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- a. Approve and authorize the Library Director and/or her Designee to accept a grant from the California State Library in the amount of \$250,000 as a portion of funding designated to a purchase of a new North County Bookmobile. The purchase of the new Bookmobile is anticipated to cost approximately \$370,000 (inclusive of taxes) and the unfunded portion will be augmented by the approval of CIP (Capital Improvements Project) in the amount of \$120,000, approval of which was granted by the Board Supervisors on June 2, 2020.
- b. Approve and authorize the Library Director and/or her Designee to purchase a new North Bookmobile, not to exceed \$370,000 using the grant received from the California State Library in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the rest of the funding in the amount of \$120,000 through the approved Capital Improvements Project approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 2, 2020.

...Report

RECOMMENDATION/SUMMARY:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and authorize the Library Director and/or her Designee to accept a grant from the California State Library in the amount of \$250,000 as a portion of funding designated to a purchase of a new North County Bookmobile. The purchase of the new Bookmobile is anticipated to cost approximately \$370,000 (inclusive of taxes) and the unfunded portion will be augmented by the approval of CIP (Capital Improvements Project) in the amount of \$120,000, approval of which was granted by the Board Supervisors on June 2, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Free Libraries provides three Bookmobiles to serve areas of the County unable to effectively reach, access, or use a branch library. Included in a regular rotation of stops are communities with no branch building, schools, senior living facilities, and other community gathering areas. The Bookmobile serving the North area of the County is a 1993 Thomas Bus, with frequent breakdowns, and significant time off the road for repairs.

In April 28, 2020, the Monterey County Free Libraries applied for a grant from the California State Library, was granted the award and will receive complete funding for \$250,000 by June 23, 2021. In addition, on June 6, 2020, a Capital Improvement Project was created to replace the North County Bookmobile, with an estimated project cost of \$370,000. As part of the County budget process for FY 2020-21 the Board of Supervisors approved the funding of the difference - in the amount of \$120,000.

State Grant	\$250,000
CIP funding	<u>\$120,000</u>
Total Estimated cost	\$370,000

The Monterey County Free Libraries worked with Contracts and Purchasing, and issued an RFP for the Bookmobile. The RFP included both required elements and options so each vendor could provide recommendations with cost options. Five vendors submitted proposals, and a team of five scored the proposals, with the highest scoring response from Farber Specialty Vehicles, Inc. After negotiation with Farber Specialty Vehicles, the final development and options for the Bookmobile was selected. The build time is expected to be about 300 days, putting the new Bookmobile in Monterey County serving the public well in time to meet the California State Library Grant deadline.

Bookmobiles serve many additional functions, and those functions have expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic. This Bookmobile will be equipped with the ability to act as a roving hot spot, to serve communities during designated route stops and in emergency functions, as the South County Bookmobile did during the fires in 2020, when it provided the wireless internet access for the San Lorenzo Valley Fairgrounds when used as an emergency shelter. This new Bookmobile is equipped to carry a wide variety of materials and technology, expanding the service and purpose of a stop from just item selection and check out to programming, technology access, connectivity, and more. Elements of the vehicle can be powered with the engine, a gasoline generator, electric batteries, shoreline connection, and solar panels. With the reliability of a new vehicle; along with added fuel efficiency, generator capacity, and flexibility; stops can be expanded and retooled, as we have new communities throughout the County that need public library service, and greater needs for connectivity and educational programming. Bookmobile service is a core element of the Monterey County Free Libraries Strategic Plan, and this is an opportunity to significantly enhance the program with a new vehicle.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Contracts and Purchasing and Fleets Services assisted and reviewed the RFP Process and criteria and provided a rater for scoring the proposals.

FINANCING:

Monterey County Free Libraries will use the \$250,000 grant from the State of California and the rest of the portion of the anticipated purchase cost, in the amount of \$120,000, will come from County CIP Funding (Project #61108), approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 2, 2020.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

The purpose of the purchase of the bookmobile is to serve areas of the County unable to effectively reach, access, or use a branch library. Included in a regular rotation of stops are communities with no branch building, schools, senior living facilities, and other community gathering areas.

- Economic Development
- Administration

- Health & Human Services
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety

Prepared by: Jacqueline C. Bleisch, Administrative Services Officer, (831) 883-7576
Approved by: Hillary Theyer, Library Director, (831) 883-7566

DocuSigned by:

Jacqueline Bleisch 1/4/2021 | 1

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Attachments:

- County Standard Agreement – MCFL with Farber Specialty Vehicles
- CA State Grant Award to purchase a Bookmobile
- CIP Project #61108 North County Bookmobile
- BOS Order of approval – CIP Project
- RFP award to Farber Specialty Vehicles
- Farber Specialty Vehicles Quotations