



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for Ordinance for the City Council Meeting July 18, 2023
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting July 25, 2023

DATE: July 18, 2023
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
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**Acceptance of funds received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
in the amount \$8,843.58**

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$8,843.58 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for HazMat equipment and training for the City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee; and appropriating \$8,843.58 into the LEPC Fund.

SUMMARY:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of funds received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee was awarded \$8,843.58 for equipment and training.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

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 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 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 providing 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 Chairman of the LEPC. Therefore, the LEPC department is housed within the Corpus Christi Fire Administration.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) awards funding to Local Emergency Planning Committees across the state of Texas. The LEPC is comprised of both the City and County governments, facilities with hazardous chemicals, and residents of the Corpus Christi and Nueces County. The LEPC has received funds from TCEQ in two previous years (2017 and 2019) in the respective amounts of \$92,662.80 and \$5,000.00. Amounts provided to the LEPC by the TCEQ vary depending on the amount of fees collected by TCEQ from facilities with hazardous materials throughout Texas. Once the fees are collected by TCEQ, they are then divided and distributed as funds to LEPCs throughout Texas.

The funds received by the LEPC are used to purchase necessary equipment and training services such as HAZMAT ID Detection devices, cellular devices to detect and identify chemical gases, calibration devices for gas monitoring, and various HAZMAT training courses.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to accepting these funds is to decline the award from TCEQ. However, this will result in the LEPC having less funding for necessary equipment and training services. If declined, the LEPC will have to search for funding elsewhere in order to purchase the necessary equipment and training services. This would result in a negative impact on the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, the Port of Corpus Christi, and the residents within the city and county limits. Additionally, these funds are not provided by the TCEQ every year, so there is no guarantee that any funds will be allocated to the LEPC again next year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of funds in the amount of \$8,843.58 and appropriating revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$8,843.58 to the FY 2023 LEPC Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1062 LEPC
Organization/Activity: 830025S
Department Number: 10 Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 520090
Amount: \$8,843.58

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to accept and appropriate funds totaling \$8,843.58 for the Local Emergency Planning Committee, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance