergency service responses provided by all City/Entity(s) within Hidalgo County and shall calculate the amount due each City/Entity.

a. Any and all disputes of City/Entity reports shall be addressed directly to the Fire Marshal and/or the City/Entity in writing.

b. If a resolution of dispute for emergency response services cannot be reached, the reporting City/Entity may appeal to the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court.

6.1.4. For all rural emergency calls serviced by the City/Entity within it's emergency response district, City/Entity shall receive a monthly lump-sum payment for all services, corresponding to that year, in accordance with the following payment schedule and categories;

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|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (6.1.4.I.) | CATEGORY I (CI) | Flat rate of \$1000.00 per incident. |
| (6.1.4.II.) | CATEGORY II (CII) | Flat Rate of \$ 600.00 per incident. |
| (6.1.4.III.) | CATEGORY III (CIII) | Flat Rate of \$ 425.00 per incident. |
| (6.1.4.IV.) | CATEGORY IV (CIV) | Flat Rate of \$ 275.00 per incident. |
| (6.1.4.V.) | CATEGORY V (CV) | Flat Rate of \$ 125.00 per incident. |
| (6.1.4.VI.) | CATEGORY VI (CVI) | <i>Based on expenditure on a case by case basis. Must have pre-approval by County Fire Marshal or County Emergency Manager, and only during a declared emergency or declared disaster, or any incident involving more than one operational period.</i> |

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6.1.4.I. **CATEGORY I.** A rate of 1000.00 per incident, as set forth, shall apply, during the terms of this Contract for:

- .1 FIREFIGHTING (as primary department)
- .2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT
- .3 MASS CASUALTY
- .4 RESCUE CALLS
- .5 VEHICLE FIRE
- .6 VEHICULAR EXTRICATION
- .7 PUBLIC WORKS RESPONSE
- .8 REGIONAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM
- .9 SECONDARY CITY/ENTITY (in place of primary department.)
- .10 SPECIAL SITUATIONS

6.1.4.II. **CATEGORY II.** A rate of 600.00 per incident, as set forth, shall apply, during the terms of this Contract for:

- .1 UNAUTHORIZED BURNING
- .2 AUTHORIZED BURNING
- .3 MEDICAL CALL
- .4 **MUTUAL AID**

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6.1.4.III **CATEGORY III.** A Rate of \$ 425.00 per incident, as set forth, shall apply, during the terms of this Contract for: **WASH DOWN**

- .3 RECOVERY CALL - BODY
- .4 BEE ATTACK
- .5 PETROLEUM BASED INCIDENT STANDBY
- .6 WIRELINE INCIDENTS
- .7 LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

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6.1.4.IV. **CATEGORY IV.** At a rate of \$ 275.00 per incident, as so stated, shall apply, during the term of this contract.

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.1 TRAFFIC CONTROL

.2 LANDING ZONE

6.1.4.V. CATEGORY V. At a rate of **\$125.00** per incident, as so stated, shall apply, during the term of this contract.

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.1 FALSE ALARM CALL

.2 GOOD INTENT CALLS

.3 SERVICE CALLS

CATEGORY VI – This is a special category designed to reimburse City/Entity for any consumables during a declared state of emergency or declared state of disaster, or wherein response efforts are prolonged due to exigent circumstances; involve more than one operational period, and City/Entity is forced by the very nature of the incident to continue operations in the interest of public safety, and include nourishment and hydration products. City/Entity are expected to respond as a self-sufficient organization for at least one operational period.

7.0. ASSIGNMENT

In the event a Rural Fire District(s) is created for the rural, non-incorporated areas of Hidalgo County, this contract may be assigned by County to such District, and City/Entity shall look solely to the District(s) to perform and assume all Obligations and Responsibilities of County.

8.0. AUDIT

Any and all requests from City/Entity for reimbursement from County or any past reimbursements made under this contract shall be subject to audit by the County Auditor's Office, and/or the Fire Marshal. Should an audit procedure be invoked, City/Entity agrees to provide any and all records, photographs, videos, or other documents, pertaining to any request or claim for reimbursement made or paid hereunder that are requested by the Auditor or Fire Marshal. Should the County Auditor determine that any payments made were not properly claimed under the terms of this contract, City/Entity agrees to remit the amount of payments so found by the County Auditor to the County within 10 working days, following the date of receipt of City/Entity of County Auditors written determination of same.

9.0. MISCELLANEOUS

9.1 CONFLICT WITH APPLICABLE LAW. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between the provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance, or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.

9.2 NO WAIVER. No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.

9.3 ENTIRE AGREEMENT – This agreement contains the entire contract among the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that no other party has made (either directly or indirectly or through any agent or representative), any representations or agreements in connection with this agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed.

9.4 TEXAS LAW TO APPLY. This agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the Laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The parties hereby consent to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.

9.5 NOTICE. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, request for communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage pre-paid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been therefore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to City/Entity

If to County: County of Hidalgo
J.D. Salinas, III, County Judge
100 East Cano – 2nd Floor, Edinburg, Texas 78539 or
P.O. Box 1356, Edinburg, Texas 78540

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes of such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States Mail.

9.6 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS. The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.

9.7 SUCCESSORS. This agreement shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

9.8 HEADINGS. The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.

9.9 GENDER and NUMBER. All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine, or neutral gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.

9.10 AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE. The execution and performance of this Agreement by each of the parties hereto has been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, ordinances, or governing body action, and the Agreement constitutes, the valid and enforceable obligations of the parties hereto in accordance with its terms.

9.11 PERFORMANCE of GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS. Each party hereto is entering into this Agreement for the purpose of providing for governmental services or functions, and will pay for such services out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.

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