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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – November 17, 2020

AI Number: 75863

Project Number: 2020-285

Information: [Requesting approval for the Hidalgo County Health Department IT Technology and Data Communications Enhancements Purchases] [in order to assist with County functions related to medical and public health measures.]

Description of AI: (A) Discussion, consideration, and action to approve a necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditure to cover cost of purchase); (B) Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262.024(a)(1)&(2); (C) Requesting approval to purchase

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

Requested by: Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director **Department:** Health Department

Prepared by: Hector Garcia, 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.

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department (HCHHSD) in response to the COVID pandemic public health emergency and in accordance to the National Preparedness Goal under the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD- 8) which directs us to aim in the establishment of ' secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk," and in order to comply with the directive of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5)

COMPLIANCE

Under the Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8: National Preparedness, “it is aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics, and catastrophic natural disasters,” and in compliance with the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention,

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capability 9 (Medical Materiel Management and Distribution), 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, we request the courts approval for the Hidalgo County Health Department IT Technology and Data Communications Enhancements Purchases to continue the further needed response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ADMINISTRATION

Turn key information technology infrastructure equipment to provide enhanced scaling capabilities to quickly add on remote sites and remote workers due to Covid surge. The infrastructure is to include all necessary routers, vpn concentrators, switches, software, hardware and tech support.

The hardware provided by Insight will allow us to enhance the clinics connectivity to the main office and the internet improve our delivery of services during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will improve our ability to facilitate vaccine distribution, tracking and administration for our clients and County residents.

The software services provided by Insight will allow us to properly manage staff that might have to work remotely due to the current Covid-19 pandemic or any other health situation requiring such activities. The software will also ensure we maintain the network/data security as required during remote work.

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 Health Department IT Technology and Data Communications Enhancements Purchases] , in order to assist with County Public Health expenses addressing 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.
- B. Exemption from competitive bidding requirements, pursuant to Texas LGC 262.024(a)(1): an item that must be purchased in case of a public calamity if it is necessary to make the purchase promptly to relieve the necessity of the citizens; (2) an item necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens.
- C. Requesting approval to purchase the following IT Technology and Data Communications Enhancements [in 3 phases] through the County's membership/participation with DIR Cooperative through contract awarded vendor, Insight Public Sector Inc. Subject to compliance with 1295 Form.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of the items will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to enhance IT Technology and Data Communications infrastructure capabilities to efficiently add on remote sites and remote workers due to COVID-19 Surge. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the HCHD IT Technology and Data Communications Enhancements Purchases mentioned herein. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- Agenda Item Briefing