

LE SUEUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: July 21, 2020

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

Offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic requires additional efforts to make the election process safe, sanitary and effective; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State is currently soliciting grant applications from counties for grants pursuant to Laws 2020, Chapter 77, section 4 and the federal CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, grants will be provided to each county pursuant to a formula set forth in Section H of the grant application provided by the Office of the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the funds provided by the Office of the Secretary of State are provided for the purpose of the uses set forth in the federal CARES Act and as further restricted by Laws 2020, chapter 77, section 4, subdivision 4; and

WHEREAS, those purposes are primarily for the protection of persons involved with the election process including voters, as well as certain other purchases set forth in law; and

WHEREAS, the county will work with the municipalities within the county to determine a fair, equitable, and mutually agreeable allocation of the funds within the County and between municipalities, and if an agreement cannot be reached, the funds will be distributed pursuant to the OSS identified default allocation formula as determined by the Secretary and provided in Section E of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the grant application is to be completed by the staff of the auditor and other staff responsible for the administration of elections in this county; and

WHEREAS, the grant application must be completed, certified by a county official, typically the chief county election official, returned to the Office of the Secretary of State and a grant agreement executed prior to the receipt of the funds to which the county is entitled pursuant to Sections E and F of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, Laws 2020, Chapter 77, section 4 requires a 20% match for the grant, with a 25% match for electronic roster purchases; and

WHEREAS, the grant agreement will reflect the grant application for each county; and

WHEREAS, additional assistance may be forthcoming later in this election cycle from state and federal funds, particularly those funds appropriated or these purposes by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, there are continuing needs throughout the election cycle for both COVID-19 and election security efforts and concomitant costs; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the grant application in the form presented to this board and to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby appropriates the required match amount as indicted in the application for the purposes set forth in the grant application [ALTERNATIVE: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the spending of existing county funds in an amount equivalent to the required match indicated in the application on the purposes for which the grant is received]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chief elections officer of the County and staff are directed to submit this approved grant application at the earliest opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when the grant agreement is provided to the chief elections officer of the county, that person is delegated the authority to execute that agreement and return it to the Office of the Secretary of State without further approval by this Board; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the chief elections officer of the county is hereby authorized to apply for any additional funds made available by the state for the defrayment of costs of efforts to combat COVID-19 in the election process and for the enhancement of election security, and to execute any grant agreements required to access those funds from this date until the general election on November 3, 2020. .

Adopted by the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020.