

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – September 21, 2021

AI Number: 82448

Information: Requesting authority to pay remodeling expenditures for the McColl Building to allow for additional space due to current dense worksite setting in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Description of AI: Approval of expenditures

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Fund

Account No.: 1-1290-441-62-115-101-1-452

Requested by: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

Department: Budget & Management

Prepared by: Joely Garza, Accountant & Angélica M. Tapia, Budget Analyst

Department: Budget & Management

Background:

In an effort to comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, the recent acquisition of the McColl Building located at 505 S. McColl Road, Edinburg, TX 78539 requires additional space remodeling in order to be in compliance with health and safety guidelines outlined by the CDC and ARPA requirements. Renovations include adequate space to adhere to social distancing guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

On May 10, 2021 the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. It allows recipients to use funds for revenue replacement due to reduction in revenue as a result of COVID-19.

Compliance:

These services were procured in an effort to protect reduce the spread of COVID-19 and provide a safe working environment. The Purchasing Department followed compliance with Texas Local Government Code 262.024(2), Discretionary Exemption, which allows the County to procure goods and services as necessary without the requirement of a competitive solicitation process. Services were also made utilizing the County's adopted procurement process, such as utilization of competitive quotes and purchasing cooperatives. Expenditures exceeding a threshold were also subject to price verification and the procurement of services complies with 2 CFR 200 requirements.

Administration:

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The goal is to provide efficient and effective delivery of services in light of change in technology, the public's expectations and the area's population and economy. Hidalgo County is taking the lead in continuing the operation in a safe and productive manner.

Agenda Item Caption

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the payment of the McColl Building additional space remodeling expenditures for a period in which the COVID-19 Public Health and Economic crisis is in effect, as necessary, use American Rescue Plan Act Funds loss revenues to cover costs not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be lawfully funded by line item, allotment or allocation in connection with the ongoing COVID-19 public health and economic crisis; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditures are reasonable and necessary for the intended use.

B. Approval of 2021 interdepartmental transfer in the amount of \$364,000.

Recommendations:

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of ARPA funds for the McColl Building additional space remodeling expenditures as they are reasonable and necessary to address working in a safe environment by mitigating the spread of the COVID-19. Such expenditures were not previously budgeted for and due to reduction of revenues resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis. Expenditures will be charged to the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.