
AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – June 30, 2020

AI Number: 76226

Project Number: 2020-185

Information: Requesting authority to exempt from competitive procurement requirements, pursuant to TxLGC 262.024 (a)(4), and requesting approval to execute final form of a professional engineering service agreement with Halff and Associates, Inc., approval of Work Authorization No. 1, and permit the subcontracting of Chanin Engineering in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures.

Description of AI: MEP Engineering Services for the purchase and installation of generators and transfer switches for four (4) health clinics.

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-334
Requested by: Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director **Department:** Health Department
Prepared by: Rocio Villarreal, Contract Specialist III **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.

In coordination with the response to this ongoing public health emergency, it’s estimated that we will need to vaccinate several hundred thousand constituents. In order to meet the needs of our community, the purpose of the generators is to immediately assist by ensuring continuity with COVID-19 identification, surveillance of the virus, intervention and treatment referral; mitigation and response to identifying the residential impact in our community. The purchase and installation of the generators with transfer switching capabilities for the four (4) health clinics is immediately required for proper storage and retention for the COVID-19 vaccination response and COVID-19 testing specimen collection at multiple points of distribution and collection.

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.76% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimates Hidalgo County’s population to be

1,005,539. With this large impoverished population, but limited lab testing capacity, the detection, mitigation, and response to COVID-19 has been largely impacted. Current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. With the purchase and installation of the generators and transfer switches at four (4) health clinics, a much needed service will be established and made promptly available to our county residents by means ensuring Hidalgo County is fully equipped for the COVID-19 vaccination response as we prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance to the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 12 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, requests the courts approval for the contractual staffing services to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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 Clinics, in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures 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. Requesting exemption from competitive procurement requirements under Texas Local Government Code 262.024 (a)(4) professional service;
- C. Acceptance and approval to execute the final form of a professional engineering services agreement (subject to legal counsel's review) for the provisions of: Mechanical Electrical and Plumbing with Halff and Associates, Inc. for the installation of generators for four (4) Health Department Clinics [as approved for negotiations CC 6/2/20];
- D. Requesting approval of Work Authorization No. 1 (with an estimated cost of \$136,708.00) as submitted by the project engineer, Halff Associates, Inc., to provide MEP engineering services for the "Installation of Generators at Four (4) Health Clinics," through Contract # C-20-185-06-16;
- E. Pursuant to contract with Halff Associates, Inc., (Article 15) C-20-185-06-16, a request for approval by engineer to permit the subcontracting of Chanin Engineering to provide structural services for the "Installation of Generators at Four (4) Health Clinics".

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will allow Hidalgo County proceed with continuing with the current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As previously stated, these purchases and services are reasonable and necessary expenditures related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- Subcontractor Letter
- Form 1295
- Contract
- WA1
- Agenda Item Briefing
