



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Kyle Bendzsa, Forensic Services Unit Sergeant (Police Services)
Zack Mozer, Financial Analyst
Dawn Downs, Legal

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 079, 2023, Making Supplemental Appropriation from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Synthetic Opiate Poisoning Investigation and Distribution Interdiction Grant for the Fort Collins Police Services Forensic Services Unit.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on June 6, 2023, supports Fort Collins Police Services Forensic Services Unit work in the prevention and investigation of serious injuries and deaths caused by illegal synthetic opiate poisoning and for disrupting synthetic opiate distribution by appropriating \$255,833 of unanticipated grant revenue from the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

On February 2nd, 2023, Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS), Forensic Services Unit (FSU) was awarded a grant through the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice Assistance, HB22-1326 – Synthetic Opiate Poisoning Investigation and Distribution Interdiction Grant Program.

The intent of the Synthetic Opiate Poisoning Investigation and Distribution Interdiction Grant Program is to provide grant funding to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of investigating deaths and serious injuries caused by illegal synthetic opiate poisoning and for disrupting synthetic opiate supplies.

FCPS will purchase a 5-year license for GrayKey Premier, four 5-year licenses for GrayKey Reveal and two GrayKey units.

GrayKey is a software product produced by a company named Grayshift. GrayKey can unlock a cell phone and then extract the data contained within it which may be evidence in any criminal case. All unlocks and extractions will be done after proper legal authority has been obtained by investigators. A GrayKey unit is the physical interface that is used to connect a cell phone to a computer that is utilizing the GrayKey software.

This software and hardware will be utilized by the four Digital Forensic Examiners in the FSU to obtain evidence from locked and unlocked cell phones to further investigations related to opiate poisoning and distribution. The software can also be used for any other investigation, with proper legal authority.

With FSU's current GrayKey license, the unit has a limited number of cell phone unlocks annually, and a new license for these limited number of unlocks must be purchased each year, incurring an ongoing expense to FCPS. This additional GrayKey Premier license will allow an unlimited number of unlocks each year, for the next 5 years.

The prevention and investigation of serious injuries and deaths caused by illegal synthetic opiate poisoning and for disrupting synthetic opiate supplies is in keeping with the Vision of FCPS, to make Fort Collins the safest community in the nation.

The award is based on total project costs of \$255,833, with one hundred percent provided by DCJ. As presented in the Grant Agreement (provided as Attachment 2), total project costs pertain to a 5-year license for GrayKey Premier to unlock and acquire digital data from smartphones, four 1-year licenses for GrayKey Reveal to analyze digital data, and two GrayKey units to interface with smartphone and computer. Pursuant to the grant application and award, this funding may only be utilized for the listed products. Project is from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$255,833 in project costs for Fort Collins Police Services' Forensic Services Unit work in prevention and investigation around opiate poisoning and distribution from unanticipated grant revenue in the General Fund from DCJ.

This grant from the DCJ is a reimbursement type grant, meaning General Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$255,833.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments not included.

1. Ordinance for Consideration