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## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

**Commissioners Court – November 24, 2020**

**AI Number: 78447**

**Project Number: 2020-645**

**Information:** Requesting authority to purchase One (1) Forklift for the Hidalgo County Health Department in order to immediately assist with County functions for medical and public health measures during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

**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 262.0249(a)(1) & (2);(C) Requesting approval to purchase items listed.

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Fund

**Acct. #** 0-1287-441-42-115-096-0-751

**Requested by:** Chief, Ricardo Saldaña

**Department:** Emergency Mgmt.

**Prepared by:** Jorge Garza, Contract Specialist II

**Department:** Purchasing Department

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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.

Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department (HCHHSD) in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic as it's a 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).

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### 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 act 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 Material 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 purchase of One (1) Forklift to continue the further immediate response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

As a critical countermeasure and to strengthen our preparedness and response capacity for Hidalgo County HCHHSD is the ability to acquire a climate controlled 20,000 square foot warehouse. This would include a 26 foot cargo truck with a tommy lift, A 3,000 lb. capacity forklift, and trailer to stockpile emergency supplies. Additional supplies would include: lifesaving medical supplies, personal protective equipment such as gloves, protective gowns, disposable coveralls, disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer, N95 masks, oxygen tubing, syringes, temporarily house antibiotics, influenza vaccines, testing supplies, and support devices for life- saving care. This inventory would be a safeguard to support supply and demand response needs and it would avoid experiencing the alarming shortage we have had with COVID-19.

## **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 purchase of One(1) Forklift in order to assist with Public Health expenses addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, attached herein, finds that such expenditure is reasonable and necessary for the intended use";

B) Requesting 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 machinery through the County’s membership/participation with the Sourcewell Cooperative under Contract #101816-HCE [Expires 12/15/2020]

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approval of the item will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to efficiently provide support with loading, storage, and distribution of goods and materials to address the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the purchase for said Forklift as stated as it is 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) Relief Grant Fund and/or other grant assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Project Overview
- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code
- Agenda Item Briefing
- 1295 Form
- 213 Form