

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : 4/17/2020
TO : Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb Sr., Chair, County Board of Supervisors
FROM : Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
SUBJECT : Emergency Preparedness Funding Request for COVID-19

OVERVIEW

On March 12, 2020, Governor Evers declared a public health emergency in response to local cases of COVID-19 across Wisconsin. While there are no confirmed cases in Milwaukee County that we know of to-date, we are taking every effort to contain the spread of the virus.

Milwaukee County Board file #20-288 was approved during the March 2020 County Board Committee cycle. This action provided directed the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to transfer \$1,000,000 in funds out of the County's Appropriations for Contingencies (org 1945) unallocated contingency, in order to provide funding for emergency preparedness responses related to COVID-19.

From this \$1,000,000 amount, \$500,000 was used to create new capital project WO72101-Laptops COVID19 Emergency, for the acquisition of laptop computers and enable telework needs for County employees that work from a desktop computer and do not currently have a laptop.

The remaining \$500,000 was used to establish new capital project WO72001-COVID19 Emergency. This provides budget authority to address emergency expenses related to COVID-19. This \$500,000 allocation was an request that was made in the initial days of the pandemic's impact on Milwaukee County. The allocation established the project and provided initial spending authority. However, the allocation very clearly did not provide enough funding to address emergency needs related to the pandemic.

Due to the significant impact(s) of COVID-19, as of April 16, 2020, the County has expended or encumbered costs of approximately \$979,000 which may be charged to the WO72001-COVID19 Emergency project. This amount includes costs for personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning costs for operations which remain open, communications costs to inform the public of matters related to the public health emergency, and other emergency costs. PPE and cleaning supply costs are expected to be ongoing during the emergency. In addition, expenses are anticipated for COVID-19 related grant funding support, medical examiner services related to the pandemic, Impact 211 call volume increases, and other costs directly related to COVID-19. These costs have exceeded the existing \$500,000 allocation in capital project WO72001-COVID-19 Emergency. As a result, increased funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 is requested in order to cover directly related costs such as PPEs, cleaning supplies, and other emergency expenses.

State and Federal grant funding is anticipated to be available to help offset COVID-19 costs incurred by the County. The CARES Act will be providing federal funds to Milwaukee County for necessary expenditures related to COVID-19. In addition, Milwaukee County will be eligible to apply and receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as a result of the President's emergency declaration.

In order to track direct COVID-19 costs, the County has established accounting activity code codes. This will assist in monitoring costs that can be applied to capital project W072001-COVID-19 Emergency. The activity codes also identify costs that are expected to be eligible for Federal emergency reimbursement.

When eligible costs in the COVID-19 capital project receive confirmation of federal grant reimbursement, it is the intent of the administration to replenish the contingency fund. In the interim, this request is made in order to provide \$2,000,000 of additional spending authority within the project.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Administrative Services recommends the use Appropriations for Contingencies (org 1945) funds of \$2,000,000 to provide additional emergency preparedness funding related to COVID-19. Additionally, it is recommended that the County apply for and receive COVID-19 related grant funding and that DAS and the Office of the Comptroller provide the necessary administrative appropriation transfers.

DocuSigned by:

Joe Lamers

4/17/2020

64FBF7B7766148A...

Joseph Lamers, Director
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Department of Administrative Services

Cc: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
Willie Johnson, Jr., Co-chair, Finance and Audit Committee
Sheldon Wasserman, Finance Committee
Supreme Moore Omokunde, County Supervisor
Jason Haas, County Supervisor
Sequanna Taylor, County Supervisor
Eddie Cullen, County Supervisor
Scott Manske, County Comptroller
Steven Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Teig Whaley-Smith, DAS Director

Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Dan Laurila, DAS-PSB Operating Budget Manager