



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting September 19, 2023

DATE: September 19, 2023
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
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361-826-3900

**2023 Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Grant for \$3,500 for the Corpus Christi-
Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee**

CAPTION:

One-reading ordinance accepting a grant from the Flint Hills Resources 2023 Helping Heroes Program in the amount of \$3,500 to be used to support the Corpus Christi – Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee in the purchase of 100 Shelter-in-Place kits; and appropriating the funds into the LEPC Fund.

SUMMARY:

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) requested support to purchase materials for 100 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, and other items to provide short-term protection from the effects of a hazardous material release emergency.

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 Heroes Grant award for the LEPC. Flint Hills Resources contributes \$10,000 annually to the LEPC. They contribute \$4,900 for support of the Reverse Alert System. Both amounts are aside from grants through their Helping Heroes program.

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 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, 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 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 \$35.00.

Through the acceptance of the Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Program grant of \$3,500.00, the LEPC will be able to purchase 100 Shelter-in-Place kits. During the 2022 – 2023 school year, 879 kits were delivered to area schools.

This is the fourth 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 2019. The amount the LEPC received in 2019 was \$3,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to accepting these funds is to decline the award. However, this will result in the LEPC having less funding for the Shelter-in-Place kits. If declined, the LEPC will have to search for funding elsewhere in order to purchase the Shelter-in-Place kits.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of funds in the amount of \$3,500 and appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$3,500 to the FY 2023 LEPC Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1062
Organization/Activity: 830001L
Department #: 10
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 530500 Printing, Advertising and PR
Amount: \$3,500

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance to execute all documents necessary to accept the grant and appropriate the funds in the amount of \$3,500.00, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance