

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 11/19/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-1017

LOG NAME: 22USDA COMPOST AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT FY25/FY26

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for and, if Awarded, Acceptance and Execution 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 Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Including a Transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Solid Waste Fund for the City's Match Requirement for Fiscal Year 2025, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify application for and, if awarded, acceptance and execution 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 to expand the City of Fort Worth Food Waste Composting Program and to support composting and waste diversion for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026;
 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 up to (1) \$300,000.00, subject to the receipt of the grant, and in the amount up to (2) \$100,000.00 as a transfer from the Solid Waste Fund, with \$50,000.00 being transferred in Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026, to satisfy the City's match requirement, for a total of \$400,000.00, for the purpose of funding a Compost and Food Waste Reduction Program Cooperative Grant Agreement from the United States Department of Agriculture.
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DISCUSSION:

The United States Department of Agriculture's Compost 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.

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 ratified, 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 grant agreement requires a \$100,000.00 local (25%) match. Matching funds will come from the Solid Waste Fund. For Fiscal Year 2025, \$50,000.00 will be transferred from the General Operating and Maintenance Category to the Transfer Out Category. Pending City Council adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, \$50,000.00 will be programmed in the Fiscal Year 2026. The Grant Application Repository number is GRNT-APPL-0000000084.

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

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

No employee salaries will be supported with this grant.

This program serves ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS. Indirect costs do 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: USDA

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinances, and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget by the City Council, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants

Operating Federal Fund. The Environmental Services 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 Environmental Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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