

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – July 28, 2020

AI Number: 76622

Project Number: 2020-316

Information: Requesting authority to accept AI-B101 agreement with ROFA Architects, Inc. (PCT 4's on-call architect) for Renovation/Remodeling of two (2) county-owned buildings to house Emergency Operations and Call Center for the Office of Emergency Management in order to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

Description of AI: Approval of AIA agreement for architectural services

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund (TBD) **Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-730

Requested by: Ricardo Saldana, EM Coordinator **Department:** Emergency Management

Prepared by: Rocio Villarreal, Contract Specialist III **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.

The Hidalgo Office of Emergency Management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified the critical lack of space within its current infrastructure. The Hidalgo County Emergency Operations Center along with the Hidalgo County Information Call Center have previously been located at the Health and Human Services facility; however due to increasing staffing needs related to COVID-19, the facility faced spacing restrictions, and the EOC and the Call Center were forced to relocate. At its current temporary relocation, the EOC nor the Call Center have the sufficient space to properly accommodate both teams/services while maintaining the proper safety protocols such as social distancing, as recommended by the CDC.

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. With these repair and/or remodel services, a much needed service will be obtained to house the EOC and the Call Center. As the increase arises of confirmed cases and a possible disaster event a designated facility must be immediately available, while keeping employees safe and avoid delays in providing the needed services and information to County residents as we prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance with the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-8), the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 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 courts approval for the necessary architectural services to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and provide necessary services and information to Hidalgo County residents in a timely fashion.

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 Office of Emergency Management for the relocation [due to lack of space at present location] to two county owned buildings in need of renovations and/or repairs to serve as Emergency Operations and Call Centers in order to assist with County functions related to the public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing herein find that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use.";
- B. Acceptance and approval of an AIA B 101 Form of Agreement between Hidalgo County and Rike/Ogden/Figueroa/Alex Architects [ROFA] in connection with the project specific: Renovation/Remodeling of two county owned buildings to serve as Emergency Operations and Call Centers for the Office of Emergency Management subject to compliance with all requirements and legal counsel's final review and approval as to legal form.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of the item will allow Hidalgo County to proceed with the current public health directive emphasizing the importance of preventing and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As previously stated, the repair and remodel of these two buildings, are 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:

- Draft AIA B101 Agreement
- Agenda Item Briefing
