

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/25/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0179

LOG NAME: 35FY2026 STATE-BJA COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCES GRANT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify the Application for, and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Passed-Through the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Fiscal Year 2026 in an Amount Up to \$135,000.00 to Purchase Forensic Chemistry 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. Ratify the application for, and authorize acceptance of, if awarded, the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Passed-Through the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Fiscal Year 2026 in an amount up to \$135,000.00 to purchase forensic chemistry equipment;
 2. Authorize the execution of a related grant agreement with the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office as the passed-through entity;
 3. Adopt the attached Resolution for acceptance of grant funds in an amount up to \$135,000.00 and to make assurances as required by the Fiscal Year 2026 Public Safety Office 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 \$135,000.00, for the purpose of funding costs associated with the purchase of forensic chemistry equipment.
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DISCUSSION:

The application deadline for the Office of the Texas Governor, Public Safety Office, Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program is February 13, 2025.

The Fort Worth Police Department Chemistry Unit (FWPD-CU) has applied for program funding in an amount up to \$135,000.00 for costs associated with the purchase of the Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer System (GC-MS). If awarded, the FWPD-CU will purchase the GC-MS to analyze unknown substances to confirm the identity of street drugs/ opioids confiscated by patrol, undercover purchases, and other narcotic activities.

The GC-MS will be used to confirm cocaine, methamphetamine, LSD, and any other controlled and non-controlled drugs/opioids and to improve the efforts of the narcotic investigators to make timely arrests of drug dealers, thus removing fatal drugs/opioids off the streets of the City of Fort Worth and neighboring jurisdictions.

In addition, the FWPD-CU has a backlog of controlled substance cases of approximately 1200. The turnaround time on this backlog is exceeding 90 days when the narcotic detectives must provide confirmative test reports to the Tarrant County District Attorney (TCDA) within 60 days. The addition of this new GC-MS would enhance the efforts of FWPD-CU to give narcotic detectives fast, more efficient intelligence that is needed to make timely arrests.

No salaries are being charged to this grant, and therefore indirect cost recovery does not apply. The Grant Application Repository number for tracking purposes is GRNT-APPL-0000000109.

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.

Originating Business Unit Head: Robert A. Alldredge, Jr. 4131

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