



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 11/28/2023

**REQUESTER:** John Stege, Police Standards Administrator

**PRESENTER:** Kevin Foster, Chief of Police

**ITEM TITLE:** PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,233 TO THE CITY OF NORMAN, THE MOORE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE CLEVELAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (DOJ/BJA) THROUGH THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM WITH NORMAN'S PORTION OF \$33,108 TO BE USED BY THE NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ADVANCED SPECIALTY TRAINING (AND ASSOCIATED TRAVEL); CONTRACT K-2324-100; AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE SPECIAL GRANT FUND BALANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

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### BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), fiscal year 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, announced that grant funds are available to the City of Norman, the Moore Police Department (MPD), and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) in the amount of \$52,233. These entities are considered disparate jurisdictions based on a U.S. Department of Justice formula that includes population, crime statistics, and other law enforcement-related data. The City of Norman's recommended share of the award is \$33,108. The MPD's recommended share of the award is \$13,195. Cleveland County's share is \$5,930.

On November 8, 2023 the Norman Police Department (NPD) received notice of an award for the 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Award No. 15PBJA-23-GG-03697-JAGX). The grant requires that a public hearing be conducted prior to the disbursement of any funds.

### DISCUSSION:

JAG legislation requires disparate local and county entities to partner with each other as signatories in an associated memorandum of understanding that identifies the individual

allocations for each entity. Only one entity is allowed to apply for grant funding (as the “Financial Entity”) and must then pass-through identified funding to partnering entities. The City of Norman has traditionally served in the role of “Financial Entity” with the CCSO and MPD as partners.

At the time of application, the following projects were identified as the focus of grant funding:

Project No.1.1, Forensic Technician Training Project (NPD): Providing forensic services to victims of crime requires a commitment to developing the technical expertise necessary for our forensic technicians to process scenes and to providing the equipment and supplies required. While NPD is committed to providing this service, we are also obligated to seek funding when other city priorities mean that our budget does not cover all of our needs. NPD has two technicians who are both International Association of Identification (IAI) certified crime scene technicians. Continuing education that both meets certification requirements and develops new skills and expertise for these specialists is not available locally.

Project No. 1.2, Digital Forensic Training Project (NPD): Providing digital forensic services to victims of crime requires a commitment to developing the technical expertise necessary for our digital forensic analysts to extract and examine digital information from a variety of media including digital devices, computers, and media. While we are often assisted by Federal partners in developing the skills necessary for certification, continuing education is an expense that quickly exceeds local funding. NPD has three certified digital analysts who require continuing education credits to ensure that these services are available to our Local, County, State, and Federal partners.

Project No. 1.3, Crime and Intelligence Analyst Training Project (NPD): As with the previous projects, providing analytical support for law enforcement activities requires a commitment to developing the technical expertise necessary for analysts to use both internal and external systems in a way that facilitates successful proactive and reactive enforcement activities. We have recently added to our analytical personnel (we have one Crime Analyst and one Intelligence Analyst) in an effort to expand this capability, but initial and continuing education for the analysts and their immediate supervisor is critical to ensure that we meet industry standards as established by Local, State, and Federal partners.

Project No. 1.4, Conference Room Telecommunications Upgrade Project (NPD): Strategic and operational planning, as well as coordination at the executive level with Local, State, and Federal partners, requires adequate meeting and presentation infrastructure. A computer and associated peripherals that support teleconferencing, digital presentations, and data/screen sharing is essential for effective information sharing and coordination.

Project No. 2.1, Pass-Through Surveillance Equipment (MPD): MPD will use JAG funds to purchase a pole camera that can replace failing equipment that has outlived its useful life.

Project No. 3.1, Pass-Through Traffic Enforcement Equipment (CCSO): CCSO will use JAG funds to purchase two LIDARs that can supplement existing equipment.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** That a public hearing be conducted where each person in attendance receives a copy of the agenda and attachments and is eligible to speak about this topic, as required in the grant.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** Approval of the grant by Council and acceptance by the Mayor approving electronic acceptance by the Chief of Police by *signing* and *dating* the Certification and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** Appropriation of \$52,233 from the Special Grant Fund balance (account 22-29000); and allocate as follows:

\$28,704 to: Employee Travel Workshop & Seminar (Account 22660117-44604)

\$19,125 to: Miscellaneous Services-Miscellaneous (Account 22660117-44754)

\$ 4,404 to: Telecommunications Equipment (Account 22660117-45301).

The expenditure and revenue accounts project number is GP0038.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 4:**

Upon reimbursement, deposit funds into the Special Grants Fund, Other Revenue-JAG Grant (Account 226-333333).