

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – December 29, 2020

**AI Number:** 78902 (15.H.3)

**Information:** Requesting authority to expense payment of overtime hours incurred by law enforcement personnel in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the CARES Act Relief Fund.

**Description of AI:** Approval to reclassify payment of overtime hours incurred by law enforcement personnel in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency

**Funding Source:** CARES Act Relief Fund

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

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

**Department:** Budget and Management

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

**Department:** Budget and 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.

## **COMPLIANCE**

Approval of payment of overtime (compensatory) leave is made in accordance with the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, The US Treasury Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments and The US Treasury Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions .

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Approval of payment of overtime (compensatory) leave is consistent with Hidalgo County's Texas Civil Service Commission Rules (Sec. 7.51) and Personnel Policy Manual (Sec. 8.40).

## **AGENDA ITEM CAPTION**

1. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the ratification of necessary CARES Act Relief Fund expenditures, for the Law Enforcement COVID-19 Compensation Program, to cover cost not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation, for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Expanded Family and Medical Leave, in order to assist with County Payroll 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.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the expense reclassification for payment of overtime hours incurred by law enforcement personnel in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as allowed by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. 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.