

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/25/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0167

LOG NAME: 19NS TVC GRANTS 2025-2026

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for and, if Awarded, Acceptance of Two Grants from the Texas Veterans Commission in a Total Amount Up to \$700,000.00 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. Ratify the application for and, if awarded, acceptance of two Veterans' Assistance Grants from the Texas Veterans Commission for a General Assistance Grant in an amount up to \$400,000.00 and a Housing for Texas Heroes Grant in an amount up to \$300,000.00;
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 July 1, 2025 and ending on August 31, 2026;
3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating State Fund, subject to receipt of the grants, in an amount up to \$700,000.00, for the purpose of 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 \$17,769.99.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to ratify 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 \$300,000.00 that will benefit veterans in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. The Neighborhood Services Department has already submitted applications for these grants to meet the November deadline for application.

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. During program year 2023-2024, the grant was able to assist 106 veteran/dependents and surviving spouses. This program year, through September 2024, the program has served 9 households for a benefit average of \$2,078.63 per household. This grant will be administered by the Community Services Division of the Neighborhood Services Department. If awarded, funding will allow to provide needed services to help stabilize veterans and prevent homelessness.

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 surviving spouses. During program year 2023-2024, the Housing for Texas Heroes Grant provided assistance to 18 veterans and surviving spouses. For the 2024-2025 program year, the City did not receive the Housing for Texas Heroes grant. This grant will be administered by the Community Services Division of the Neighborhood Services Department. If awarded, funding will provide needed services to help with accessibility and critical housing repairs.

The Neighborhood Services Department will connect 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 will also 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 \$17,769.99 calculated by taking wages & salaries designated for this grant of approximately \$84,418.00 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. If awarded, both grants will begin on July 1, 2025 and end on August 31, 2026.

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-000000115 and GRNT-APPL-000000116.

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

