

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/08/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0285

LOG NAME: 80VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a License Agreement with Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation, a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, for Installation of a Tarrant County Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park, a City-Owned Property Located at 4120 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, Authorize Future Community Partnerships Fund Contribution to Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation in the Amount Up to \$200,000.00 as a One-Time Capital Contribution to Support the Construction of Vietnam Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Park, Find that the Contribution Serves a Public Purpose and that Adequate Controls are in Place, Adopt Appropriation Ordinance, and Amend the Fiscal Years 2025–2029 Capital Improvement Program

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize execution of a license agreement with Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation for installation of a Tarrant County Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park, a city-owned property located at 4120 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76107;
2. Authorize a contribution to the Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation to pay for 50% of the project cost in the amount up to \$200,000.00 as a one-time capital contribution to support the construction of Vietnam War Memorial at the Veterans Memorial Park;
3. Find that the contribution serves a public purpose of honoring the Tarrant County residents who died in the Vietnam War and provide a place to remember and educate current and future generation about the Vietnam War, and that adequate controls are in place in the form of a funding agreement that ensures the public purpose is carried out;
4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance adjusting estimated receipts and appropriations in the General Capital Projects Fund by increasing receipts and appropriations in the 2025 Vietnam War Memorial project (City Project No. 106141) in the amount of \$200,000.00 and decreasing receipts and appropriations in the Future Community Partnerships programmable project (City Project No. P00047) by the same amount to fund a one-time capital contribution to support the construction of the Vietnam War Memorial; and
5. Amend the Fiscal Years 2025–2029 Capital Improvement Program.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize a license agreement between the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County Vietnam Memorial Foundation (Foundation) and authorize Future Community Partnerships Fund contributions to the Foundation for installation of a Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park.

The Foundation has proposed the construction of a Vietnam War Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park. The memorial will honor the 223-plus Tarrant County servicemen who died in the war and others who died later as result of serving in the war. The memorial includes an artwork component by local artist Michael Pavlovsky.

Veterans Memorial Park has served as a war memorial site since October 1950. Currently the park includes memorials for the Texas 36th Division (WWI 1950 and WWII 1987), a statue memorializing Flanders Field (WWI), four monuments recognizing Medal of Honor recipients with ties to Fort Worth, 2 naval projectiles (WWII) and a navy anchor (on loan from the US Navy) celebrating the commissioning of the USS Fort Worth.

The Park & Recreation Department (PARD) has worked with the Foundation to determine the location of the memorial in the park and has provided guidance on City requirements to achieve approval for construction including plan review/approval and license agreement for construction maintenance.

On November 19, 2020, a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony, intended to increase awareness for the project and thus fundraising, was held for the proposed memorial. The ceremony coincided with Medal of Honor recipients in town for activities associated with the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington.

On October 27, 2021, an Information Item was presented to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board. The Board expressed support for the project. The Board officially endorsed the project on February 26, 2025.

The Art Commission preliminarily endorsed the Foundation's proposed sculpture component on November 15, 2021. The Commission endorsed the revised design on February 17, 2025.

The estimated cost of the memorial is \$355,000.00. Thus far the Foundation has received approximately \$50,000.00 in donations. They have a proposal from Teague Nall and Perkins, Inc. for design & engineering at a fixed fee of \$32,100.00. The City's financial participation will benefit the Foundation's fundraising efforts. The Foundation will kick off their main fundraising campaign in March. The Foundation intends to dedicate the Memorial on Wednesday November 11, 2026.

The City's contribution in the amount up to \$200,000.00 will be subject to verification that the Foundation has successfully:

1. Documented that the remaining amount of capital contributions needed to fund the Vietnam War Memorial construction has been received or committed by other organizations, and all funds necessary to complete the project are escrowed solely for the project ;
2. Submitted a financial pro forma indicating full sustainability without the need for additional funding; and
3. The contribution will be further conditioned on the execution of a funding agreement to ensure the public purpose is carried out.

The construction of the memorial will further the public purpose of honoring the Tarrant County residents who died in the Vietnam War and provide a place to remember and educate current and future generations about the Vietnam War.

The funding for this contribution is available in the Future Community Partnerships Programmable project within the General Capital Projects Fund to fulfill the City's commitment to assist in the construction of the Vietnam War Memorial project. The Future Community Partnerships project is a holding place for monies the City has committed to be available for use in conjunction with community partners for capital improvements. The year-to-date funding in the programmable project is:

	FY2025 Beginning Balance	Authority	Budget Adjustment	2025 Remaining Balance
Future Community Partnerships P00047	\$1,954,620.50	This M&C	(\$200,000.00)	\$1,754,620.50
2025 Vietnam War Memorial (Project No. 106141)	\$0.00	This M&C	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00

The action in this M&C will amend the Fiscal Years 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program as approved in connection with Ordinance 27107-09-2024, Section 8 capital Improvements.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are currently available in the Future Community Partnerships programmable project within the General Capital Projects Fund and upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the General Capital Projects Fund for the 2025 Vietnam War Memorial project. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Park & Recreation Department has the responsibility of verifying the availability of funds.

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