

AI-82349

Budget and Management 23. J. 3.

CC REGULAR AGENDA SPECIAL MTG**Budget Appropriations****Meeting Date:** 09/21/2021**Submitted For:** Damaris San Miguel, BUDGET & MANAGEMENT**Submitted By:** Ivan Cantu, BUDGET & MANAGEMENT**Department:** BUDGET & MANAGEMENT**Information****CAPTION****Elections Dept:**

A. Approval of Order authorizing an emergency appropriation requiring the modification/retrofitting of elections voting equipment due to the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 598, which requires a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for voting systems.

B. Approval of 2021 emergency appropriation of funds in the amount of \$2,648,740.00 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance in accordance with Texas Local Government Code §111.070 to fund the modification/retrofitting of voting equipment in order to comply with the legislative mandate.

BACKGROUND**References:**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 111. COUNTY BUDGET

Sec. 111.070. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS UNDER BUDGET; EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE; BUDGET TRANSFER.

(b) The commissioners court may authorize an emergency expenditure as an amendment to the original budget only in a case of grave public necessity to meet an unusual and unforeseen condition that could not have been included in the original budget through the use of reasonably diligent thought and attention. If the court amends the original budget to meet an emergency, the court shall file a copy of its order amending the budget with the county clerk and the clerk shall attach the copy to the original budget.

SB 598 amends Texas Election Code Chapters 127 and 129 which requires a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for election voting systems, as prescribed by the Texas Secretary of State (SOS).

AI-82280, CC 9-7-2021, CC acceptance and approval of Hart quotes for the retrofitting of voting equipment.

Fiscal Impact**CALENDAR YEAR:** 2021**ACCT. #:** 1-1301-414-00-130-029-0-751**FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?:** Y**MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:****BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

VOTING EQUIPMENT RETROFIT; emergency appropriation in relation to the Voting Equipment Retrofit.
Funds available as of 9-9-2021 in the G/F Unassigned F/B

The amount of \$1,670,668.00 is being funded via ARPA funds

The amount of \$2,648,740.00 is being funded via the G/F Unassigned F/B emergency appropriation.

Total project cost = \$4,319,408.00

Attachments

appropriation-revised
Order-revised
SB 598 Bill Analysis
Hart Quotes-Signed by Co. Judge
Legal Review Email 9.9.2021

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Ivan Cantu (Originator)	Ivan Cantu	09/09/2021 04:04 PM
Budget & Management	Veronica Ortiz	09/09/2021 04:11 PM
Final Approval	Monica Salinas	09/17/2021 08:15 PM
Form Started By: Ivan Cantu		Started On: 09/08/2021 01:26 PM
Final Approval Date: 09/17/2021		

ORDER

**AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE HIDALGO COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET FOR PAYMENT OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE VOTING
EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 598 which amends Texas Election Code Chapters 127 and 129 requires a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for elections systems and as prescribed by the Texas Secretary of State by instituting a pilot program to use the paper audit trail in order to ensure that the tabulated results match the votes cast by voters with increased certainty, thus ensuring that elections are conducted with the highest standards as set forth in Senate Bill (SB) 598; and

WHEREAS, the recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 598 has created an emergency situation with respect to the existing voting equipment and the immediate need to modify the equipment in order to comply with the legislative mandate; and

WHEREAS, the immediate need for the modification of the voting equipment was previously unforeseen; and

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code §111.070 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management is recommending an emergency appropriation in the amount of **\$2,648,740.00** to budget line item 1-1301-414-00-130-029-0-660 Voting Equipment Retrofit – Furniture & Equipment Controlled to be offset by an increase to budget line item 1-1100-270-00-000-000-0-000 General Fund - Budgeted Fund Balance in order to pay for the modifications required for the voting equipment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby authorizes an emergency appropriation in the amount of **\$2,648,740.00** to budget line item 1-1301-414-00-130-029-0-660 Voting Equipment Retrofit-Furniture & Equipment Controlled to be offset by an increase to budget line item 1-1100-270-00-000-000-0-000 General Fund - Budgeted Fund Balance in order to pay for the modifications required for the voting equipment.

DATED the **21st** day of **September** 2021.

Richard F. Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

