THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: July 28, 2020

Subject: Contract Amendments for Extension of COVID-19 Shelter Operations Agreements

Staff Resource(s): Sam Powers, Director of Community and Economic Development
Brian Huskey, Community Development Analyst

Action(s) Requested: Authorization for City Manager's execution of contract extensions with Red Roof Inn, Inc., Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, and Axis Security.

Background:

- On May 12, 2020, Council ratified the City Manager's execution of agreements with Red Roof Inn, Inc., Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, and Axis Security for operations of a COVID-19 motel-based non-congregate emergency homeless shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and at significant risk of contracting COVID-19 because of age and/or underlying chronic health concerns.
- Sixty-four (64) people (couples, families occupying some rooms) are currently in shelter and will continue to achieve the public health objective of prevention of COVID-19 among the community's unsheltered homeless population.
- The incidence of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise, posing ongoing risk to people experiencing homelessness.
- To avoid any lapse in service to this population, it is necessary to execute the contract amendments prior to August 8th to continue the agreements.
- A transitional exit strategy for those in the shelter is currently being planned.
- The existing agreements with the vendors allow for extensions to continue operations but additional funding is necessary.
- The additional budget needed for these contracts is included in a separate budget amendment agenda item that is also on Council's July 28th agenda.

Council Goal(s):

- A Diverse Community
- A Well-Planned and Livable Community
- Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Continues the successful operation of the existing expanded COVID-19 homeless shelter.
- Allows for additional time to effect housing placement for shelter occupants.
- Addresses public health and safety.
- Non-congregate motel shelter, essential operations, and security costs are eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Con(s):

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- The additional contract funding requested as part of this Council action includes: $150,000 for Homeward Bound to operate the shelter and $366,048 for Red Roof Inn (includes allocation for month 3 of existing operations).
- The full budget for shelter operations through November 8, 2020, including expenses incurred while at the Harrah's Cherokee Center (HCCA), is $1.6 million.

Suggested Motion(s):

- Motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager's execution of new services contracts with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, Red Roof Inn incorporated, and Axis Security for shelter rooms, essential operations, and security for up to 90 additional days commencing on August 8, 2020.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20- _____

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACTS WITH HOMEWARD BOUND OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, RED ROOF INN, INC. AND AXIS SECURITY TO SUSTAIN OPERATIONS OF A MOTEL-BASED NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented need for emergency shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the community's existing emergency homeless shelters have been in isolation status, unable to admit new clients, the potential duration of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unknown, and there are persons in the community currently experiencing unsheltered homeless who are at grave risk for contracting COVID-19 because of age and/or underlying chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has previously executed contracts withHomeward Bound of Western North Carolina, Red Roof Inn, and Axis Security for operations of a non-congregate emergency shelter for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the parties have been successfully providing services as agreed; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to continue these services essential operations services for an additional 90 days as needed; and

WHEREAS, the existing agreements with the parties provide for extensions on mutual agreement between the parties; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to rise and poses grave risk to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness who have chronic health concerns;

WHEREAS, in order to avoid in lapse in service, it is necessary to execute an contract amendments to extend the duration of existing services contracts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council authorizes the City Manager to execute an execution of contract amendments to the existing Services Contract with Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina, Memorandum of Understanding with Red Roof Inn, Inc. and Services Contract with Axis Security to extend the existing shelter operations for up to 90 days commencing August 8, 2020.

Read, approved, and adopted this 28th day of July 2020.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

Approved As To Form:

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CITY ATTORNEY