

CORONAVIRUS FINANCIAL ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA – August 3, 2020 – 4:00p.m. MST

State Controller's Office

4th Floor, Syringa Conference Room

Available through Webex

Monday, Aug 3, 2020 4:00 pm | 1 hour | Mountain Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 133 594 2007

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The regular meeting of the Subcommittee to the Coronavirus Financial Committee was called to order at 700 W State Street, 4th floor, Syringa Conference Room, Boise, Idaho, at 4:04 p.m. pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2002 and by order of the chair.

The following members were present: Chairman John Iasonides, David Fulkerson, Division of Financial Management by phone; Kelley Packer, Association of Cities by phone; Mr. Grigg, Association of Counties by phone.

Also present were Brian Benjamin, State Controller's Office; Meg Byram, State Controller's Office; Annette Valenzuela, State Controller's Office; Jody Bieze, Kootenai County by phone; Tiffany Westbrook, Kootenai County by phone; Warren Stewart, City of Meridian by phone; Clint Dolsby, City of Meridian by phone; Dan Berthe, City of Meridian by phone; Marv Hagedorn, Idaho Division of Veterans Services by phone; Tracy Schaner, Idaho Division of Veterans Services by phone; Paul Spannkebel, Idaho Division of Veterans Services by phone; Duane Nelson, City of Idaho Falls by phone; Josh Roos, City of Idaho Falls by phone; and Sheriff Chris Goetz, Clearwater County by phone; Carrie Bird, Clearwater County by phone.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Kootenai County –ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-154) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$655,858.50. Request Includes: A new location for the Kootenai County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The current EOC does not allow for adequate social distancing to be practiced. A new location has been identified which would allow all necessary social distancing measures to take place ensuring first responder safety. The new location will serve as a hub within Kootenai County for first responders across all disciplines; fire, law, EMS, public health, health care, and emergency

management personnel. Additionally, in response to COVID-19, the new hub will significantly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of first responders to future crisis, while operating in a safe environment without compromising their own health. Not only will this solution work to mitigate against health concerns due to COVID but ultimately, it would work to strengthen response efforts, enhance communications between agencies, and foster greater collaboration, leading to a safer and healthier community.

Discussion: Jody Biez (Kootenai County) provided additional justification regarding the eligibility of their request. Ms. Biez explained to the committee that Kootenai county was requesting approval for two categories of expenses: general expenses and architectural/remodeling expenses.

John Iasonides (State Controller's Office) made mention of the FAQs provided by the Treasury and how it speaks to capital improvement projects. Mr. Iasonides asked for more specifics on how COVID-19 has forced them to respond and how their current environment does not allow for that and why this expense would be needed.

Tiffany Westbrook (Kootenai County) explained to the subcommittee their situation in better detail. Their work space was previously located in the basement in a small space. People were always in and out and there was no way to control the environment. The administration building was also being used for necessary public meetings, and the fairgrounds which could have been used were now being used as a COVID testing site. There is also no room to store inventory and PPE. This request would also help provide a safe space for first responders to meet in person. Virtual meetings are possible, but a lot of their meetings still require members to be in person. This funding would help them more adequately respond to COVID.

David Fulkerson (Division of Financial Management) explained his hesitation about the new cabinets, copiers, printers, and laptop storage and that he did not see how those items would help with their response to COVID.

Ms. Biez explained that the items listed in their request are necessary for preparation and mitigation in response to COVID. The current space and items do not meet the immediate need to respond properly. Ms. Westbrook explained the need for the laptop storage cabinets. They keep the laptops connected to the network when stored and provide the necessary updates to the system. This will help keep their computers up to date and ready for immediate use.

Mr. Fulkerson requested they provide those details in their request for auditing purposes. They agreed to provide whatever details necessary.

Resolution: Seth Grigg (Idaho Association of Counties) Motioned to approve item #1. Kelly Packer (Idaho Association of Cities) seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

2. City of Meridian –ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-179) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$66,219.93. Line items include: City of Meridian Wastewater facility was scheduled to start up the new Capacity Expansion project on April 7th. Due to COVID-19 Order by Gov. Little, vendors, consultants, contractors were not able to meet on site to proceed with the commissioning on that date. The commissioning was pushed out 3

months and the City had to expend an additional \$66K to vendors, consultants, Builder's Risk Insurance and the like. Vendors like WETCO were not able to travel from SLC to Meridian as required to be onsite for startup activities to calibrate sensors and ensure proper running of systems.

Discussion: John Iasonides (State Controller's Office) expressed his concern with this request not falling under the guidelines. He explained this seemed more of an issue caused by COVID instead of a response to COVID.

Warren Stewart (City of Meridian) stated Meridian is rapidly growing and COVID had a direct impact on their ability to keep up. Because they could not meet the social distance requirements ordered by the Governor, they were unable to have contractors on site and that delayed their project substantially. This delay cost the city money.

Mr. Grigg and Fulkerson both conveyed their concerns much to the same as Mr. Iasonides. They felt this was a request to recover lost revenue and struggled to see how it fell under treasury guidelines.

Ms. Packer stated she understood it did not mitigate COVID responses, but the long and short is that the City of Meridian had incurred additional expenses and had to duplicate items that were already paid for. She explained that other similar items had been previously approved so she would not approve the motion to not approve.

Mr. Fulkerson made motion to not approve item #2. Mr. Griggs seconded the motion. The motion carried. Opposed; Kelly Packer.

