

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/13/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0129

LOG NAME: 35FY2025 OOG CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANT (STATE JAG)

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Application for, and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Passed-Through the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Fiscal Year 2025 Criminal Justice Grant Program in an Amount Up to \$200,000.00 to Purchase Forensic Firearms Equipment, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement with the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office as the Passed-Through Entity, Adopt Resolution, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for, and authorize acceptance of, if awarded, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Passed-through the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Fiscal Year 2025 Criminal Justice Grant Program in an amount up to \$200,000.00;
 2. Authorize the execution of a related grant agreement with the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office;
 3. Adopt the attached Resolution for acceptance of grant funds in an amount up to \$200,000.00 and to make assurances as required by the Fiscal Year 2025 Criminal Justice Grant Program; and
 4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to receipt of the grant, in an amount up to \$200,000.00, for the purpose of funding costs associated with the purchase of forensic firearms equipment.
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DISCUSSION:

The application deadline for the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Grant Program (JAG) is February 8, 2024.

The Fort Worth Police Department Firearms Unit (FWPD-FAU) will apply for program funding in an amount up to \$200,000.00 for costs associated with the purchase of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) BrassTrax Imager. If awarded, the FWPD-FAU will purchase the NIBIN BrassTrax Imager to take acquired images of fired cartridge cases, both test-fired and evidentiary cartridge cases, and compare them to other acquired images in the database to determine if the firearm was used in any correlated incidents in an effort to support our detectives in making timely arrests and getting violent criminals and their firearms off the streets of the City of Fort Worth and neighboring jurisdictions.

Currently, the FWPD-FAU has a backlog of 512 cases of firearm-related evidence that must be forensically examined to determine functionality, source of fired evidence, and presented in a forensic report that is used in the prosecution of the offender. All eligible evidence is entered into NIBIN BrassTrax Imager within 48 hours of their submittal to the Property Control Unit. The addition of a second NIBIN BrassTrax Imager would enhance the efforts of FWPD-FAU to give detectives fast, more efficient intelligence needed to make timely arrests in violent gun-related crimes.

No salaries are being charged to this grant, and therefore indirect cost recovery does not apply.

Matching funds are not required under the grant. The funding type is reimbursable.

The grant 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: Office of the Texas Governor

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 Police Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Police Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Fernando Costa 6122

Originating Business Unit Head: Neil Noakes 4212

Additional Information Contact:

Angela Love

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