

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING
Commissioners Court – December 06, 2021

AI Number: 83649

Information: Requesting authority to provide funds to recover lost revenue to retrofit the Hidalgo County Courthouse. The Hidalgo County Courthouse, in an effort to continue to provide services to the community throughout the ongoing declared health emergency, will undergo retrofits which will enhance and upgrade current systems with the upgrades pertaining mostly to the HVAC equipment which will neutralize microbial contaminants that impede its efficiency and plumbing fixtures throughout the Hidalgo County Courthouse.

Description of AI: Approval of expenditures

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Act Fund

Account No.: 1-1290-441-62-115-226-1-730

Requested by: Sergio Cruz

Prepared by: Diana Huallpa & Linette Solorsano

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. The American Rescue Plan Act permits the use of fiscal recovery funds for physical plant improvements or adaptations to public buildings to implement mitigation tactics.

The critical nature of the COVID-19 public health emergency has called for facility retrofits and adaptations. Capital investments in congregate settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are a vital component of mitigation efforts. Facility retrofits, such as air purification systems, provide needed protections to constituents and essential workers to avoid the contraction of COVID-19 and its potential health impacts.

The purpose of this action is to retrofit the Hidalgo County Courthouse in an effort to execute COVID-19 mitigation measures and safeguard public health. Physical plant improvements to the Hidalgo County Courthouse are necessary to continue to provide legal services amid the COVID-19 public health emergency and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and protect the wellbeing of constituents and Hidalgo County employees.

Compliance:

Procurement Method & Calendar

AI-62632 - Procurement Packet Approval & authority to advertise RFQ/P.

AI-63815 - Ranking/selection of CMAR - Morganti Texas, Inc.

AI-64066 - Approval to Execute AIA Agreement

AI-64113 - Final Contract & Notice to Proceed

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 facility retrofits that include physical plant changes, which will provide needed protections to constituents and essential workers to avoid the contraction of COVID-19 and its potential health impacts.

Agenda Item Caption:

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act (1290):

Discussion, consideration and action to approve a necessary ARPA Fund Expenditure to cover costs not accounted for in the current budget and cannot be funded by line item, allotment or allocation for the pandemic preparedness retrofit of the new courthouse structure, in order to assist the County with its response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and continue to provide necessary services to the community in compliance with public health measures necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Court, having reviewed the agenda item briefing attached, herein finds that such expenditure is necessary for the intended use.

Recommendations:

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the purpose of investing in facility retrofits to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.