

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Administrator Ron Johnson

SUBJECT: Approve Transportation Alliance Fly-in

DATE: April 16, 2015

BACKGROUND

Since 2002, one County Commissioner, County Engineer Isakson, and the County Legislative Liaison have attended the 'Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-In'.

Attending this event allows meetings with staff members in Washington D.C., giving the opportunity to inform them of the County's need for federal funds to meet their transportation needs. Their visits to Washington D.C. have enabled them to develop relationships with the staff members and to keep them informed about projects, needs and concerns. Goodhue County has received several appropriations in the past few years and will be requesting federal funds in future years. They generally schedule their flights one day prior to the start of the event which allows them to spend more 'one on one' time with our delegation and their staff.

County administration has asked me if the city would consider sharing expenses this year for the attendance of Robby Robinson, who could then spend his time not only in his Legislative Liaison position for the county, but also in his position as Mayor of Cannon Falls. I feel the timing is right to have a representative from Cannon Falls participate in this fly-in especially based on the discussions related to Highway 52 improvements. This is a great collaboration effort and an opportunity to participate at approximately half the cost. The city has participated in this event in the past.

The approximate cost for each person to attend (registration, flight/baggage, lodging, cab rides, meals, etc) is approximately \$2,000. To simplify the recordkeeping, I proposed that, if approved, the city could pay for the flight expense (\$430 flight and baggage) and the registration (\$515) for a total of \$945. This would be in the form of a reimbursement check to the county after submittal by the county of appropriate expense documentation upon completion of the event.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Approve a motion to approve the expense of \$945 to Goodhue County to cover approximately 50% of the expenses of Mayor Robby Robinson at the Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-in June 1-4, 2015.