

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – September 29, 2020

**AI Number:** 77521

**Information:** Requesting authority to ratify expenditure made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the CARES Act Relief Fund.

**Description of AI:** Ratification of expenditures

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Relief Fund

**Account No.:** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-XXX

**Requested by:** Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

**Department:** Budget & Management

**Prepared by:** Merlen Munoz, Budget Analyst

**Department:** Budget & Management

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**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 purpose of this action is to ratify the purchases that were needed to ensure the effectiveness of Hidalgo County's response in all aspects of the County operations in response to the COVID-19 National Emergency.

Example of purchases made include, but are not limited to:

- N95 masks
- KN95 masks
- Cleaning services - deep cleaning
- Cleaning supplies - disinfectant sprays, hand wipes, etc.
- Hand sanitizer
- Plexiglass barriers and similar protective equipment
- Equipment necessary for telework capabilities

**Compliance:**

The purchases referenced herein were procured in an effort to protect public health. The Purchasing Department made these purchases in compliance with Texas Local Government Code 262.024(2), Discretionary Exemption, which 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**

Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the ratification of necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditures, as listed on Exhibit A, to cover costs not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation in connection with 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.

**Recommendations:**

The CRF – Incurred Cost Committee recommends approval of the ratification of various purchases made, as listed in the accompanying exhibit, as they are reasonable and necessary expenditures 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.