



Interoffice Memorandum

January 15, 2021

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
County Commissioners

~~FROM:~~ Carrie Mathes, CFCM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager,
Procurement Division

CONTACT: Linda Brooks, Manager, Community Corrections Division
407-836-3089

SUBJECT: Approval of Contract Y20-1072-WA, Basic Construction Education
Program for Inmates

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Contract Y20-1072-WA, Basic Construction Education Program for Inmates, with Valencia College, in the total contract award amount of \$187,000 for a one-year term. Further request authorization for the Procurement Division to renew the contract for two additional one-year terms.

PURPOSE:

This contract will provide two courses: a basic construction program and a block masonry program for eligible inmates. Program services include classroom instruction and hands on training, completion of several certifications, the provision of college credits, work tools provided on release, transportation assistance for a year after release via Lynx, and assistance with job placement before and after release.

FUNDING:

Funding is available in account number 1660-081-3820-3197.

APPROVALS:

The Corrections Department concurs with this recommendation.

REMARKS:

The Board previously approved this item on September 1, 2020, in the annual award amount of \$216,000. The class pricing has been restructured, resulting in the annual award amount being reduced to \$187,000. The cost has been revised, transitioning from a cost per student to cost per class structure.

Approval of Contract Y20-1072-WA, Basic Construction Education Program for Inmates

This revised structure is optimal for both Valencia and the County, optimizing efficiencies in course offerings, student participation, and staff utilization in facilitating the program. The specific changes include the following:

- The construction course is revised from \$2,800 per student to \$49,000 per class. Maximum number of authorized students for this course is 20 students.
- The block masonry course is revised from \$3,200 per student to \$40,000 per class. The maximum number of authorized students for this course is 15 students.
- This agreement consists of Valencia conducting three construction courses and one block masonry course during the year. Costs are only incurred if a course is held and is expensed to the Inmate Welfare Fund and not the General Fund.

Valencia College is the only accredited educational institution offering a construction program in a correctional setting in Central Florida. There are multiple challenges for a construction program within a correctional facility: appropriate content, timeframe flexibility, and curriculum management. Currently, the construction and masonry programs have not only had a 100% graduation rate, but have also been contributing to reducing recidivism in the Orange County community. During the last five years, the Orange County Corrections Construction Program graduated 272 men and women. A total of 203 graduates are currently employed full-time and receive health and retirement benefits.

The Basic Construction Education Program will provide a basic construction or masonry re-entry program for inmates housed at Orange County Corrections. Both the construction and masonry fields present career opportunities that are diverse and provide potentially higher wages than the average inmate without skilled training and is background tolerant. Inmates receiving general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to jail/prison after release. They are also more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities.

Each session shall consist of 200 hours (34 hours per week for six weeks) of classroom and hands-on instruction. Because of the unique partnership with Valencia, upon completion, a graduate receives five certificates to include a national certification. Instructional staff, tools, equipment, safety gear, and consumable materials to include books, handouts, and construction materials are provided by Valencia College.

Mid Florida Tech offers a Building Construction Technology program which consists of 1050 classroom hours. This number far exceeds the average length of stay of any sentenced Orange County Corrections inmates, and the cost is \$4,684 per student. In comparison, Valencia offers a construction class at \$49,000 per class and a masonry class at \$40,000 per class. The contract amount is considered reasonable based on the evaluation and analysis by County technical staff.