

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – September 21, 2021

AI Number: 82503

Information: Requesting authority to pay the Countywide roadway assessment study expenditures and as a result in reduction in resources due to the COVID-19 public health emergency as necessary and eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Fund for the period in which the COVID-19 economic crisis is in effect.

Description of AI: Approval of expenditures

Funding Source: America Rescue Plan Fund

Account No.: 1-1290-441-62-115-101-1-334

Requested by: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

Department: Budget & Management

Prepared by: Angélica M. Tapia, Budget Analyst

Department: Budget & Management

Background:

In an effort to update and improve County roadway inventory, roadway maintenance and capitalization, and therefore GASB reporting, a countywide roadway assessment is required.

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 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. Furthermore, this will ensure a more accurate and precise method of GASB reporting. Previous GASB report was completed in 2006/2007.

Administration:

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County's intended purpose of maintaining an updated and accurate inventory of roads, a more efficient and cost effective maintenance and capitalization of roads while using ARPA funds in order not to further reduce County-owned resources that may affect the public services.

Agenda Item Caption

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

A. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the payment of the countywide roadway assessment study 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 \$1,660,128.92.

Recommendations:

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of ARPA funds for the countywide roadway assessment study expenditure as it is needed in order to comply with GASB reporting. 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.