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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court –September 29, 2020

AI Number: 77578

Project Number: 2020-

Information: [Requesting authority to authorize a discretionary exemption for COVID-19 to continue a month to month rental with WILLSCOT to house staff of the H.C. Community Service] ***in order to assist with County actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures addressing the ongoing COVID 19 emergency.***

Description of AI: Requesting exemption from competitive bidding under TxLGC 262.024 (a)(1)(2)

Funding Source: CARES Act Relief Fund

Acct.

Requested by: Executive Office

Department: Hidalgo County

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 418.108(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.

Hidalgo County Offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency has identified a need for restatement of approved lease agreement between HC and WILLSCOT which permits a month to month provision [unless terminated by County pursuant to terms and conditions of document]

The 2010 Census has indicated that Hidalgo County has a low to moderate income level of 54.75% and the Texas Department of State Health Services estimated 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 large segment of the population severely impacted by the pandemic.

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, request the Court's approval for the necessary Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's response to COVID-19 while continuing to provide necessary services to mitigate, control and manage the spread of the virus.

AGENDA ITEM CAPTION

- A. Restatement of approved lease agreement between HC and WILLSCOT [CC 03/12-19 R.AI#69353] which permits a month to month provision [unless terminated by County pursuant to terms and conditions of document] located on site of Pct. #1 offices on Joe Stephens in Weslaco, TX;
- B. Acceptance and approval of invoices from WILLSCOT [as attached herein] for the months of August and September 2020 with authority for County Treasurer to issue payment after HC Auditor completes the review/audit process;
- C. Acceptance and approval of cost proposal [as reviewed by Facilities Management] in the amount of \$10,000.14 submitted by WILLSCOT due to damage sustained and caused by Hurricane Hanna with authority to process and issue a Purchase Order of a submitted Requisition for same;
- D. 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 Community Service Agency in order to assist with County functions related to the public health measures by providing Public Assistance to affected/eligible residents with mortgage and rental payments, food, temporary shelter, transportation costs, internet services, utilities and medication costs due and caused by 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.';
- E. Approve an exemption from competitive bidding requirements, under Tx Local Gov't Code, 282.024(a)(1)&(2) as attached herein;
- F. Approval to continue month to month rental with WILLSCOT to house staff of the Hidalgo County Community Service commencing upon occupancy through end of 2020 [unless CARES Act Relief Act is extended by US Treasury];

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the items will allow Hidalgo County to continue to respond to the current public health emergency of COVID-19. As previously stated, with these large impoverished population and continued incurred case search; 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:
