

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/12/21

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 21-0044

LOG NAME: 35STEP-TXDOT-FY 2022

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for, and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Texas Department of Transportation Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant To Occur in Fiscal Year 2022, in an Amount Up To \$278,750.00, Authorize Transfer of \$55,750.00 from the Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund for the City's Match Requirement, Authorize Execution of Related Grant Agreement, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinances

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify application for, and authorize acceptance of, if awarded, the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation in an amount up to \$278,750.00;
 2. Authorize the execution of a grant agreement with Texas Department of Transportation for the FY2022 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program Grant;
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing appropriations in the Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund in the amount of \$55,750.00 for the purpose of transferring to the Grants Operating Federal Fund as the City's match requirement; and
 4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in an amount up to \$278,750.00.
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DISCUSSION:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grants are aimed at reducing the number of vehicle crashes, injuries, and fatalities. The STEP grant will pay for overtime hours of the officers participating in the program. A local match of 20% is required.

STEP grant activities include enforcement of speed, seatbelt, DUI, and intersection traffic control laws. The total proposed direct program amount for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$278,750.00, which includes \$55,750.00 in match funds. Funds will be budgeted for overtime and associated fringe benefits for an estimated 3,100 enforcement hours with an additional estimate of 100 hours for administering the grant. The grant will also fund overtime, along with associated fringe benefits, to provide an estimated 90 hours for public information and education events.

Award of this grant and receipt of funds would not occur until Fiscal Year 2022. As for the City's required match, the Department has historically used the Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund to satisfy that requirement. Because balance exists in Fiscal Year 2021 in the Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund, staff recommends that the \$55,750.00 be appropriated and transferred from that Fund to the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Grants Operating Federal Fund is a life of project fund, the appropriated match will be carried over into the next fiscal year.

A portion of the funds from TxDOT will be used to cover indirect costs at the Police Department's approved rate (currently 4.89%).

These grant funds will be for overtime and fringe benefits.

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

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinances, funds will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund and the Justice Asset Forfeiture 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.

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