



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	8/12/2025
AGENDA SECTION:	Consent Calendar
SUBJECT:	Resolution No. 11446– A Resolution Accepting \$67,371 in Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services and Appropriation of Funds in the General Fund (Fund 010)
FROM:	Police Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No.11446– A Resolution Accepting \$67,371 in Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services and Appropriation of Funds in the General Fund (Fund 010).

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

In February 2025, the Police Department applied for a grant issued by the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The application was specifically tailored to provide funds to purchase night vision technology for the Police Department’s SWAT Team. In July 2025, the Department received the grant award letter designating \$67,371 to be used for the purchase of this equipment.

The Folsom Police Department’s SWAT Team seeks funding to procure night vision devices (NVDs) to enhance operational effectiveness and officer safety during nighttime and low-light operations. These devices will provide critical visibility advantages, improving our ability to execute high-risk operations while minimizing risks to officers and the community. The requested funding will allow us to acquire and deploy NVDs tailored to our team’s needs, ensuring enhanced capabilities in search and rescue, warrant service, and crisis response scenarios.

The Folsom Police Department's SWAT Team is responsible for responding to high-risk incidents, including hostage situations, barricaded subjects, and violent offender apprehensions. A significant portion of these operations occur in low-light environments where visibility is compromised, increasing risks to officers and civilians. Currently, the team relies on standard lighting tools, which can expose officers' positions and limit their tactical effectiveness.

The SWAT team is currently operating with night vision technology that is over 20 years old and significantly outdated by today's standards. The equipment provides low-resolution imagery and is limited to single-eye use, which severely restricts depth perception. This lack of spatial awareness makes it challenging for operators to navigate safely in low-light indoor environments, often resulting in unintended contact with objects or surroundings. These inadvertent contacts can compromise noise discipline and give away the team's position, reducing their tactical effectiveness during critical operations. The limitations of this outdated equipment pose a significant obstacle to maintaining stealth and operational safety.

Acquiring night vision devices will enhance situational awareness in darkness, improve Officer safety by reducing reliance on visible light sources, allow for more effective suspect tracking and perimeter security, and strengthen the team's ability to respond to emergencies without compromising their position.

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.

ANALYSIS

Night vision devices are not included in California's AB 481 reporting requirements because they are not defined as "military equipment" under Government Code §7070. AB 481 outlines specific categories of equipment—such as armored vehicles, drones, and firearms of .50 caliber or greater—that must be reported, governed by policies, and approved for use. Night vision devices, while potentially tactical in nature, do not meet the threshold of lethality, crowd control, or military application as outlined in the statute. As such, their acquisition and use by law enforcement do not fall under the scope of AB 481's public transparency and reporting mandates.

The implementation of night vision technology within the department is expected to be seamless, as the SWAT team is already experienced in utilizing similar equipment. Training can be easily integrated into the team's existing monthly training schedule, avoiding the need for additional training costs. This technology supports the department's efforts to adapt to the evolving nature of tactical operations and aligns with California's mandated policies on de-escalation. By enhancing visibility in low-light environments, night vision devices allow

operators to maintain time and distance, improving their ability to safely communicate, gather intelligence, and assess potential threats without initiating immediate engagement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Department of Homeland Security awarded through the California Office of Emergency Services funding for the City of Folsom in the amount of \$67,371 to purchase night vision devices and does not require matching funds from the City. These funds will include all the required equipment and technical support. There are no additional anticipated training costs. If accepted the funding award would increase revenue estimates and appropriations by \$67,371 in the General Fund (Fund 010). Costs would be funded initially through the General Fund (Fund 010) and reimbursed by the grant.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No.11446– A Resolution Accepting \$67,371 in Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds Awarded Through the California Office of Emergency Services and Appropriation of Funds in the General Fund (Fund 010)
2. Grant Award Letter

Submitted,

Randy Ulibarri, Interim Chief of Police