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AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – September 29, 2020

AI Number: 77491

Project Number: 2020-518

Information: [Requesting approval of Engineering services for a generator addition, make modifications necessary for the installation of new x-ray machine, and consolidate two existing electrical services into one at the Hidalgo County Forensic Center.] 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) &(4); (C) Requesting approval of Work Authorization No. 2 (D) Requesting permission to subcontract The Warren Group Architects, Inc. to provide architectural services for the "Installation of Generators at various County Facilities".

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

Requested by: Rosalinda Cantu

Department: Forensic Center

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.

The Hidalgo County Forensic Center, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency, will implement the use of a Lodox eXtero-dr Digital Radiography Image System. The Digital Radiography Image System will minimize the need for prolonged interaction between staff and decedent as well as provide a safer form of imaging for the staff. The Lodox eXtero-dr design is forensic-driven, specifically molded to forensic pathology requirements. To facilitate compliance with current public health measures related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the goal for the County of Hidalgo is to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-

19. In effect this new equipment will cause electrical loads at the Forensic Center to increase and therefore will require a new more capable generator to provide backup power in case of unforeseen weather or electrical problems. In order for both the Lodox (X-Ray Machine) and the Generator to function properly the necessary modifications to the electrical system will be required along with the consolidation of the two current electrical services at the Hidalgo County Forensic Center.

COMPLIANCE

In compliance to the national preparedness goal under the Presidential Policy Directive 8 (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 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 prevent and mitigate the spread of 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 [Engineering services for a generator addition, make modifications necessary for the installation of new x-ray machine, and consolidate two existing electrical services into one at the Hidalgo County Forensic Center], in order to assist with County functions related to medical and 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. Requesting exemption from competitive procurement requirements under Texas Local Government Code 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; (4) professional service;
- C. Requesting approval of Work Authorization No. 2 (with an estimated cost of \$42,512.00) as submitted by the project engineer, Halff Associates, Inc., to provide MEP engineering services for the "Installation of Generators at various County Facilities," through Contract # C-20-185-06-30;
- D. Pursuant to contract with Halff Associates, Inc., (Article 15) C-20-185-06-30, a request by engineer for CC to permit the subcontracting of The Warren Group Architects, Inc. to provide architectural services for the "Installation of Generators at various County Facilities".

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, these purchases and services are reasonable and necessary expenditures related to the County's COVID-19 Public Health Response. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Act and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Attachments:

- Subcontractor Letter
- Form 1295
- WA2
- Agenda Item Briefing
