Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	**U.S. Department of Justice FY26 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant**
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to submit an application and accept, if awarded, an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant for the legislative Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation, in the amount of $127,906, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to be used for eligible law enforcement, prosecution, and courts projects as defined in the grant, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award.
INITIATED BY:	**Finance Department**

Recommendation: Approval is requested to submit an application and accept, if awarded, an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant for the legislative Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation, in the amount of $127,906, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to be used for eligible law enforcement, prosecution, and courts projects as defined in the grant, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award.

Background: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program replaced the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program in the Federal Fiscal Year 2005. The Columbus Consolidated Government is on the list of awardees for the annual local solicitation. The grant does not have a local match requirement. Eligible projects for the grant fall into the following categories: Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Courts, Prevention and Education, Correction and Community Correction, Drug Treatment, and Planning, Evaluation and Technology Improvement.

Analysis: All city departments or divisions involved in law enforcement, prosecution, or courts are eligible to use these grant funds. The grant requires that the local government's governing body be notified of the application of this grant at least 30 days before the grant can be awarded. The grant also requires that the public be notified of the intent to apply for this grant and be allowed an opportunity to review and comment on the application. The grant allows up to 10% of the award to be used to reimburse for costs incurred in the administration of the grant. The Finance Department reached out to all eligible departments or divisions and requested that all interested parties submit requests for funding projects from this grant. The results were shared with the City Manager and the following allocations were approved: Columbus Police Department: $57,000 for a SHARP Mental Health Application; Muscogee County Sheriff's Office: $17,539 for E-ticketing devices; Columbus Fire/EMS: $4,589 for ballistic vests and $4,913 for bomb squad protective equipment; EMA/Homeland Security: $30,060 for 911 emergency dispatch consoles; and Muscogee County Correctional Institute: $13,805 for ballistic vests.

Financial Considerations: The amount that the Columbus Consolidated Government is eligible to apply for is $127,906. There is no local match requirement. The city will have four years in which to complete this grant.

Projected Annual Fiscal Impact Statement: The grant will bring in $127,906 to the Multi-Governmental Fund over a four-year period, with most of the activity expected during the first two years. The General Fund will not be affected.

Legal Considerations: The Columbus Consolidated Government is eligible to apply for this grant award with Council approval. Council must approve the application for and acceptance of all grant awards and the designated signing authority or their authorized representative must sign all required contracts, reports, and certifications. Upon acceptance, the City will be obligated to the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant contract.

Recommendation/Actions: Approval is requested to submit an application and accept, if awarded, an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) grant for the legislative Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation, in the amount of $127,906, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, to be used for eligible law enforcement, prosecution, and courts projects as defined in the grant, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award.

A RESOLUTION
NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT A 2026 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $127,906, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, WITH NO LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT, TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD, AND TO ALLOCATE THE AMOUNT AWARDED TO CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROSECUTION, COURTS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance has announced potential formula grant awards for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2026 Local Solicitation. This grant supports a broad range of activities for the prevention and control of crime and to improve the criminal justice system. These funds can be used for local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice, as well as research and evaluation activities that will improve or enhance: law enforcement programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation); and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Consolidated Government is eligible to receive $127,906 in funding with no local match requirement. The funding will be allocated as follows: Columbus Police Department: $57,000 for a SHARP Mental Health Application; Muscogee County Sheriff's Office: $17,539 for E-ticketing devices; Columbus Fire/EMS: $4,589 for ballistic vests and $4,913 for bomb squad protective equipment; EMA/Homeland Security: $30,060 for 911 emergency dispatch consoles; and Muscogee County Correctional Institute: $13,805 for ballistic vests; and,

WHEREAS, the grant requires that the governing body be notified of the application at least 30 days prior to the award of the grant funds, and an opportunity for public review and comment be given.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to submit an application and if awarded, accept a FY26 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of $127,906, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match requirement, and that the funds will be used by eligible departments as allocated, and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount of the award.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 22nd day of September 2026, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes	voting	_____.
Counciler Chambers	voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle	voting	_____.
Councilor Cook	voting	_____ .
Councilor Crabb	voting	_____.
Councilor Davis	voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett	voting	_____.
Counciler Huff	voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker	voting	_____.

_____ _____

Lindsey G. Mclemore, Clerk of Council B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor