
AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 21, 2020

AI Number: 76374

Project Number: 2020-429

Information: [Requesting approval to purchase forty one (41) Two Way Electronic Communicators for Hidalgo County Tax Office *in order to assist with County functions related to the communication between the staff and constituents*]

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

Description of AI: Purchase of Two-Way Electronic Communicators

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

Requested by: Pablo “Paul” Villarreal **Department:** Tax Office

Prepared by: Elena Gomez, Contract Specialist II **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 order to meet the needs of our community and to continue to serve the public, Hidalgo County Tax Office has determined that purchasing 41 Two-way Electronic Communicator are essential for all locations to ensure the safety of the staff and public

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 for the purchase of 41 Two-way Electronic Communicators, to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to 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 purchase of 41 Two-way Electronic Communicator 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 41 Two-way Electronic Communicator thru open market with (3 quotes were submitted)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the item will allow the Hidalgo County Tax office to efficiently continue providing services to the public while ensuring the safety and well-being of public and staff. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the purchase for said equipment and 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:

- 1295 Form
- Project Overview
- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- 213 Form
- Agenda Item Briefing