



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mindi Hurley, Director of Community Development

Date: September 10, 2024

Reference: Consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement renewal between the City of Coppel and SPAN, Inc., for the provision of transit services for older persons, persons with disabilities, and veterans; authorizing the Mayor to sign and the City Manager to execute any necessary documents.

2040: Implement Innovative Transportation Networks

Introduction:

This is the annual contract renewal between the City of Coppel and SPAN, Inc. for residential and paratransit services for older persons, persons with disabilities, and veterans.

Background:

The City of Coppel initially entered into an agreement with SPAN, Inc. (“SPAN”) in 2016 to provide shared transportation services, by appointment, for older adults aged 60 and over, those who have a mobility impairment, and veterans. SPAN manages the application process and provides subsidized transportation services to eligible Coppel residents and caretakers for doctor appointments, daily errands, libraries and recreation programs, life skills programs, employment and other approved locations within the designated service area. The service is only available to eligible riders that are residents of Coppel.

To use SPAN transit, passengers must first submit an application to SPAN. Upon receipt of the approved applications, passengers receive a written notice and may begin scheduling trips. Passengers request transportation directly through SPAN. All SPAN vehicles are equipped with wheelchair lifts or ramps. SPAN provides door to door services and all drivers are trained to assist individuals who may have a mobility impairment and or use assistive devices. The designated service area includes all of Coppel and surrounding areas in close proximity to Coppel city limits.

Thus far in fiscal Year 2023-24, SPAN provided 1,220 one-way transportation trips for 26 unduplicated riders between October 2023-July 2024. Ridership for the current fiscal year has increased 15% compared to the same October-July timeframe from last fiscal year. The 1,220 one-way transportation trips for the current fiscal year were for the following purposes:

- 49% to dialysis or medical purposes
- 18% to the Coppell Senior & Community Center or other recreational purposes
- 12% to education services
- 10% to Life Skills programs
- 9% for employment purposes
- 2% to shopping trips for necessities

To account for inflationary costs, such as increases in fuel and fleet maintenance costs, the local rate per trip will increase from \$20.24 to \$21.96 per one-way trip. SPAN has also increased the minimum timeframe to request transportation from 24 hours to 48 hours prior to the trip date. This change allows more time to create the daily trip routes and will help decrease the number of declined trips for scheduling purposes. Both changes are reflected in the new interlocal agreement. The projected maximum trip rate for the proposed contract is 150 per month. Funding for the service through 2023 was provided by the CARES Act as dispensed through SPAN. The CARES Act funding has been depleted and the service is now being funded through the general fund.

Benefit to the Community:

Coppell's rate per one-way trip will be \$21.96 per rider and the rider is responsible for a trip fare of \$3.00 each way. The nature of the trips are medical services, recreational activities, education services, life skills programs, employment and necessary shopping trips. The residents utilizing SPAN would not otherwise have residential and paratransit options to receive these necessary services. This transportation service is secondary to, and not in lieu of, or as a substitution for transportation services available through or funded by Medicare and/or Medicaid, or any other insurance program or provider.

Legal Review:

This contract was reviewed by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this item is \$39,528.00, as budgeted and provided from undesignated fund balance.

Recommendation:

The Community Development Department recommends approval of this item.