

From: **Lyle, Tara L** <tara.l.lyle@wv.gov>
Date: Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 11:18 AM
Subject: Re: Emergency Cemetery Form
To: Spencer, Brittany M <brittany.m.spencer@wv.gov>
Cc: David H Pauline <david.h.pauline@wv.gov>, Brunton, Heather L <heather.l.brunton@wv.gov>, Michele D Cunningham <michele.d.cunningham@wv.gov>

Brittany,

Your emergency is approved. Please follow emergency purchasing procedures as found in the Handbook and follow up with documentation for award within 30 days.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,
Tara

Tara Lyle, Buyer Supervisor
WV Purchasing Division
2019 Washington Street, East
Capitol Complex, Building 15
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-2544

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APPROVED
T. H. HULL
10/8/21

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE

EDWARD A. DIAZ
CABINET SECRETARY

Department of Administration
Purchasing Division
2019 Washington Street, East
Charleston, WV 25302

October 7, 2021

The West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance is requesting approval for an emergency contract to correct flooding that is occurring repeatedly at the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery. Given this sensitive matter – standing water on grave sites in the Veterans Cemetery – there are a number of inherent problems that require immediate solutions, which is why we are seeking an emergency contract for the purchase of services to remedy the irrigation and drainage problems.

Chiefly, there is a risk of the water causing both structural and grounds defects as well as irreparable harm to the decedents. Additionally, because of the nature of the area and the innate priority of maintaining the sites as respectfully and dignified as possible, there is no time to obtain the necessary remediation through the normal bidding process.

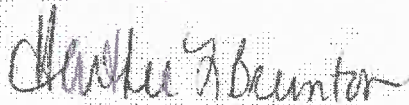
The flooding is occurring in Section 4 of the cemetery, which has over two hundred interred veterans and dependents. When it rains, or when the irrigation system is used, water collects on top of the grave sites, which causes the ground to become saturated and muddy rendering certain sites unvisitable. Understandably, visiting families would be very distraught to see their loved one's headstones underwater or grave sites ruined by the mud, nor would that scenario properly demonstrate the State's commitment to keeping the cemetery as pristine as is warranted.

Not only is the flooding causing problems aesthetically and emotionally, but the flooding saturates the ground, which creates a safety concern for the visiting public as the hillside becomes treacherously muddy causing risk of injury. Environmental and health hazards are also concerning due to standing water in occupied, underground crypts. Contaminates from the flooded crypts can leak, causing groundwater pollution and a risk to the health and safety of the public.

The extent of the damage is unknown at this time, making it difficult to provide an exact cost. Since excavation is involved, we anticipate the cost to be over \$25,000. Once a contractor is onsite and has done a thorough evaluation, we will pass along the expected cost.

Should additional information be necessary for approval, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you,



Heather L. Brunton
Chief Financial Officer



Brittany M. Spencer
Procurement Officer