

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 28, 2020

AI Number: 76599

Project Number: 2020-441

Information: Warehouse lease to host a fatality management site.

Description of AI: Requesting exemption from competitive bidding under TxLGC 262.024(a)(1)(2) and/or (6); Authority to enter into a commercial lease agreement

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund

Acct. # 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-441

Requested by: Ricardo Saldaña, EM Coordinator

Department: Emergency Management

Prepared by: Jaime Rivas, 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 418.408(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 County Office of Emergency Management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified a need for a large warehouse in which to locate and store refrigerated trailers to protect from exposure to weather related elements and reduce the exposure to direct of heat and/or inclement weather related to postmortem management as part of the response to COVID-19.

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; however, given our current trend, we are projected to have a capacity deficit of 100-200 within the next 14 days.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directives 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 Court's approval for the necessary property lease agreement to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of this item is consistent with Hidalgo County's response to COVID-19 and fatality management while continuing to provide necessary services to Hidalgo County residents in safe, clean, hygienic environment.

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 a line item, allotment or allocation, for the Lease of a Warehouse Facility for Emergency Fatality Management, 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 necessary for the intended use.;

B. Requesting exemption from competitive bidding requirements under Texas Local Government Code 262.024(a)(1)(2) and/or (6) as further detailed as attached herein;

C. Acceptance and approval of a short-term Lease of a Warehouse Facility [33K sq. ft.] to address Emergency Fatality Management between Hidalgo County and Alberto J. Garza-Villarreal, dba Villa Kapital, LLC with an implementation date of 07-24-20 [due to impending storm related urgency] subject to compliance with all statutory and county requirements and legal counsel's final review and approval as to form.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will allow Hidalgo County to continue to respond to the current public health emergency of COVID-19. As previously stated, we are projected to have a capacity deficiency of 100-200 within the next 14 days; therefore, this is deemed 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:

- TxLGC 262.024

- TPC
- Agenda Item Briefing