



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Melissa Funk, Victim Services Supervisor
Zack Mozer, Financial Analyst
Dawn Downs, Legal

SUBJECT

Items Relating to Victim Services Grants.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 020, 2023, Making Supplemental Appropriation from the Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Board for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 021, 2023, Making Supplemental Appropriation from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice under the Federal Victim of Crime Act for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

The purpose of these items is to help fund the Victim Services Unit of Fort Collins Police Services for victim advocacy services which are required under the Colorado Victim Rights Amendment for victims of crime and their family members.

The Victim Services Unit has been awarded a \$70,000 VALE grant for the period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. The VALE grant is awarded through the Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board to help fund services provided by the Victim Services team. This grant will fund one part-time victim advocate, as well as 65% of the salary of a contractual 40-hour per week victim advocate.

The Victim Services Unit has also been awarded a 24-month grant in the amount of \$47,959 for the period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024, by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice under the Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA). The amount to be received in 2023 is \$23,979 with the remaining amount to be received in 2024. This grant will help fund services provided by the Victim Services Unit. These funds will be used to pay 35% of the salary for the victim advocate who provides crisis intervention services for sexual assault victims between the school ages of kindergarten through 12th grade.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinances on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Victim Services Unit has received funding from the VALE grant since the inception of the program in 1996. Colorado state statutes mandate law enforcement agencies follow the Victim Rights Amendment to the Colorado Constitution. Many of the stages in the mandated statutes are fulfilled by the Victim Services Unit. Services have been provided to thousands of victims and their family members who have become victims of violent crime in the community. Council has approved appropriations of the VALE grant revenue every year. Services to the community would be drastically cut without this grant award.

Funds from the VALE grant will be used for 26 hours a week toward the salary for the full-time contractual victim advocate who provides crisis intervention services during weekday hours and is housed in the Victim Services office. The VALE grant will also fund a part-time, 20 hour a week victim advocate who will cover mandated weekend defendant bond hearings and work with victims of these crimes. Funds will also pay for a portion of the operational expenses needed to provide 24-hour, 7-days/week services to victims of crime in the community.

The VOCA grant will be used to fund 14 hours a week toward the salary of the full-time contractual victim advocate who provides crisis intervention services for sexual assault victims between the school ages of kindergarten through 12th grade.

Victim Services has received VOCA grant funding since 2020. VOCA funds will help fulfill the legal mandates under the Colorado Constitution as well by ensuring Fort Collins Police Services provides services to victims under the Colorado Victim Rights Amendment.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The City has received a grant in the amount of \$70,000 from the Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board to help fund victim services activities. There is no match required.

The City has also been awarded a grant in the amount of \$47,959 from the Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA). The amount to be received in 2023 is \$23,979 with the remaining amount to be received in 2024. The grant from VOCA required a 25% match which will be filled by an in-kind match from volunteer hours worked. Both grants will be used to benefit victim services activities.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance A for Consideration
2. Ordinance B for Consideration