STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	March 3, 2024
MEETING TYPE:	Regular Council Meeting
SUBMITTED BY:	Chief Perry
AGENDA CAPTION:	Discuss and consider Resolution R2025-03-1251 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUTCHINS, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING TO FUND IN WHOLE OR IN PART A NEW RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR (OOG) CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION (CJD) FOR THE FY 2025/2026 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM. Presented by: Steve Perry, Police Chief

Background Information

The Criminal Research Information Management Evaluation System (CRIMES) was developed in 1995 to help smaller law enforcement agencies manage records. The Police Research Center at Sam Houston State University created the system. The system was developed to:

- To meet the needs of smaller law enforcement agencies
- Reduce costs
- To address the dissatisfaction of Texas police chiefs with the available systems and technology

- CAD
- RMS
- Jail
- Evidence
- NIBRS

The City of Hutchins began using this system for dispatching calls for service for both Police and Fire dispatch in 2010.

It is redundant and time consuming that an officer taking a report must duplicate information and entries into multiple different operational modules. In 2024,1429 reports were created by officers and the numbers are increasing every year. With staffing shortages, and increased calls for service, Officers are spending an exuberant amount of time with reports.

In addition to the CRIMES system the Police department utilizes TYLER technologies for citation management and capturing racial profiling data. Reporting this data to the State of Texas each year is a requirement of article 2.133 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures.

The information from the CRIMES system and Tyler technologies requires staff to spend exuberant amounts of time going through traffic stop data to ensure we are correctly reporting traffic contact data to the State of Texas.

Officer safety is essential to the safety of our personnel and time is of critical importance. Example: Officer makes a traffic stop. The violator happens to be an unknown felon, and CAD freezes. This delays the officer receiving critical officer safety information.

For the Fire Department, Crimes Cad does not benefit the fire department equally and only offers minimum options. Other CAD systems provide options like attaching pre-fire plans to a business address that can be reviewed while on scene of an active incident, hydrant locations, and mapping. CRIMES does not have the ability to keep up with today's standards and information sharing and safety.

In our RMS system it is a challenge to get accurate crime data numbers. We are unable to rely on the system that we should be able to get good quality data from for case management and crime statistics. For the past two years we have solely relied on CRIME DATA reported to the FBI through the NIBRS system for our reports.

Future use:

CRIMES is unable to support our new radio system, and soon to be new 911 system that will be coming online in 2025/2026. We live in a world today where technology is one of the key components to a successful organization. We should have integration between the technology we use within the organization, and we need to simplify the process of receiving information, obtaining information, disseminating information, and relying on quality data.

During the past few years, Midlothian, Seagoville, Ovilla, Sunnyvale, Red Oak, White Settlement to name a few of the known departments that have moved away from the CRIMES system.

It is critical to public safety in the City of Hutchins that we also move away from the CRIMES system. With the support from the city council, we are requesting, councils support to apply for a grant through the Office of the Governor to assist with the purchase of a new CAD, and RMS system.

The CRIMES system cannot keep up with the demanding requirements of today's Law Enforcement profession.

Budget Implications

Grant $ 200,000.00 (two-year period)

Operational Impact

Improve public safety by reducing time spent on reports, improve officer safety, improve the quality of data in the department records management system, improve fire department response to critical incidents.

Legal Review

City Attorney Joe Gorfida reviewed and approved the attached resolution.

Staff Recommendation

Approve the resolution allowing staff to apply for a grant to assist with the funding of a new CAD and RMS system.

Supporting Documentation and Attachments

Resolution

Preliminary estimate of a new CAD and RMS system.