



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:20-6977

Agenda Item Number: 25.

Agenda Date: 12/17/2020

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: SAFD

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Charles N. Hood

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

American Sign Language Emergency Alert System Professional Services Contract

SUMMARY:

A professional services contract with Deaf Link to provide an American Sign Language Alert System for the City of San Antonio. The annual estimated cost is \$78,164 annually, for years 1 thru 3, with the option for two additional one-year periods in an amount not to exceed \$82,072. Funds for year 1 of this contract are available from the Fire Department General Fund Budget. Funding for future years is contingent upon City Council Approval as part of the annual budget process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of San Antonio is committed to engaging all residents with disabilities and breaking down communications barriers facing this population to ensure participation in City government and City-related business, and receipt of City emergency information.

According to the 2016 American Community Survey, approximately 60,000 residents (4%) of the San Antonio population have a hearing impairment, approximately 58,000 residents (3.7%) have a vision impairment, and 91,000 residents (6.5%) have a cognitive impairment. Bexar County has similar percentages. This survey does not take into account those with multiple disabilities such as persons who are deaf and blind or those with intellectual disabilities and a hearing loss. These survey numbers represent 14.2% of community members who may need the City of San Antonio to provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services in order to fully participate in City programs, services and activities.

City Staff recommends approval of a professional services contract with Deaf Link, to provide an American Sign Language Emergency Alert System, in an amount not to exceed \$78,164 annually, for years 1 through 3, with the option to extend for two additional one-year periods in an amount not to exceed \$82,072.

The City shall be under no obligation to pay for any work performed by Deaf Link which is not satisfactory to the Emergency Management Director. The City shall have the right to terminate this agreement, in accordance with the professional services agreement.

ISSUE:

Approval of this contract will enhance the effectiveness of the City's alerting capabilities by ensuring that San Antonio's deaf and hard of hearing community are able to receive City emergency information in an accessible format.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could elect not to provide an American Sign Language Emergency Alert System. There are currently no other systems available that provide this service.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds for year 1 of this contract (\$78,164) are available from the Fire Department General Fund Budget. Funding for future years is contingent upon City Council Approval as part of the annual budget process.

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff recommends approval of this professional services contract.