

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 10/28/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-1014

LOG NAME: 19TVC GRANTS 2026-2027

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Application for, and if Awarded, Authorize the Acceptance of Two Grants from the Texas Veterans Commission in a Total Amount Up to \$800,000.00 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 \$400,000.00 and a Housing for Texas Heroes Grant in the amount up to \$400,000.00;
 2. Authorize the execution of related contracts, including any renewals, amendments and extensions in accordance with City policies and regulations with the Texas Veterans Commission for the grant funds for the program year beginning on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027;
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating State Fund, in an amount up to \$800,000.00, subject to receipt of the grant, for the purpose of funding assistance to veterans and families; and
 4. Authorize a waiver of the Neighborhood Services Department indirect cost rate of 21.05%, for an estimated total of \$15,695.52.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize the application for and, if awarded, acceptance of two grants from the Texas Veterans Commission, a General Assistance Grant in an amount up to \$400,000.00 and a Housing for Texas Heroes Grant in an amount up to \$400,000.00. The grants will benefit veterans in Fort Worth and Tarrant County and will be administered by the Neighborhood Services Department. If awarded, both grants will begin on September 1, 2026 and end on August 31, 2027.

For the current program year ending August 31, 2026, the City was awarded a \$350,000.00 General Assistance grant (an increase of \$50,000.00 from the previous program year) and a \$300,000.00 Housing for Texas Heroes grant.

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 to help stabilize veteran households and prevent homelessness. During program year 2024-2025, this grant was able to assist 135 unduplicated veteran households for an average of \$1,470 per household.

The Housing for Texas Heroes Grant will be utilized to provide needed repairs, accessibility, or safety modifications to the homes of low-income veterans or their surviving spouses. The City did not receive this award for the 2024-2025 program year.

The Neighborhood Services Department connects with eligible veterans through various resources, including 2-1-1 (First Call for Help), Mission United (a United Way initiative supporting veterans, active-duty military, and their families), the Texas Veterans Network, and local Veteran Assistance programs. The department also coordinates with the City's Veterans Affairs Office to share information about these programs.

Grant funds support administrative and program delivery allocations for 1.15 full time employee positions in the Neighborhood Services Department. Indirect costs totaling an estimated \$15,695.52 calculated by taking wages & salaries designated for this grant of approximately \$74,563.00 multiplied by the Neighborhood Service Departments' indirect cost rate of 21.05% 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.

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.

Grant applications have been entered to the Grant Application Repository as GRNT-APPL-0000000148 and GRNT-APPL-0000000149.

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

These programs service 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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