

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioner Court - September 21, 2021

AI Number: 82542

Information: Requesting authority to pay for debris removal expenditures as a result of reductions of resources due 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. 1-1290-441-62-115-101-1-421

Requested by: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

Department: Budget & Management

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

Department: Budget & Management

Background:

In an effort to maintain clean and sanitary roadways and public spaces, a debris removal is required.

On May 10, 2021 the U.S. The 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 and 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 of developing and maintaining clean and safe roadways and public spaces, while using ARPA funds to not further reduce County-owned resources that may affect the public services.

Agenda Item Caption:

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

1. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the payment of debris removal 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.

2. Approval of 2021 interdepartmental transfer in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Recommendations:

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of ARPA funds for debris removal expenditures as it is necessary to maintain clean, safe, and sanitary roadways and public spaces. Such expenditures 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.