



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 01/14/2025

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 \$46,776 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 \$30,205 TO BE USED BY THE NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ADVANCED SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING (AND ASSOCIATED TRAVEL) AND SOFTWARE; CONTRACT NO. K-2425-91; AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION FROM THE SPECIAL GRANT FUND BALANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), fiscal year 2024 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 \$46,776. 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 \$30,205. The MPD's recommended share of the award is \$11,893. Cleveland County's share is \$4,678.

On December 4, 2024 the Norman Police Department (NPD) received notice of an award for the 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Award No. 15PBJA-24-GG-05065-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 Supplies, Equipment, and 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. Additionally, supplies and equipment become obsolete or are expended and need continual refreshing.

Project No. 1.2, 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. Like other specialized personnel, continuing education for the analysts is critical to ensure that we meet industry standards as established by Local, State, and Federal partners. This specialized training is rarely available locally.

Project No. 1.3, Data Visualization Project: (NPD): Transparency with the public and collaboration with other entities requires the sharing of law enforcement data to identify enforcement strategies, detect criminal activity, and recognize gaps in service. Recent technological innovations, such as Power BI, have increased the capacity for entities to develop data dashboards intended to visualize data in ways that make information more consumable by a variety of users. This requires not only appropriate data visualization software, but also the expertise to use it and the hardware to make it accessible to a broad range of end-users without exposing department networks to threats.

Project No. 2.1, Pass Through Project – Ticket Printers Project (MPD): MPD will use JAG funds to purchase 5 ticket printers for electronic traffic ticket writers.

Project No. 3.1, Pass Through Project – Investigative Equipment Project (CCSO): CCSO will use JAG funds to purchase data forensic software, suspect trackers, and interview recording equipment.

RECOMMENDATION No. 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 for in the grant.

RECOMMENDATION No. 2: Approval of the grant by Council, acceptance of the grant by the Mayor through *signing* and *dating* the Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government, and approval of electronic acceptance of the grant by the Chief of Police.

RECOMMENDATION No. 3: Appropriation of \$46,776 from the Special Grant Fund balance (account 22-29000); and allocate as follows:

\$ 1,200 to 22660117-43101, Oth Sup-Mat-Laboratory
\$ 4,346 to 22660117-43219, Maint Sup-Computer
\$ 13,210 to 22660117-43699, Minor Equipment & Tools-Other
\$ 11,630 to 22660117-44604, Employ Trav Wkshop & Seminar
\$ 16,390 to 22660117-44754, Mescellaneous Serv-Pass Thru

The expenditure and revenue accounts project number is .

RECOMMENDATION No. 4:

Upon reimbursement, deposit funds into Other Revenue-JAG Grant (account 226-333333).