

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – August 18, 2020

AI Number: 76892

Information: Requesting authority to purchase Stockpile Facility property in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the CARES Act Relief Fund.

Description of AI: Approval of real estate sales contract with authority to issue earnest money check for the purchase of the Stockpile Facility property (warehouse in North Edinburg)

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund

Account No.: 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-7X0

Requested by: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

Department: Budget & Management

Prepared by: Merlen Munoz, Budget Analyst

Department: Budget & Management

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 COVID-19 health emergency has impacted County operations and the need for a centralized Strategic National Stockpile Warehouse Facility has become more evident. The Stockpile Facility will store large pallets of personal protective equipment and emergency supplies to facilitate distribution by the Hidalgo County Emergency Management.

The designation of the Strategic National Stockpile Warehouse Facility is in compliance with the provisions of the CARES Act Relief Funds guidance. The purchase is an eligible expenditure to address 2. Public Health in order to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity or improve mitigation measures where the Facility shall serve as the location storage and for the acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, as well as an eligible expenditure that is reasonably necessary to the function of government for the mitigation of COVID-19 during the public health emergency.

Compliance:

The purchases referenced herein was procured in an effort to protect public health. The Purchasing Department procurement process is in compliance with Texas Local Government Code 262.024(2), **an item necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the residents.** Discretionary Exemption [Emergency Exemption], allows the County to procure goods and services as necessary without the requirement of a competitive solicitation process. Purchases were also made utilizing the County’s adopted procurement process, such as utilization of competitive quotes and purchasing cooperatives. Expenditures exceeding a threshold were also subject to price verification and the procurement of services complies with 2 CFR 200 requirements.

Administration:

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The goal is to provide efficient and effective delivery of services in light of change in technology, the public’s expectations, and the area’s population and economy. Hidalgo County is taking the lead in responding to the COVID-19 health emergency for our community as a whole.

Agenda Item Caption

1. 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 Stockpile Facility property for Emergency 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.
2. Requesting approval of Real Estate Sales Contract for the purchase of the SEITZ REAL ESTATE Warehouse (North Edinburg), with authority for the County Treasurer to issue earnest money check to Landtitle Texas in the amount of \$1,000.00 after review and auditing procedures are completed by the County Auditor.

Recommendations:

The CRF – Fixed Asset Committee recommends approval of the purchase of the Stockpile Facility, as it is a reasonable and necessary expenditure to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant Fund available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.