



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE:

June 19, 2019

DEPARTMENT:

Utilities

DIVISION:

Administration

- ☒ Motion
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance - Introduction
- ☐ Ordinance - Adoption
- ☐ Public Hearing

TITLE:

Outside Agency Agreement: Western Arizona Council of Governments

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Interim City Administrator to execute an agreement with the Western Arizona Council of Governments to provide annual funding for assistance to qualified City of Yuma utility customers. (Utilities/Administration) (Jeremy McCall)

REPORT:

The City of Yuma (City) has a low-income assistance program similar to those offered by other utilities whereby a customer may receive a payment voucher to be applied toward the customer's deposit requirement for new services or delinquent utility bill. WACOG assists low-income households in paying utility bills. This program is intended to assist customers with their required deposit during a financial hardship to establish water service. The program is also intended to prevent a customer from being disconnected from water services for non-payment during a financial hardship and provide education so financial assistance is not needed in the future. The Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) is a governmental non-profit serving income challenged households and vulnerable populations in Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties.

Under this Outside Agency Agreement (Agreement), WACOG will continue to coordinate with the City regarding eligibility criteria for persons seeking assistance. WACOG will conduct an application review process to verify income eligibility and hardship qualifications, and submit approved vouchers and subsequent payments to the City. If WACOG determines a person is eligible for assistance, WACOG will issue a qualifying payment voucher for an amount not to exceed \$250.00. Customers who do not meet the eligibility criteria must pay the required deposit amount in order for their services to remain active or in the event of a delinquent payment, customer must pay the delinquent amount due to avoid service disconnection. A customer's water account will remain connected pending the referral outcome.

Under the Agreement, WACOG may only provide a customer with payment assistance once per 12-month period. WACOG must also provide educational information regarding conservation and leak

detection, information regarding budget management and other agency referrals that could provide additional assistance or job placement services.

The City has allocated \$75,000 for FY2019-20 funding to WACOG for this program, this is an increase of \$25,000 from FY2018-2019 due to the necessity of funds. These funds have been generated from the Delinquency Fee (Water Fund) which was approved by City Council and became effective against delinquent bills as of February 1, 2015. WACOG must apply at least 80% of the funds toward issuing vouchers to qualified customers, and may apply up to 20% of the funds for program delivery services. WACOG will provide the City with scheduled monthly and semi-annual reports, and process payments for the vouchers once per month. When the \$75,000 has been fully distributed to eligible customers, the utility assistance program will terminate for the current fiscal year. The Agreement has an initial term of one year, but may be renewed for up to two additional one-year terms.

The City requires outside agencies that are funded by the City to sign an agreement with the City. The proposed agreement provides for performance standards, accountability in the work performed, reporting of how the funds are spent, and other conditions including insurance requirements and indemnification.

FISCAL REQUIREMENTS	CITY FUNDS:	\$75,000.00	BUDGETED:	\$75,000.00
	STATE FUNDS:	\$0.00	AVAILABLE TO TRANSFER:	\$0.00
	FEDERAL FUNDS:	\$0.00	IN CONTINGENCY:	\$0.00
	OTHER SOURCES:	\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00	FUNDING FOR THIS ITEM IS FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT / FUND / CIP:	
	TOTAL:	\$75,000.00		
	FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION NOT ATTACHED TO THE CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM THAT IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:			
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. IF CITY COUNCIL ACTION INCLUDES A CONTRACT, LEASE OR AGREEMENT, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ROUTING THE DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE AFTER CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL? <input type="radio"/> Department <input type="radio"/> City Clerk's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Document to be recorded <input type="checkbox"/> Document to be codified			
SIGNATURES	CITY ADMINISTRATOR:		DATE:	
	John D. Simonton		6/11/2019	
	REVIEWED BY CITY ATTORNEY:		DATE:	
	Richard W. Files		6/11/2019	
	RECOMMENDED BY (DEPT/DIV HEAD):		DATE:	
Jeremy McCall		6/4/2019		
WRITTEN/SUBMITTED BY:		DATE:		
Kim Beltran		6/3/2019		