



CITY OF  
**CORPUS CHRISTI**

**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting April 28, 2026

**DATE:** April 28, 2026  
**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Brandon Wade, Fire Chief  
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**Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Helping Heroes Program from Flint Hills Resources in the amount of \$4,000.00 to be used to support the Corpus Christi - Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee; and appropriating the funds into the Fire Grants Fund**

**CAPTION:**

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the 2024 Helping Heroes Program from Flint Hills Resources in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the purchase of Shelter-In-Place kits for the Corpus Christi - Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee; and appropriating \$4,000.00 into the Fire Grants Fund.

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a grant award from Flint Hills Resources for the FY 2024 Helping Heroes Program in the amount of \$4,000.00. If accepted, the funding will help enhance the safety of the public by providing funding for 125 Shelter-in-Place kits which are distributed to area school districts. The kits contain items such as water, duct tape, masking tape, a towel, first aid kit, multi-functional flashlight/radio.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Flint Hills Resources began the Helping Heroes program in 2012. The Helping Heroes program provides grants for training, education, equipment, and emergency notification needs for Texas fire departments and emergency responders. Since starting the program in 2012, Flint Hills Resources has awarded more than \$1 million to various fire departments throughout Texas. This will be the fourth Helping Heros Grant award for the LEPC. Flint Hills Resources contributes \$10,000 annually to the LEPC. They contribute \$4,000 for support of the Regional Reverse Alert System. Both amounts are aside from grants through their Helping Heroes program.

The Community Right to Know Act of 1986 establishes the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as a forum at the local level for discussions and a focus for action in matters pertaining to hazardous material planning. The primary mission of the LEPC is to reduce the risk of and provide emergency planning for hazardous materials releases.

The LEPC Program Manager is an employee of the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) and serves as the liaison between county, city, state, federal governments, facilities with hazardous chemicals, and residents. The LEPC Program Manager assists with alerts for any potentially hazardous material incidents and oversees the manufacturing, transportation, storage, and utilization of all hazardous chemicals within Nueces County.

The LEPC works closely with the CCFD Hazmat team to coordinate facility visits, training opportunities, and providing critical information to the public. Per the interlocal cooperation agreement between Nueces County, City of Corpus Christi, and the Port of Corpus Christi, a position for the administration of the Local Emergency Planning Committee must be provided. The City's Fire Chief is the Community Emergency Coordinator and the Chairman of the LEPC. Therefore, the LEPC department is housed within the Corpus Christi Fire Administration.

Although the primary mission of the LEPC is to reduce the risk from hazardous materials and to provide emergency planning for hazardous materials releases, the LEPC recognizes vulnerable populations such as area school districts. In such, the LEPC provides Shelter-in-Place kits for classrooms. Each kit is comprised of a durable poly bag which contains a radio/flashlight, water, towel, masking and duct tape, and a first-aid kit. The cost of each Shelter-in-Place kit is \$32.00.

This grant award is from the 2024 Flint Hills Helping Heroes Program. The reason that it is being awarded now is because the Flint Hills Helping Heroes Program underwent a major staff restructuring in 2025. As a result, the 2024 grant application was not officially reviewed by Flint Hills Helping Heroes Program Committee until late calendar year 2025. The grant was subsequently awarded in 2026.

Through the acceptance of the Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Program grant of \$4,000.00, the LEPC will be able to purchase 125 Shelter-in-Place kits. The LEPC distributes 800+ kits to area schools annually. Each year, existing kits are replenished and new kits are issued, as needed.

This is the fifth time that the LEPC has received this grant since the Helping Heroes program was started in 2012. The last time the LEPC received this grant was in 2023. The amount the LEPC received in 2023 was \$3,500.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to accept the grant award and find other funding sources from the General Fund for the purchase of shelter-in-place kits. However, these funds were not budgeted as part of the FY 2026 General Fund Budget.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

If the grant award is accepted, \$4,000.00 will be appropriated in the Fire Grants fund in FY 2026.

**Funding Detail:**

Fund:	1062 Fire Grants Fund
Organization/Activity:	89 Grants & Capital Project Funds/TBD
Department:	10 Fire
Account:	Various
Amount:	\$4,000.00

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of the 2024 Helping Heroes Grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Flint Hills Resources, and execution of all necessary documents, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Ordinance  
Certificate of Funds  
Presentation