

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 11/08/22

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 22-0905

**LOG NAME:** 23ASSESSMENT GRANT AND CLEANUP APPLICATION

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Application for and, if Awarded, Acceptance of a Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount Up to \$500,000.00 for Conducting Environmental Site Assessments and Developing Cleanup Plans for the Neighborhoods Included Within the Boundaries of United States Highway 287/Interstate Highway 30, Interstate Highway 35 West, East Berry Street, and Interstate Highway 820 in Fort Worth and a Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount Up to \$2,000,000.00 for Asbestos Abatement Activities Necessary for the Fort Worth Convention Center Future Redevelopment Project, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreements, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize application for and, if awarded, acceptance of a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$500,000.00 for conducting environmental site assessments and developing cleanup plans for brownfields in the neighborhoods included within the boundaries of United States Highway 287/Interstate Highway 30, Interstate Highway 35 West, East Berry Street, and Interstate Highway 820 in Fort Worth;
2. Authorize application for and, if awarded, acceptance of a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 for asbestos abatement activities necessary for the Fort Worth Convention Center future redevelopment project;
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable grant contracts including renewals and amendments; and
4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to receipt of the grants, in an amount up to \$2,500,000.00.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Fort Worth's (City) Brownfields Program promotes redevelopment of qualifying brownfield sites through identification of environmental hazards through environmental site assessment and cleanup of environmental contaminants, where possible. A brownfield is an abandoned or underutilized building/structure or vacant land that has real or perceived environmental contamination which prevents redevelopment. In Fiscal Year 2023, the City of Fort Worth is eligible to apply for funding under the subject grant programs known as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant Program and the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program. Indirect costs are not associated with these grant opportunities.

If awarded, the 2023 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant would provide up to the maximum award of \$500,000.00 in funding under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act and under §104(k)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This type of grant allows the City to provide direct service to support various public and private land development projects by providing environmental site assessment services, typically before land transactions occur. These assessments can directly save on necessary environmental due diligence costs and be used to inform cleanup plans or to facilitate remediation and subsequent reuse and redevelopment. While grant-funded activities can be City-wide, these funds will be directed at sites with either hazardous substance or petroleum contamination located in the neighborhoods included in the boundaries of United States Highway 287/Interstate Highway 30, Interstate Highway 35 West, East Berry Street, and Interstate Highway 820. If awarded to the City, the grant period is 36-months.

If awarded, the 2023 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant would provide up to the maximum award of \$2,000,000.00. Funds awarded through the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant Program can only be used to complete cleanup activities for a specified brownfield site that is contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, and/or petroleum products. If awarded, grant funding would be used to pay for future, required asbestos abatement in support of the planned redevelopment project for the Fort Worth Convention Center. All grant funds and timelines would align with goals set by the Public Events and Property Management Departments. If awarded to the City, the grant period is 48-months.

Because no City salaries will be charged, indirect cost recovery does not apply.

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

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## **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 Federal Fund. The Code Compliance 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 Code Compliance Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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