3. Clearwater County – ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-242) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$44,459.35. Line items include: Emergency Medical Dispatching Software to provide a uniform response to medical calls. This issue was discovered during our COVID 19 responses. This will enable us to ask all the pertinent questions and documents the answers to these questions before dispatching EMS for the call.

Discussion: Sheriff Chris Goetz stated that the Sheriff's office dispatches county wide and has three full time employees and 49 volunteers. He has worked with the EMS director to create protocols for EMS crews and previously they had no documentation to record their requests. This new software would help provide a uniform response to medical calls.

Resolution: Mr. Grigg motioned to approve item #3. Mr. Iasonides seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Division of Veterans Services –ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-167) Request for reimbursement of personnel expenses. For the total amount of \$58,080.10. The request includes employee payroll for leave and overtime.

Discussion: Marv Hagedorn (Division of Veteran Services) explained to the committee this request was for leave and overtime spent in care facilities in relation to COVID care.

Mr. Fulkerson asked for some clarification on employees reasoning for leave and overtime.

Tracy Schaner (Division of Veteran Services) explained that they do a surveillance screening on all employees and visitors that come into the building. Those individuals are asked a series of questions. Based off those answers, they follow guidance from the CDC, and some of those employees are screened out and sent home to work.

Depending on their reason for leaving or working overtime, Mr. Hagedorn explained that determining what code to use has been an art and somewhat of a science. They have been very conservative about using the correct codes. He also explained that they never put in the budget having to send people home during a procedural screening. He asked the committee on some guidance regarding future visits to the committee regarding screening facilities.

Resolution: Mr. Grigg motioned to approve item #4. Mrs. Packer seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. Department of Health and Welfare –ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-243) Request for reimbursement of personnel expenses. For the total amount of \$1,346,540.21.

Discussion: Janet Sacks spoke on the details of this request. She explained there are a lot of personnel assigned to various committees and they are modifying protocols to assure safety in the workplace and community. There are significant efforts taking place within the IT teams to configure teleworking as well.

Mr. Iasonides expressed his concern with the documentation and explained in the notes it states “to telework” but it doesn’t necessarily state that it’s to set up for telework.

Lisa Hettinger apologized for the confusion and offered to write a letter supporting that it was in fact to set up employees to telework. Hettinger stated there are several facilities throughout the state mitigating COVID-19 to assure safety of workplace and community. This work was added and not part of their normal duties and now they have a back log of things to do. They have had to bring in additional employees to help. Personnel dollars have been diverted to COVID and not normal duties. She asked for better written guidance and what is allowed.

Mr. Iasonides stated he would like to step back and research more details to be able to provide better guidance on this. Mr. Fulkerson agreed it is a complicated issue regarding payroll and was open to wait and gather more information.

Resolution: Mr. Iasonides motioned to postpone item #5 to the next meeting. Mr. Grigg seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

6. Bonneville County – ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-252) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$152,110. Line items include: This system will allow for the implementation of an easily able to be sanitized surface. This will be used for in-person voting during the November election and reduce the risk of polling places to be a source of transmission of COVID 19. Currently, paper poll books are used and handled by workers and voters, increasing risk of contagions begin spread. This is viewed as necessary to prevent the

spread of COVID 19 through polling places through contact with a common surface when the risk would otherwise be low following public health guidance.

Discussion: Brad Clements Emergency Management explained they would be able to socially distance but if they cannot clean their voting polls correctly it could potentially cause issues with spreading COVID throughout a polling place.

Mr. Grigg explained the Secretary of State's office received some COVID funds that have been dedicated to elections. He said he believed they would need to utilize those funds before tapping into the CARES Act funds. He also asked if they were not allowing the use of those funds for this.

Mr. Clements, stated he did not have a clear answer. The clerk was aware of those funds and reviewed it but based off election procedures they were told to request the CARES Act funds for this.

Resolution: Mr. Fulkerson motioned to postpone item #6 for further clarification. Mr. Grigg seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Iasonides motioned to postpone item 7,8,9 for the next coronavirus financial committee on August 10, 2020. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

7. City of Idaho Falls – ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-259) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$1,038,287.15. Line items include: Wildland Fire operations continue to occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. Purchase of these radios will keep in line with the best practices identified by the "Wildfire Response Plan COVID 19 Pandemic - Great Basin Geographic Area". This plan recommends and encourages agencies to provide each firefighter with separate radios to prevent cross contamination during use. Additionally, there is the need to be able to receive wildfire briefings remotely by radio, to allow for social distancing and prevent fire crews from across the country from coming in contact. This will reduce the risk of COVID 19 spreading from one fire camp to another that would greatly reducing the wildfire fighting capability. This radio is a multiband radio that allows a single radio to be used for both VHF (State and Federal Wildland) and P-25 Compliant (Local Operations) reducing the number of radios required to respond under both systems. In addition to the multiband radio capability, these radios will be encrypted. Encryption will allow for Fire/EMS personnel to communicate COVID risk with each other and Law Enforcement without the risk of patient information being accessed by radio scanners. This purchase will take place as soon as it has been approved by the State.

8. City of Nampa – ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-269) Request for pre-approval of expenses. For the total amount of \$32,200. Line items include: Temp HR position dedicated to COVID 19 tracking, support, reporting and critical COVID-19 response coordination with Emergency Response Team.

9. Idaho Department of Transportation – ACTION ITEM

- a. (CFAC-274) Request for reimbursement of expenses. For the total amount of \$5,746.60. Line item 8, ONLY. Line item includes: Flight to 5 districts pm state plane

to deliver masks and sanitizer for employees' safety and to prevent the spread of coronavirus germs.

Ms. Packer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Grigg seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.