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## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 09, 2020

AI Number: 75867

Project Number: Pending

**Information:** [Requesting approval to purchase remote temperature guards and required accessories for Hidalgo County Health Department *in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures.*]

**Description of AI:** (A) Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost of purchase); (B) Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262.024(a)(1)&(2); (C) Requesting approval to purchase.

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD)      **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-XXX

**Requested by:** Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director      **Department:** Health Department

**Prepared by:** Hector Garcia, Contract Specialist I      **Department:** Purchasing Department

### BACKGROUND

On March 17, 2020, pursuant to the authority under Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 22, 2020, in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 418.108(b), the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster.

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department (HCHHSD) is in need of remote temperature guards. The remote temperature sensing devices are capable of monitoring multiple compartments and environmental factors that could affect the safety of the Covid-19 vaccines and specimens. The units are designed to alert staff if ever there is a power failure, temperatures go out of range and unauthorized access of a storage location. The unit communications can alert staff via phone call, email or text message of any problem that could compromise the vaccine storage location. Additional countermeasures to strengthen our preparedness and response to the spread of COVID–19.

## COMPLIANCE

Under the Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8: National Preparedness, “it is aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters,” and in compliance with the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 9 (Medical Materiel Management and Distribution), and pursuant to the Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency that affirmed the activation of the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Plan and extends the Declaration of Local Disaster, we request the courts approval of sanitation supplies to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262,024(a)(1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.

## ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose to create critical countermeasures to strengthen our preparedness and response to the spread of COVID–19. The remote temperature guard devices will help monitor multiple compartments and environmental factors to protect the safety of the Covid-19 vaccines and specimens by alerting staff if ever there is a power failure, temperatures go out of range and unauthorized access of a storage location.

## AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for the [**Hidalgo County Health Department Remote Temperature Guards and Required Accessories Purchase**], in order to assist with County Public Health expenses addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use.;
- B. Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262,024(a)(1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.
- C. Requesting approval to purchase the following Remote Temperature Guards and required accessories through the County's membership/participation with GSA Cooperative under Contract # GS-07F-9463S [Expires: 04/30/21].

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the item will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to implement additional countermeasures to strengthen our preparedness and response to the spread of COVID-19. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the purchase for said Remote Temperature Guards and required accessories as stated as it is a reasonable and necessary expenditure related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## Attachments:

- 213 Form
- Agenda Item Briefing
- Quote