

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 08/22/23

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 23-0691

**LOG NAME:** 23USDA COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT (FY2024/FY2025)

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Application for and, if Awarded, Acceptance of a Compost and Food Waste Reduction Program Cooperative Grant Agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture in an Amount Up to \$300,000.00 for a Two-Year Period, Authorize a Cash Match of \$100,000.00 for the Two-Year Period, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for and, if awarded, acceptance of a United States Department of Agriculture composting and food waste reduction cooperative grant agreement in an amount up to \$300,000.00 to expand the City of Fort Worth Food Waste Composting Program and to support composting and waste diversion for a two-year period; and
2. Authorize a cash match of \$100,000.00 for the two-year period; and
3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in the amount of (1) \$300,000.00, subject to the receipt of the grant, and (2) \$100,000.00 as a transfer from the Solid Waste Fund to satisfy the City's match requirement, for a total of \$400,000.00, for the purpose of funding the expansion of the City of Fort Worth Food Waste Composting Program.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) cooperative grant agreements assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal composting and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities are intended to increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality, and encourage innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

If authorized by City Council, the City of Fort Worth will use CFWR funding to support a pilot project within the City of Fort Worth Food Waste Composting Program. This pilot project will provide food waste collection, operational materials and composting services for up to 16 locations at partnering community centers, school campuses, college and universities, or municipal facilities. Funds will also be used to promote education and outreach related to composting, related services, materials, and supplies.

If awarded, the grant is for a two-year period with a maximum amount of \$300,000.00 for reimbursement of expenses to the City.

This cooperative agreement requires a \$100,000.00 local (25%) match. Matching funds for \$50,000.00 per year are programmed within the Solid Waste Fund pending approval of the Fiscal Year 2024 & Fiscal Year 2025 adopted budgets by City Council.

This pilot project will help to further advance the following objectives supported by the CFWR:

- Generate composted materials;
- Increase access of agricultural producers to composted material;
- Reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer;
- Improve soil quality;
- Reduce municipal food waste; and
- Divert food waste from landfills.

This program serves ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

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

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available, 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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