



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting December 3, 2024

DATE: December 3, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
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**Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Texas
Commission on Environmental Quality for the 2024 Local Emergency Planning
Committee Grant Program**

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the 2024 Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Program in the amount of \$44,965.02 for the purchase of marketing supplies, Hazmat equipment, and training for the City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Corpus Christi Fire Department Hazardous Material Response Team.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the 2024 Local Emergency Planning committee Grant Program in the amount of \$44,965.02. If awarded, the funding will be used to purchase marketing supplies, Hazmat equipment, and training for the City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Corpus Christi Fire Department Hazardous Material Response Team.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) awards funding to Local Emergency Planning Committees across the state of Texas. The funds awarded from this grant through are dependent upon the amount of fees collected by TCEQ from facilities with hazardous materials across the state. Once the fees are collected by TCEQ, they are then divided and distributed as grant funds to multiple LEPCs across the state.

The Community Right to Know Act of 1986 establishes the County 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 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of both the City and County governments, commercial and industrial facilities with hazardous chemicals, and residents of the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County. The LEPC Program Manager is an employee of the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) and serves as the liaison between county, city, state, and

federal governments as well as facilities and citizenry. Additionally, the LEPC Program Manager assists with alerts for any potentially hazardous material incidents and oversees the manufacturing, transportation, and utilization of all hazardous chemicals within the county. The LEPC Program Manager also manages the repository for over 400 facilities' annual chemical inventories within the county.

The LEPC works closely with the CCFD Hazmat team to coordinate facility visits, training opportunities, and provide critical information to the public. The primary mission of the LEPC is to reduce the risk of and provide emergency planning for hazardous materials releases. 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 also the LEPC Chairman. Therefore, the LEPC department is housed within the Corpus Christi Fire Administration.

The funding from this grant will purchase marketing material for the LEPC in the amount of \$20,332.87. The marketing materials will the LEPC help inform residents of Nueces, Aransas, Refugio, and San Patricio counties about the Reverse Alert Notification System. Printed materials with information about the Reverse Alert Notification System will be distributed to residents in the four-county system. Additionally, local television spots will be purchased to raise awareness and prepare the community to respond to chemical emergencies. The local television spots will run for three months generating and expected to generate 1,050,000 impressions.

The funding will also be used to purchase hazmat equipment and training in the amount of \$24,632.15 for the Corpus Christi Fire Department's Hazmat Team. The hazmat equipment that will be purchased will be one new liquified petroleum gas (LPG)/propane response flaring kit and five replacement chlorine sensors. The LPG/propane response flaring kit allows for controlled combustion of excess propane vapor from a tank or container while effectively reducing pressure within the tank or container by burning off the gas through a specialized burner. The training that will be purchased will be for Advanced Propane Response Training for use of the new LPG/propane response flaring kit. The Advanced Propane Response Training will be given to all fire personnel located at CCFD's two hazmat response stations (Fire Station 1 and Fire Station 5). The hazmat equipment and training will allow CCFD to respond more effectively to hazmat events which will increase safety for firefighters and members of the public.

The City has received funds from this grant in three previous years (2017, 2019, and 2023). Last year, the City received \$8,843.58 from this grant. No City cash match will be required if the grant funds are awarded.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to submit the application and find other funding sources for the purchase of marketing supplies, Hazmat equipment, and training. However, these funds were not budgeted as part of the FY 2025 General Fund Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The application process has no fiscal impact. If awarded, the grant funds will be appropriated in the FY 2025 LEPC Grants Fund. No City cash match will be required if the grant funds are awarded.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: N/A
Organization/Activity: N/A

Department: N/A
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: N/A
Amount: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing the submission of an application for the 2024 Local Emergency Planning committee Grant Program in the amount of \$44,965.02, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution