

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/23/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0028

LOG NAME: 19NS TVC GRANTS 2024-2025

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Application for, and if Awarded, Acceptance of Two Grants from the Texas Veterans Commission in the Total Amount Up to \$600,000.00 for Assistance to Veterans with Security Deposits, Rent, Mortgage, Utility Assistance and Accessibility and Safety Modifications to their Homes, Approve Execution of Applicable Grant Contracts, Waive Indirect Costs and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application to the Texas Veterans Commission for two Veterans' Assistance Grants, a General Assistance Grant in the amount up to \$300,000.00 and a Housing for Texas Heroes Grant in the amount up to \$300,000.00;
 2. Authorize the execution of related contracts, including any renewals, amendments and extensions in accordance with City policies and regulations with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the grant funds for the program year beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2025;
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating State Fund, subject to receipt of the grants, in an amount up to \$600,000.00, for the purpose of assistance to veterans and families; and
 4. Authorize a waiver of the Neighborhood Services Department indirect cost rate of 17.29%, for an estimated total of \$14,524.78.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the application for, if awarded, acceptance of two grants from the Texas Veterans Commission, a General Assistance Grant in the amount up to \$300,000.00 and a Housing for Texas Heroes Grant in the amount up to \$300,000.00 that will benefit veterans in Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

The Forward Home Veteran Assistance Program funded by the General Assistance Grant will provide emergency financial assistance such as deposits, rental/mortgage and utility payments that are short-term and temporary in nature. The grant will be administered by the Community Action Partners (CAP) section of the Neighborhood Services Department. The increased funding will enable CAP to provide additional needed services to area veterans.

The Housing for Texas Heroes Grant will be utilized to provide needed accessibility or safety modifications to veteran homes in the Tarrant County area.

During 2022-2023, the Forward Home grant was able to assist 137 veterans/dependents and surviving spouses. This year, through October 2023, the program has served 29 households for a benefit average of \$2,596.42 per household. These funds were used to stabilize veteran households and prevent homelessness. Neighborhood Services Department will reach out to eligible veterans through 2-1-1 (First Call for Help); Mission United, an initiative of United Way for Veterans, active duty military and their families; Texas Veterans Network; local Veteran Assistance programs.

Grant funds support administrative and program delivery allocations for 1.4 full time employee positions in the Neighborhood Services Department. Indirect costs totaling an estimated \$14,524.78 calculated by taking wages & salaries designated for this grant of approximately \$84,006.80 multiplied by the Neighborhood Service Departments' indirect cost rate of 17.29% defined in the City's most recent Cost Allocation Plan, could be charged to these grants. A waiver of these indirect costs is requested to allow allocation of these funds to further support the programs and services to assist low-to-moderate income veterans and families. If awarded, both grants will begin on July 1, 2024 and end on June 30, 2025.

Positions funded with Texas Veteran Commissions grant funds are subject to grant availability. In the event of a grant award being decreased or eliminated, Neighborhood Services Department would review programs and services funded by the grants and determine a level of service and staffing that aligns with the available funding. Alternatives to consider may include staff and program reductions or eliminations.

No matching funds are required from the City for these grants.

These programs services ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS and the rest of Tarrant County.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Texas Veterans Commission

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds

will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating State Fund. The Neighborhood Services Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. These are reimbursement grants.

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