
AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 7, 2020

AI Number: 76280

Project Number: 2020-316

Information: Requesting authority to engage with ROFA Architects, Inc. (PCT 4's on-call architect) or nomination of 3 architectural firms for Renovation/Remodeling of two (2) county-owned buildings to house Emergency Operations and Call Center for the Office of Emergency Management in order to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

Description of AI: Nomination of architectural firm(s) for the renovation of buildings for Emergency Management.

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-730

Requested by: Ricardo Saldana, EM Coordinator **Department:** Emergency Management

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.

The Hidalgo Office of Emergency Management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified the critical lack of space within its current infrastructure. The Hidalgo County Emergency Operations Center along with the Hidalgo County Information Call Center have previously been located at the Health and Human Services facility; however due to increasing staffing needs related to COVID-19, the facility faced spacing restrictions, and the EOC and the Call Center were forced to relocate. At its current temporary relocation, the EOC nor the Call Center have the sufficient space to properly accommodate both teams/services while maintaining the proper safety protocols such as social distancing, as recommended by the CDC.

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 these repair and/or remodel services, a much needed service will be obtained to house the EOC and the Call Center. As the increase arises of confirmed cases and a possible disaster event a designated facility must be immediately available, while keeping employees safe and avoid delays in providing the needed services and information to County residents as we prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (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 necessary architectural 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 mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and provide necessary services and information to Hidalgo County residents in a timely fashion.

AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover costs not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by a line item, allotment or allocation, for Architectural Services for the Renovation/Remodeling of Two (2) Buildings for Conversion/Expansion of an Emergency Operations Center and Call Center in order to assist with County actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use;
- B. Pursuant to Article 3 of the current Service Agreement with Rike Ogden Figueroa Alex Architects, Inc. [Pct. 4 Contract # C-19-201-08-13] approval to request a Proposal for Services and proceed to negotiate a project specific AIA, A 201-207 Form of Agreement to develop and draft plans and specifications/scope of work for distribution to Job Order Contractors [awarded through cooperative programs] for the Renovation/Remodeling of Two [2] County-owned Buildings for Conversion/Expansion of an Emergency Operations and Call Centers for the Office of Emergency Management; or in the alternative;
- C. Presentation of Hidalgo County's current approved "Pool" of Architects for Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court nomination of at least three (3) firms for the purpose of

the selection protocol [nominate, select Evaluation Committee, present scoring grid to rank, and authorize negotiation for engagement] in connection with, above said project:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

D. Designation of Evaluation Committee to score and evaluate the nominated firms above.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will allow Hidalgo County to proceed with the current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As previously stated, the repair and remodel of these two buildings, are 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) Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- List of Pool for Architectural Firms
- ROFA Contract
- Agenda Item Briefing
