

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 28, 2020

AI Number: 76612

Project Number: 2020-442

Information: Amendment to Agreement for service of Dead Body Pickup and Transport Services.

Description of AI: Requesting approval of the amendment to contract C-18-149-11-06.

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund

Acct. # 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-350

Requested by: Ricardo Saldaña, EM Coordinator

Department: Emergency Management

Prepared by: Yolanda Velasquez, 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 418.408(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.

Hidalgo County in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is experiencing an unprecedented increase in COVID-19 related deaths thus prompting the need to expand the current services for Dead Body Pickup and Transport Services.

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 continue to average 35 COVID related deaths per day.

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 unforeseen increase in fatalities creating the necessity to expand dead body pickup and transport, in order to assist with County functions related to the 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 necessary for the intended use.;

B. Acceptance and approval of a short-term "Amendment" [subject to legal counsel legal review/approval as to legal form] to agreement #C-18-149-11-06 for the services of: "Dead Body Pickup and Transport Services" between Hidalgo County and Elite Transport and Clean-Up Service prompted directly by the COVID-19 pandemic creating a need for Emergency Fatality Management measures in order to maintain county public health operations.

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 continue to average 35 COVID related deaths per day, thus it 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:

- Amendment
- Legal Approval
- Agenda Item Briefing