



Information and General Services Agency

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 20, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a Professional Services Contract between the County of Nevada and Sierra Business Council for Grant Management Services in the amount of \$100,000.00 to administer the 2024 Firewise Community Micro-Grant program, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services, or their designee, to execute the Contract and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Office of Emergency Services budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, at its January 2023 Workshop, approved \$350,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for green waste and other wildfire mitigation projects. Budget was subsequently established on September 12, 2023 by Resolution 23-485. This contract is part of that project. A budget amendment is included to reflect reimbursement to the General Fund from the ARPA fund for the provision of general government services, and a corresponding increase in professional services in the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Office of Emergency Services General Fund budget

BACKGROUND:

On July 7, 2022, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a resolution authorizing a contract with the Sierra Business Council to administer a Firewise Micro-Grant program in the Fall of 2022. The 2022 Micro-Grant program provided 26 Micro-Grants to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recognized Firewise Communities throughout Nevada County. This first-of-its-kind program was extremely successful receiving a Best in Category Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in 2023. The 2022 Micro-Grant program funded, 10 roadside vegetation, 7 defensible space, and 5 hazardous vegetation projects as well as 4 proposals for the purchase of shared equipment. The projects that were completed improved community resiliency and helped improve the protection of life and property against the threat of wildfire.

In support of the Board's Emergency Preparedness Objective the Office of Emergency Services (OES) is proposing a second Firewise Community Micro-Grant program to partner with Firewise Communities as they prepare for the 2024 fire season. If approved this resolution will authorize the execution of the attached contract (Attachment 1) with the Sierra Business Council (SBC) for grant management services. Under the attached contract SBC will collect all Firewise micro-grant applications, submit them for scoring and selection by an Office of Emergency Services scoring panel, and award micro-grants to the micro-grant awardees.

The Sierra Business Council was essential to the success of the 2022 Micro-Grant program and OES staff welcome their partnership in 2024 pending approval of this Resolution.

Item Initiated by: Josh White, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services