



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 20-970A, Version: 1

Subject:

Fiscal Year 2020 Board Budget Amendment No. 2 to realign appropriation from the General Government cost center to the Supervisor of Elections cost center within the General Fund.

Recommended Action:

At the request of the Supervisor of Elections, approval of the Fiscal Year 2020 Board Budget Amendment No. 2 realigning appropriation from the General Government - Reserves for Contingencies to the Supervisor of Elections cost center within the General Fund.

- This amendment realigns a total of \$596,930.00 from the General Fund Reserves for Contingencies.
- Appropriation is needed to cover costs in response to COVID-19 impact on election procedures.

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.2 Be responsible Stewards of the public's resources

5.3 Ensure effective and efficient delivery of county services and support

Summary:

This amendment realigns appropriation from the General Government - Reserves for Contingencies to provide sufficient budget for operating costs.

Background Information:

The Supervisor of Elections (SOE) needs additional appropriation in FY20 in preparation for the COVID-19 impacts on the Primary Election. Due to COVID-19, 12 polling locations will be unavailable, including all nursing home polling locations. Pursuant to Florida Statute 101.71(2), the SOE is required to notify voters when polling locations change. The SOE will also mail a postcard to approximately 500,000 voters that don't have a mail ballot request on file, to inform them that voting from home via mail is an option. The postcard will include prepaid postage, and if mailed back, will enroll the voters in this program. The SOE also anticipates an increase in mail voting for the Primary Election which will require additional pre-paid postage to return the ballots. The costs associated with these changes are expected to be \$596,930.00.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides grant funding to help administrators with COVID-19 related election costs. The SOE is seeking grant funding for these costs and will reimburse the County if funds are received.

Fiscal Impact:

This amendment realigns FY20 appropriation in the amount of \$596,930.00 from the Reserves for Contingencies in the General Fund to increase the SOE budget as outlined above. These expenses were not anticipated during the development of the FY20 Adopted Budget, but are included in the FY20 estimates used during FY21 budget development.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jason D. Rivera, Technology Program Coordinator / Budget & Financial Management Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Partners:

Supervisor of Elections

Attachments:

BA-20-02

Supervisor of Elections FY20 Special Appropriation Request.