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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 21, 2020

AI Number: 76517

Project Number: 2020-284

Information: [Requesting approval to purchase One (1) New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate] for Hidalgo County Emergency Management [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: Chief Ricardo Saldaña

Department: Emergency Management

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.

In coordinating the response to this ongoing public health emergency, Hidalgo County Emergency Management, is in need of one (1) New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate. This will assist with effectively and immediately providing a response to the storing and transporting of goods needed by the pandemic as well as to ensure the well-being of our staff and our constituents.

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 One (1) New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

As a critical countermeasure and to strengthen our preparedness and response capacity for Hidalgo County Emergency Management approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This equipment would allow the transportation of pallets that would include stockpile emergency supplies. Supplies would include: lifesaving medical supplies, personal protective equipment such as gloves, protective gowns, disposable coveralls, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, N95 masks, oxygen tubing, syringes, temporarily house antibiotics, influenza vaccines, testing supplies, and support devices for life-saving care. This inventory would be a safeguard to support supply and demand response needs and it would avoid experiencing the alarming shortage we have had with 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 Emergency Management One (1) New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate 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 One (1) New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate from _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the item will allow the Hidalgo County Emergency Management to efficiently provide support with loading, storage, and distribution of goods and materials to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the purchase for said New or Used Truck with a Refrigerated Cargo Box and Wide Liftgate 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:

- Agenda Item Briefing
- TXLGC 262.024(a) 1,2