

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/17/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0791

LOG NAME: 84TEXTREASURES GRANT SFY2025

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for and Authorize Acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 TexTreasures Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in the Amount Up to \$39,189.00 for the Purpose of Funding the Digitization of the Fort Worth Press Newspaper Microfilm Collection, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify the application for and authorize the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025 TexTreasures Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, in an amount up to \$39,189.00;
2. Authorize the execution of a related grant agreement with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; and
3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to the receipt of the grant, in Project 104558 TexTreasures an amount up to \$39,189.00 for the purpose of funding the digitization of the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper microfilm collection.

DISCUSSION:

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides a competitive TexTreasures grant designed to help public libraries make their special collections more accessible for the people of Texas and beyond. The Fort Worth Public Library received this grant for the amount of \$25,000.00 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 to fund project 104558 TexTreasures to digitize the *Fort Worth Press* newspaper microfilm collection. The initial grant funding was not enough to digitize the entire collection, therefore, the Library Department was awarded the grant for a second year in SFY 2024 in the amount of \$39,189.00 to continue the project. The Library applied for this grant for a third consecutive year and was awarded \$39,189.00 to complete the digitization project in SFY 2025. This third and final award will fund the digitization to complete the project.

The newspaper, published from 1921-1975, documents a significant portion of the history of Fort Worth and is of vital historical importance to the Library's collection. The extent of the collection to be digitized is 328 reels of microfilm. Researchers of local, state, and national history request the *Fort Worth Press* more frequently than any other microfilm resource at the Fort Worth Public Library. They include journalists, professional and avocational historians, academic researchers, and those who seek to learn more about a person or event they recall.

The Library has partnered with the University of North Texas Digital Libraries and Portal to Texas History (PTH) on numerous successful digitization projects including this *Fort Worth Press* newspaper collection. This searchable digital version is available to the public via the university's PTH as a collection of the Texas Digital Newspaper Project (TDNP). Making the *Fort Worth Press* available on the PTH is of great value to those who are interested in the history of Fort Worth. The PTH is a free public resource and is available to anyone with an internet-connected device 24/7, 365 days a year.

The Library is promoting the digitized collection on the Library's website, social media channels, and the City of Fort Worth News. In addition, the information for accessing the new collection is being provided to local school districts, charter schools, home school organizations, and local universities.

This is a reimbursement grant and there are no indirect costs since payroll expenditures are not part of the grant award.

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

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Library 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 Library Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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