

Staff Report

Subject: GOHS H.E.A.T. Grant Award
Author: Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director
Department: Finance & Accounting Services
Meeting Date: 10/20/26
Item Description: Consideration to accept a \$289,692.00 grant award from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) for the Effingham County Sheriff's Office H.E.A.T. Project, grant number GA-2027-EffinghaSO-076.

Summary Recommendation:

Staff is requesting approval to accept the \$289,692.00 GOHS H.E.A.T. grant award, grant number GA-2027-EffinghaSO-076, with no local cost share requirement.

Executive Summary:

GOHS has approved \$289,692.00 in federal funding for the Effingham County Sheriff's Office H.E.A.T. Project. The October 1, 2026 award letter establishes a grant period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

The project supports traffic enforcement and public education, including impaired driving enforcement, seat belt use, and participation in highway safety campaigns. The Sheriff's Office must comply with the grant terms and H.E.A.T. special conditions.

All equipment must be purchased within the first 90 days after the grant effective date. Equipment costing \$10,000 or more, including taxes and shipping, requires prior written GOHS and NHTSA approval. County procurement policies and Buy America requirements apply.

Personnel reimbursement is based on documented H.E.A.T. activity hours rather than an individual's salary alone. Officers must document total hours, project hours, and enforcement activity on GOHS Form 203. Monthly programmatic and claim reports are due by the 20th of the following month; claims will not be processed without supporting programmatic reports.

Background:

1. Allowable costs incurred during the grant period are reimbursable at 100%, up to the \$289,692.00 award.
2. Grant funds must be accounted for separately. The award is contingent upon the availability of federal funds.
3. There is no local cost share requirement. GOHS assigned the agency a LOW risk assessment for FFY 2027.
4. Any vehicle or personnel FTE additions that may come from this grant must have Board approval, which is the normal process for those items.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve acceptance of the \$289,692.00 GOHS H.E.A.T. grant award.
2. Do not approve acceptance of the GOHS H.E.A.T. grant award.
3. Provide Staff with Direction

Recommended Alternative:

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve acceptance of the \$289,692.00 GOHS H.E.A.T. grant award, grant number GA-2027-EffinghaSO-076.

Other Alternatives:

N/A

Department Review:

Effingham County Sheriff's Office

Funding Source:

Federal funds administered by GOHS under the State and Community Highway Safety program, Assistance Listing Number 20.600. Approved costs are reimbursed at 100%, up to \$289,692.00. No local cost share is required.

Attachments:

GOHS GA-2027-EffinghaSO-076 award letter dated October 1, 2026, and H.E.A.T. Law Enforcement Special Conditions