

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/27/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0080

LOG NAME: 22DHS WHOLE AIR MONITORING BIOWATCH GRANT FY26

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, Whole Air Monitoring BioWatch Program Grant Funding for Field Operations and Sample Collection Activities from the United States Department of Homeland Security in an Amount Up to \$253,000.00, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve application for and authorize acceptance of, if awarded, Whole Air Monitoring BioWatch Program Grant funding for field operations and sample collection activities from the United States Department of Homeland Security in an amount up to \$253,000.00 for a six-month term beginning on February 1, 2026, and expiring on July 31, 2026;
2. Authorize the execution of a grant agreement with the Department of Homeland Security for the BioWatch Program: Field Operations & Sample Collection Activities Grant Program;
3. Apply an indirect cost rate of 10.00 percent in accordance with the terms of the Department of Homeland Security Grant; and
4. Adopt the attached Appropriation Ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in an amount up to \$253,000.00 upon receipt of the grant for the purpose of supporting air monitoring field operations for early detection of bioterrorism attacks.

DISCUSSION:

Whole Air Monitoring BioWatch Program Grant funding for field operations and sample collection activities from the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides funds for supporting whole air monitoring field operations for early detection of bioterrorism attacks within the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. If awarded, funds provided through this program would be used for the operation of local air pollution monitors to include retrieving sampling filters and data, delivering filters and data for analysis, and performing regular audit and maintenance activities on the equipment and sites under the terms of the grant.

The Department of Homeland Security provides all air monitoring equipment, parts, and supplies for the proper operation of the air monitoring samplers. The contract period will start February 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026, with a maximum amount up to \$253,000.00 for reimbursement of expenses to the City.

The City has previously received DHS funds for its Whole Air Monitoring BioWatch Program through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as pass-through funding. Most recently, City Council approved Mayor and Council Communications (M&C 25-0656) on June 24, 2025 for FY26 Amendment #4. Effective January 2026, the City of Fort Worth directly applies for funding with DHS; TCEQ no longer administers this pass-through grant funding at the state level.

Document	M&C No.	Approval Date	Grant Amount	Total
Initial DHS Grant (FY26)				
February 2026 - July 2026 (6 months)	Pending	Pending	\$253,000.00	\$253,000.00
			TOTAL:	\$253,000.00

This grant includes five authorized positions in the Environmental Services Department for air quality monitoring. The positions and respective percentages of salary and fringe benefits charged to this grant program are: Environmental Supervisor - Air Quality (20%), Sr. Environmental Specialist - Air Monitoring (60%), Sr. Environmental Specialist - Special Projects (10%), and two (2) Environmental Specialists - Field Operations (100% each). Salary and Fringe will be funded in an estimated amount up to \$147,000.00. Indirect costs will be recovered under this grant at a rate of 10% of salary expenses in an estimated amount up to \$9,800.00. Capital equipment costs (vehicle replacement) will be funded in an estimated amount up to \$40,000.00.

If grant funding is not available, the Environmental Services Department will need to identify an alternative funding source for the program to

continue.

Because this is a reimbursement grant, upon approval and acceptance of the grant and execution of the contract, City funds will be spent before it receives grant funds. No local match is required. The Grant Application Repository number for tracking purposes is GRNT-APPL-0000000171.

These projects will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: DHS

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Environmental Services Department will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Environmental Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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