



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
February 15, 2021

DATE: February 15, 2021
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Robert Rocha, Fire Chief
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Appropriating \$49,000 of City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee Reserve Funds and amending the FY 2022 Local Emergency Planning Committee Operating Budget by Increasing Expenditures in the Local Emergency Planning Committee Fund.

CAPTION:

Ordinance appropriating \$49,000 from the City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee Reserve Fund for community education programs and projects regarding hazardous chemical safety; and amending the FY 2022 Operating Budget by increasing expenditures in the Local Emergency Planning Committee fund by \$49,000.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance will appropriate \$49,000 from the City of Corpus Christi–Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Reserve Fund, amending the FY 2022 Operating Budget by increasing expenditures in the LEPC fund. The funds will be used for department purchases regarding community education programs and projects regarding hazardous chemicals.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The LEPC is not funded with federal, state, or local tax dollars but is funded through the Interlocal Agreement between the City, the Port and the County, donations from local industry, and grants from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and local industry.

The funds in the LEPC reserve are accumulated from unused funds in previous budgets. The current reserve fund balance is \$89,724.29. The LEPC Executive Committee requested \$40,000 remain in reserve in case of an unexpected expense, such as a vehicle purchase. The reserve fund is ongoing and reflects any unused balance from previous fiscal years. The fund has been in place for over ten years.

The LEPC reserve funds are sometimes used to fund projects and programs that provide educational information regarding chemical safety and awareness. Chemical safety and awareness programs make up the majority of the LEPC and are mandated by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. These safety programs and projects have been

vetted and approved by the four subcommittees (Finance, Pipeline Damage Prevention, Risk Awareness, and Emergency Response and Communication), the LEPC General Committee, and the LEPC Executive Committee. The LEPC's subcommittees are set out in the LEPC bylaws and are overseen by the LEPC Executive Committee.

The \$49,000 appropriation from the LEPC reserve fund will be used for the following projects:

- Chief Rocha recommends sending eight representatives total from both the Corpus Christi Fire Department and the LEPC to the 2022 International Hazardous Materials Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. The trip is contingent upon the conference being held in-person. The cost is approximately \$15,000.00.
- Creation of a chemical incident, shelter-in-place, and evacuation informational video for first responders and industry representatives. The video is an emergency management tool and not for public distribution. The cost is approximately \$10,000.00.
- Materials for Shelter-in-Place kits that are distributed to area schools, daycare facilities, and libraries to be used in the event of chemical emergencies. An increasing number of schools are requesting these kits as they are now included in school districts' emergency plans. The cost is approximately \$24,000.00.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to accepting the ordinance amending the LEPC fund and increasing expenditures is to leave the current LEPC fund as is which will reduce the LEPC's ability to fund chemical safety and awareness projects for the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Appropriating \$49,000.00 from the LEPC Reserve Fund to the FY 2022 LEPC Budget and increasing the expenditures.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	6060	LEPC
Organization/Activity:	21700	Local Emergency Planning Committee
Mission Element:	091	Prevention
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	547010	Travel
Amount:	\$15,000	

Fund:	6060	LEPC
Organization/Activity:	21700	Local Emergency Planning Committee
Mission Element:	091	Prevention
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A	
Account:	530500	Printing and Advertisement
Amount:	\$34,000	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance