

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Brittany Davis, Victim Services Supervisor
Lt. Sara Lynd, Criminal Investigations Lieutenant

SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 010, 2024, Making a Supplemental Appropriation from the Eighth Judicial District Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement Board in the General Fund for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 011, 2024, Making a Supplemental Appropriation from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Under the Federal Victim of Crime Act in the General Fund for the Fort Collins Police Services Victim Services Unit.

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

The Victim Services Unit has been awarded a \$70,000 Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) grant for the period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The VALE grant is awarded through the Eighth Judicial District 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 for 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). This grant will help fund services provided by the Victim Services Unit. These funds will be used to pay 35% of the salary for a contractual 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-day a 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.

The City has also been awarded a grant in the amount of \$47,959 from the Federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA).

Neither grant requires a cash or in-kind match from Fort Collins Police Services or the City of Fort Collins.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

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