

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Administrator Ron Johnson

SUBJECT: Approve Transportation Alliance Fly-In

DATE: March 16, 2017

BACKGROUND

Since 2002, one County Commissioner, County Engineer Isakson, and the County Legislative Liaison have attended the 'Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-In'. The past two years, Goodhue County and the City of Cannon Falls shared expenses for Mayor Robinson (and County Legislative Liaison) to attend. Goodhue County and the City of Cannon Falls are MN Transportation Alliance members.

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 if the city would again consider sharing expenses for the attendance of Mayor Robinson at the June 6-8 Fly-In, 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, as in the past two years, the city could pay for approximately 50% of the expenses 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.

Further, although the Fly-In isn't until early June, the request is being made now to allow for appropriate planning. If there are other Council members that have an interest in attending, it is important that this is known and approved for the same reason.

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 5-8, 2017, and to approve the approximate \$2,000 of expenses for each additional Council member attendance.