

City of Fort Worth, Texas

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/27/24 M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0165

LOG NAME: 35FY25 OOG VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT

SUBJECT

(ALL) Ratify Application for, and Authorize Acceptance of, if Awarded, the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act Grant to Occur in Fiscal Year 2025 in an Amount Up to \$136,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Ratify application for, and authorize acceptance of, if awarded, the Fiscal Year 2025 Victims of Crime Act Grant from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, in an amount up to \$136,000.00;
2. Ratify the execution of a grant agreement with the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for the Fiscal Year 2025 Victims of Crime Act Grant;
3. Adopt the attached resolution to make assurances as required by the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division;
4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in the amount of \$136,000.00 subject to award and receipt of grant funds.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Fiscal Year 2025 Office of the Governor (OOG), Criminal Justice Division (CJD), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant is to provide services and assistance to victims of crime, to aid in their recovery and to help navigate through the criminal justice process. If awarded, the grant will continue to fund salary and fringe for two positions in the Fort Worth Police Department's Victim Assistance Unit (one Victim Assistance Specialist and one High Risk Family Violence Specialist). The grant period for this award is from 10/01/2024 to 09/30/2025. The positions in this grant have been funded since Fiscal Year 2017. If this grant were not to be awarded, the Police Department will need to either identify another source of funds or terminate these positions.

The overall goal of the Fiscal Year 2025 OOG, CJD, VOCA Grant is to aid in reducing the trauma experienced by crime victims. This is achieved by providing efficient and comprehensive advocacy services for all victims of violent crimes and by conducting outreach and education to victims of family violence that are exhibiting high risk factors. Through these services, the intent is to reduce repeat victimization and intimate partner homicide.

The total proposed direct program amount for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$170,000.00, which includes \$34,000.00 in match funds. There is a 20% match requirement. Matching funds will be provided through the Fiscal Year 2025 Crime Prevention Control District budgeting process. Should match funding not be identified, the grant award would not be accepted.

Indirect costs are allowed and will be accepted at 10% de minimis.

This M&C ratifies the submission of the grant that is due on February 8th, 2024. Ratification is necessary due to the internal review and approval process for new grants prior to getting M&C approval and meeting the grant application deadline. The City Manager's Office was consulted prior to the application to determine the appropriateness of proceeding with a ratified grant application.

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

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. 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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