



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	9/10/2024
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 11256 – A Resolution Accepting Fiscal Year 2023-24 Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund and Appropriation of Funds
FROM:	Police Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No.11256 – A Resolution Accepting Fiscal Year 2023-24 Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund and Appropriation of Funds

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

In December 2023, the Police Department applied for a grant issued by the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The application was specifically tailored to provide funds to replace an existing tactical robot primarily utilized by the Department’s SWAT Team. In August 2024, the Department received the grant award letter designating \$74,726 to be used for the purchase of the ICOR Mini Caliber Robot.

This equipment will be primarily used by the department’s SWAT team but has several explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) applications as well. This robot is designed for rapid tactical missions and is easily operated from a handheld controller. Its capabilities include the ability to remotely search rooms, undercarriage of vehicles, hallways, stairwells, and confined spaces. It also gives the operator the ability to communicate with suspects/victims through a two-way omnidirectional microphone and see the inside of structures or vehicles with video capability. The robot also includes an extendable, rotating claw that simplifies opening door handles. As part of a de-escalation package, the robot can also be used to deliver equipment, such as a phone or medical supplies, establish communication with suspects/victims during an extended incident without exposing personnel.

The department is currently utilizing an older robot that can accomplish some of the above tasks; however, the apparatus is approximately 10 years old, does not have the ability to manipulate doors, and the company is no longer in business. As such, they are no longer offering any forms of technical or repair support services. This fact has resulted in the Folsom Police Department's SWAT team having to borrow similar equipment from other tactical teams to safely resolve an incident.

POLICY / RULE

City Council Resolution 8367 states that grant applications, including any requiring an ongoing commitment of resources or staff, shall be reviewed and approved by the City Council prior to submittal. Assembly Bill 481 (Government Code 7071(a)(1)(B)) requires law enforcement agencies to seek approval from their local governing body prior to accepting funds for the purchase of military equipment.

ANALYSIS

On July 9, 2024, the Police Department submitted the annual report to the City Council regarding the use of military equipment and renewal of Ordinance No. 1326 in compliance with Assembly Bill 481. The City Council renewed the ordinance and passed a resolution approving the report. The report included the use and possession of one tactical robot (Robotex Avatar) and the intention to purchase a new tactical robot if grant funds were awarded to the Police Department.

Implementation within the department is expected to be seamless, as the SWAT team is already familiar with operating such equipment. Training can be seamlessly incorporated into the team's regular monthly schedule, eliminating the need for additional training costs. The project addresses the evolving landscape of tactics and incidents requiring law enforcement intervention, aligning with California's mandated policies on de-escalation. By focusing on time and distance, this technology enables operators to communicate safely, gather intelligence, and identify potential threats without immediate action.

The company manufacturing the ICOR Mini Caliber Robot has given an estimated lead time of nine months. For this reason, the Police Department does not expect to receive or begin using the new robot until approximately June 2025. Ordinance No. 1326 will be updated to reflect the new robot before it goes into service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Department of Homeland Security through the California Office of Emergency Services awarded the City grant funding in the amount of \$74,726 with no local matching funds requirement from the City for the purchase of an ICOR Mini Caliber Robot. These funds will include all the required equipment and technical support. There are no additional anticipated

training costs. If accepted the grant award would increase revenue estimates and appropriations by \$74,726 in the General Fund (Fund 010).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 11256– A Resolution Accepting Fiscal Year 2023-24 Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services Grant Fund and Appropriation of Funds

Submitted,

Richard Hillman, Chief of Police

RESOLUTION NO. 11256

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDS AWARDED THROUGH THE
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND GRANT FUND AND
APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security through the California Office of Emergency Services offers grants to fund front-line law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding available to the City of Folsom for Fiscal Year 2024-25 is \$74,726; and

WHEREAS, these funds are separate and apart from the proposed allocations from the City's general fund and an additional appropriation is needed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has requested to allocate and appropriate these funds for the purchase of the ICOR Mini Caliber tactical robot;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby authorizes the use of the funding in accordance with the request of the Chief of Police to purchase the ICOR Mini Caliber tactical robot; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Folsom approves the acceptance of a grant from the Department of Homeland Security through the California Office of Emergency Services for the purchase of the ICOR Mini Caliber tactical robot; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director is authorized to increase revenue estimates and appropriations by \$74,726, the grant award amount, in the General Fund (Fund 010).

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September 2024, by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Councilmember(s):
NOES: Councilmember(s):
ABSENT: Councilmember(s):
ABSTAIN: Councilmember(s):

Michael D. Kozlowski, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK