



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Vicki Chiavetta, Deputy City Manager and Mindi Hurley, Director of Community Development

Date: September 22, 2020

Reference: Consider approval of two Resolutions amending and approving the City of Coppel's allocation of funds from the CARES Act for local businesses and social services; and authorizing the Mayor to sign.

Introduction:

Dallas County and Denton County provided CARES Act Funding to municipalities in their respective counties to assist with expenditures related to COVID-19. The City of Coppel received a total of \$2,273,700, which was based on \$55 per resident in the City. The City allocated \$1,650,000 of those funds to two business assistance grant programs. One program was a Restaurant Assistance Grant Program that awarded grants to qualifying restaurants based on occupancy load. The other program was a Business Retrofit Grant Program that reimbursed businesses for expenditures they incurred making their services safer for their employees and customers.

After two rounds of grant submittals, the City has only awarded \$199,123.14 in grants. Numerous businesses have asked for other forms of monetary support because they do not meet the criteria to apply for the two existing grant programs. Staff would like to issue as many grants to our businesses as possible in the next two months because Dallas County has recently stated that all CARES funds that have not been spent must be turned back in to Dallas County by November 30, 2020. As a result, if City Council is agreeable, staff would like to re-allocate the remaining funds for a new grant program. Staff would also like to re-allocate some of the remaining funds for two other important uses.

The following are recommendations for City Council to consider as a re-allocation of the remaining \$1,450,876.86:

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD:

Staff is asking that \$50,000 of funding originally allocated to the Business Assistance Program instead be dispersed to Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (CFBISD) to help reimburse them for costs associated with Operation Connectivity, which provides distance learning for students in response to COVID-19.

Operation Connectivity is an initiative to ensure that every student has a device suitable for virtual instruction and internet access. The Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (CFBISD) has purchased 500 hotspots, 12,814 Chromebooks, and 3,641 iPads to provide their students with these tools. While most CFBISD students live outside of Coppell, the district identified 411 students with home addresses located within the City. Staff is recommending supporting the CFBISD by reimbursing the district for costs associated with providing distance learning for students who reside within Coppell.

Per the Treasury Department's Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions updated as of September 2nd, a unit of local government receiving a Fund payment may transfer funds to another unit of government "provided that the transfer qualifies as a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency and meets the other criteria of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance." The FAQ further states that "payments from the Fund may be used to cover costs associated with providing distance learning (e.g., the cost of laptops to provide to students).

COPPELL FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The City would like to re-allocate \$77,162.32 of funding originally allocated to the Business Assistance Program to purchase four Stryker's LUCAS 3, v3.1 Chest Compression Systems and associated equipment and services for use by the City of Coppell's Fire Department personnel.

In April of 2020 the American Heart Association, in collaboration with seven other national medical associations, published interim guidance for providing basic and advanced life support for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. As "COVID-19 is highly transmissible, particularly during resuscitation, and carries a high morbidity and mortality," it was recommended that health care providers "consider replacing manual chest compressions with mechanical CPR devices to reduce the number of rescuers required for adults and adolescents who meet the manufacturers height and weight criteria" in order to protect frontline workers and avoid further straining the workforce available by reducing the risk of unnecessary exposure.

BUSINESS RENT/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

As mentioned above, staff has received several requests from a variety of businesses in Coppell to provide monetary assistance in a form other than the Restaurant Assistance Grant and the Business

Retrofit Grant. The majority of businesses have requested rent/mortgage assistance. Therefore, staff is recommending using the remaining \$1,323,714.54 in funds for a Business Rent/Mortgage Assistance Program.

The following is the proposed grant program for businesses:

Business Rent/Mortgage Assistance Grant-

Any small business, as defined by the Small Business Administration, located in the city limits of Coppel with a physical storefront may apply for rent/mortgage assistance. Each business will be awarded \$5,000 if they meet the following criteria:

- The business must be located within the city limits of Coppel and must be in current compliance with the City of Coppel Code of Ordinances, including all applicable zoning and land use ordinances;
- The business must have a physical store front in the City of Coppel;
- The business must have a current utility bill showing a Coppel address for the business;
- The business must not be in any litigation with the City of Coppel or the County in which they are located;
- The business must demonstrate that they have endured a 10% or greater reduction in sales/business for at least two months after March 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be a continuous call for applications until all funds have been distributed. Staff will review applications once per week. A business may qualify for this program even if they have previously received a grant from the City of Coppel, but businesses that have not previously received a grant will be given higher priority when considering applications. Businesses will also be responsible for turning in all necessary paperwork by a specified date in order to receive their grant.

With the remaining funds for the program, the City should be able to issue Business Rent/Mortgage Assistance Grants to approximately 264 businesses.

Legal Review:

The City Attorney has reviewed the resolutions.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding for the CARES ACT Grant Program is being provided by the Federal Government through the State of Texas and Dallas County.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the resolutions.

