

## AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – November 02, 2021

**AI Number:** 83236

**Information:** Requesting authority to pay for the purchase of a high water rescue vehicle to aid in the rescue of individuals and disbursement of supplies and transport of medical personnel during flood and other disaster events under the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

**Description of AI:** Approval of purchase of vehicle utilizing Lost Revenue category of ARPA-CSLFRF.

**Funding Source:** American Rescue Plan Fund

**Account No.:** 1-1290-441-62-115-101-1-XXX

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

**Department:** Budget & Management

**Prepared by:** Joely Garza, ARPA Accountant

**Department:** Budget & Management

### **Background:**

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.

The purpose of this action is to pay for the purchase of a high water rescue vehicle in an effort to provide disaster relief services to surrounding communities. The purchase of a high water rescue vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life and property during flooding events and other disasters.

### **Compliance:**

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 the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds . The goal is to provide efficient and effective delivery of services in light of crisis events, 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 use of ARPA Lost Revenue Category Funds for the purpose of purchasing a high water rescue vehicle to aid in the rescue of individuals and disbursement of supplies and transport of medical personnel during flood and other disaster events; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditures are reasonable and necessary for the intended use.
2. Approval of interdepartmental transfer in the amount of \$170,614.00

**Recommendations:**

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the purpose of an emergency vehicle as it is necessary to rapidly respond in the event of a disaster. Such expenditures are not previously budgeted for and due to the reduction of revenues resulting from the COVID-19 public health crisis. Expenditures will be charged to the American Rescue Plan Act Fund - Lost Revenue Category.