

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – May 18, 2021

AI Number: 80705

Project Number: 2021-0458

Information: Requesting authority to purchase biohazard containers 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: General/CARES Act Fund

Acct. # 1-110-441-42-115-096-0-610

Requested by: Eduardo “Eddie” Olivarez, Health Director

Department: Health Department

Prepared by: Tanya De Lira, 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 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).

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 biohazard containers to continue the further immediate response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

ADMINISTRATION

The use of biohazard containers is recommended as part of contact precautions, to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to the patient’s environment, to other patients and for the protection of healthcare workers.

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 biohazard containers in order to assist with County medical 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) 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 authority to purchase biohazard containers from Grainger, under TXMAS awarded contract number 18-51V06, with a total cost of \$151,865.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommending that Commissioners Court authorize the exemption for said goods/services as stated as they are reasonable and necessary expenditures related to the County’s COVID-19 immediate Public Health Response. Approval of the items will allow the Hidalgo County Health Department to proceed with immediately addressing the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenditures will be charged to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Fund and/or other assistance available to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Tex. Loc. Gov. Code

- 213 Form
- Agenda Item Briefing