



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 20, 2021

DATE: July 13, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager, Office of the County Manager
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Dwayne Smith, P.E., Division Director, Engineering and Capital Projects
Community Services Department, 328-2043, desmith@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to authorize Washoe County Manager Eric Brown to enter all necessary professional services agreements and construction contracts in support of the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000, inclusive of \$3,500,000 in previous authority granted May 25, 2021, to be funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as allowable; directing the Manager to provide periodic updates to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners regarding project status and project costs and budget Nevada Cares Campus; directing that all such agreements and contracts shall conform and be let in compliance with Nevada law as applicable including Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 332 "Purchasing: Local Governments," NRS Chapter 338 "Public Works," Washoe County purchasing and procurement policies, and all associated Federal guidelines; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-function budget appropriation transfers. Community Services. (Commission District 3.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Amid growing community concerns over the safety, public health and environmental concerns for the region, at a concurrent meeting dated November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity and concerns of people living in encampments.

One of the purchased parcels was developed by the City of Reno into an emergency shelter. Site infrastructure, utilities and a Sprung structure were constructed on the site in what has become and opened on May 17, 2021. The second phase of the Nevada Cares Campus seeks to expand upon the initial phase of the newly constructed shelter and will include items such as a day use area, laundry facilities, cafeteria, staff and case management offices, intake center, public computers, and regional shared office resources space.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

One of the purchased parcels included the Governor's Bowl Park which was discussed to be a safe camping location. The location would serve as a safe space where encampments along the Truckee River could relocate providing access to restrooms, meal service, and will be a more secure location for individuals not wishing to move into shelters.

Understanding the regional desires and direction to efficiently and thoughtfully deliver these services, especially before our region experiences winter-time conditions, and also recognizing the significant lead times for construction design and acquisition of pre-fabricated facilities such as restroom and sprung structures, staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners authorize County Manager Eric Brown to enter into all design and construction contracts necessary to meet these regional directives and expectations for the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements. All Washoe County purchasing and budget requirements will be met as well as all NRS and federal procurement requirements, prior to authorization of any design or construction agreements. Further, to provide the Board of Commissioners with a clear understanding of all actions and agreements authorized, as directed by Manager Brown, staff will provide periodic updates to the Washoe County Commission regarding project status, project costs and budgets.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On May 25, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners authorized Washoe County Manager Eric Brown to enter into professional services agreements and construction contracts in support of the Nevada Cares Campus Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 for design, permitting and construction contracts.

On May 11, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners received a status report and provided direction to staff to submit the County Managers recommended Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

On April 13, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved accepting a grant award of \$200,000 from Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the creation of 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position in support of the safe camping location.

On Nov 18, 2020, at a joint meeting with the City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council, the Board of County Commissioners voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness.

On May 19, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Final Washoe County Budget, which included \$750,000.00 of General Fund Contingency.

BACKGROUND

In a concurrent meeting dated November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on

East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity, further compound previous community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental concerns of people living in encampments.

One of the purchased parcels was developed by the City of Reno into an emergency shelter. Site infrastructure, utilities and a Sprung structure were constructed on the site in what has become and opened on May 17, 2021. The second phase of the Nevada Cares Campus seeks to expand upon the initial phase of the newly constructed shelter and will include items such as a day use area, laundry facilities, cafeteria, staff and case management offices, intake center, public computers, and regional shared office resources space.

Another of the purchased parcels included the Governor's Bowl Park which was discussed to be a safe camping location. The location would serve as a safe space, where encampments along the Truckee River could relocate, providing access to restrooms, meal service, and will be a more secure location for individuals not wishing to move into shelters.

The purpose for the Safe Camp is to:

- Provide a sanctioned location for people currently living outside that reduces the environmental, public health and safety concerns of unregulated encampments.
- Provide a sanctioned camping location to reduce the negative impacts of unsheltered people being forcibly removed from a location.
- From this stable location, engage safe camp residents in housing focused conversations, service referrals and housing placements.

FISCAL IMPACT

It is anticipated that the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in the amount of \$8,500,000, including \$3,500,000 authorized by the Board on May 25, 2021, for design, permitting and construction will be funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) as available/allowable and/or with contingency funding. Staff will continue to identify and seek additional funding sources

If Contingency funds are needed, or other funding sources are identified, separate items will be submitted for Board approval per NRS 354.608 and 354.598005.

It is also anticipated that capital costs associated with the Nevada Cares Campus will be cost shared with the City of Reno and the City of Sparks through the upcoming amendment and extension of the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for shelter operation and other homeless services. City contributions will be processed as reimbursements.

If approved, FY22 budget will be adjusted (net zero appropriation transfers) as follows:

Fund/Function	Department/ Expenditure	Cost Object(s)/ G-L Account(s)	Budget Change
Other Restricted Revenue Fund (F270)			
Other Restricted Revenue Fund	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (SLFRF)	IO11827-710500	(8,500,000.00)
General Gov't	Transfer to Public Works	IO11827-814092	8,500,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund (F402)-Public Works			
Welfare	Transfer from Other Restricted Revenue Fund	PW920713-622270	4,500,000.00
Welfare	Safe Camp Facility – Land Improvement Capital	PW920713-781001	4,500,000.00
Welfare	Transfer from Other Restricted Revenue Fund	PW920715-622270	4,000,000.00
Welfare	Nevada Cares Campus – Land Improvement Capital	PW920715-781001	4,000,000.00
Net Total Appropriation Transfers			- 0.00-

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners authorize Washoe County Manager Eric Brown to enter all necessary professional services agreements and construction contracts in support of the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp, and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000, inclusive of \$3,500,000 in previous authority granted May 25, 2021, to be funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as allowable; directing the Manager to provide periodic updates to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners regarding project status and project costs and budget Nevada Cares Campus; directing that all such agreements and contracts shall conform and be let in compliance with Nevada law as applicable including Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 332 “Purchasing: Local Governments,” NRS Chapter 338 “Public Works,” Washoe County purchasing and procurement policies, and all associated Federal procurement guidelines; direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-function budget appropriation transfers.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to authorize Washoe County Manager Eric Brown to enter all necessary professional services agreements and construction contracts in support of the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000, inclusive of \$3,500,000 in previous authority granted May 25, 2021, to be funded with Coronavirus

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as allowable; directing the Manager to provide periodic updates to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners regarding project status and project costs and budget Nevada Cares Campus; directing that all such agreements and contracts shall conform and be let in compliance with Nevada law as applicable including Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 332 "Purchasing: Local Governments," NRS Chapter 338 "Public Works," Washoe County purchasing and procurement policies, and all associated Federal guidelines; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-function budget appropriation transfers."