

**TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**FROM: City Administrator Ron Johnson**

**SUBJECT: Approve Transportation Alliance Fly-in**

**DATE: April 29, 2016**

**BACKGROUND**

Since 2002, one County Commissioner, County Engineer Isakson, and the County Legislative Liaison have attended the 'Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-In'. Last year, Goodhue County and the City of Cannon Falls shared expenses for Mayor Robinson to attend.

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 again consider sharing expenses for the attendance of Mayor 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 again right to have a representative from Cannon Falls participate in this fly-in, especially based on the discussions related to Highway 52 improvements and overall transportation funding. In addition to transportation issues, Mayor Robinson will be discussing other issues with our Congressional representatives such as healthcare, infrastructure funding and federal grant opportunities. This is a great collaborative effort and an opportunity to participate at approximately half the cost.

The approximate cost for each person to attend (registration, flight/baggage, lodging, cab rides, meals, etc) is approximately \$2,000. I propose that, if approved, the city could pay for the flight expense (\$278.20 plus baggage cost), the registration of \$515, and miscellaneous eligible expenses for a total of up to \$1,000. 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 eligible expenses up to \$1,000 to Goodhue County to cover approximately 50% of the expenses of Mayor Robby Robinson attending the Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-in June 6-9, 2016.