



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: 05/21/2012

CONSENT OR REGULAR: Consent

CONTRACT REFERENCE
NO (IF APPLICABLE): N/A

SUBJECT:

Approve the recommendation from the El Paso County Hiring Freeze & Personnel Staffing Review Committee regarding Request #2012-026 to authorize a transfer of a vacant Program Administrator (P-13) position and salary funds from CC1 to the 346th Veterans Court Program with no impact to the general fund, and retitle the position Veterans Program Director (P-13).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC:

On October 3, 2011, Commissioners Court adopted the hiring freeze & personnel staffing review policy for FY2012. The policy provides for the committee to review personnel staffing requests from departments.

The committee discussed Request #2012-026 to transfer a vacant Project Administrator position (PM-13) from County Court at Law #1 to the 346th District Court for the administration of the Veteran's Court Program.

Judge Angie Juarez Barill has begun the process of establishing a Veteran's Court with an expected caseload of 50 to 60 participants. When a veteran or armed service man or woman is processed at the County Jail they are flagged in the system and may be approved to participate in the program by the District Attorney's Office. If someone completes the 18 month program, the case will be dismissed by the DA. The cost of keeping the participants in the jail is much greater than operating the program. Partnerships have been initiated with William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Veteran's Assistance, the Sheriff's Department, the El Paso Police Department, the DA, and the Public Defender among other entities. The Program Administrator will direct the program and court dockets as well as further establish and create partnerships with other entities. The position will assist Judge Herrera of CC#1 as needed. Judge Barill outlined how the position supports the County's Strategic Plan's goals on promoting safety, building infrastructure, imposing justice and improving the health, welfare, and quality of life of participant and residents.

Space and equipment have been located for this position and furniture will be requested from Purchasing surplus until grant funding comes in. There will be a charge for participants in the program (fee of \$500) and the usual court costs. Judge Barill is also applying for some other grants to help support the functions of the court outside of this position. She also would like the position title to change from Program Administrator (PM-13) to Veterans Program Director (PM-13); this change would need to be approved by the Civil Service Commission.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC (CONTINUED):

The County Auditor's Office confirmed that a transfer of funds from the CC1 general fund to the 346DCVETCRT general fund could be completed for the funding of this position. The County Attorney representative has no legal reservations about the request. The committee recommends approving the waiver based on the circumstances and the information provided.

FISCAL IMPACT:

FY 2012 = \$0

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the committee's recommendation to approve Request #2012-026 to authorize a transfer a current vacant position and salary funds from CC1 to the 346th Veterans Court Program with no impact to the general fund, and retitle the position Veterans Program Director (P-13)..

SUBMITTED BY:	Betsy C. Keller, SPHR Director of Human Resources	Contact information: 915-546-2218 humanresources@epcounty.com
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From: Betsy C. Keller
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 10:35 AM
To: Valeria Fernandez; Arlene Acevedo
Subject: FW: position for Veterans misdemeanor cases

Please include this email in the back up for the agenda item for the request from Judge Barill. Thank you!

Betsy C. Keller, SPHR
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From: Betsy C. Keller
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 4:59 PM
To: Ricardo Herrera
Subject: position for Veterans misdemeanor cases

Judge Herrera-

Thank you so much for talking to me today about the transfer of the position of the Program/Project Director position. I understand that you will not be asking for another Project Director position to support the Veterans Drug Court cases in your courtroom if the position is transferred.

Betsy C. Keller, SPHR
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