



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 09/13/2022

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

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

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A 2023 SAFE OKLAHOMA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,464 FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BE USED BY THE NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR PURCHASING A LARGE-SCALE 3-DIMENSIONAL CRIME SCENE SCANNER FROM FARO TECHNOLOGIES, CONTRACT K-2223-48, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The State of Oklahoma, through the Attorney General's Office, has created a grant program known as the "Safe Oklahoma Grant Program" with the purpose of awarding competitive grants to eligible police and sheriff departments. Specifically, monies must be used to supplement (and not replace) other federal, state, and local funds appropriated to carry out activities relating to daily law enforcement duties directed at reducing and preventing violent crime.

To be eligible for the Safe Oklahoma Grant, the Norman Police Department submitted a proposal to the Office of the Attorney General with a focus on decreasing violent crime through the purchase of upgraded forensic technology. Analysis of violent crime by the department indicates that, while we have a limited capacity to directly affect the incidents of violent crime (i.e., murder, sexual assault, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), increasing our capability to identify suspects, build cases for prosecution, and have success in trial must have a positive impact on reducing these crimes.

The Norman Police Department received notice of an award for the 2023 Safe Oklahoma Grant Program on August 18, 2022.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Department intends to use grant funding to improve our forensic capability in an effort to indirectly have a positive impact on reducing violent crime through the purchase of a "FARO Focus Premium" crime scene scanner.

The FARO Focus Premium is an on-scene digital crime scene scanning instrument capable of capturing 3D documentation more efficiently and accurately than what our agency can currently accomplish. 3D documentation is the standard when processing violent crimes. It is not only more efficient and accurate than current manual methods of documentation, but it is also more presentable to prosecutors and community members (such as jurors). Manual drawings, like other technical drawings and blueprints, are often marked with technical information that obscures or distracts from the drawing itself. Additionally, since manual drawings are 2D, they cannot be adjusted for alternative viewing. Finally, manual drawings are time-consuming – we simply do not have the personnel to document scenes of all violent crimes with this method.

Scanning overcomes almost all of these obstacles. Technical information can be attached to the data file and does not have to impede the graphics. 3D products can be viewed from multiple angles (similar to what is seen from online vendors with products for sale or by realtors with property) without losing scale or accuracy. Finally, scanning takes minutes rather than hours and often records information not immediately observed at the scene. Taken together, this will allow the department to process more scenes, more accurately, with the expectation that we can identify more suspects and ultimately have more success in trial.

We were recently able to find funding for a hand-held version of this instrument, which has positively impacted our ability to process smaller scenes (its range is limited to the inside of a vehicle or closet). The FARO Focus Premium has a larger range and storage capability and provides more detail. Our hope is to make our hand-held version more accessible to the department's Technical Investigators (patrol officers on every shift with additional crime-scene processing training and experience) so that we could use scanning technology to document every violent crime where a viable scene is identified.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 1:** Acceptance of the grant by Council and approval from the Mayor by:

1. ***Signing*** and ***Dating*** the attached 2023 Safe Oklahoma Grant Program Contract,
2. ***Signing*** and ***Dating*** the attached Certification for Competitive Bid and/or Contract, and
3. ***Signing*** and ***Dating*** the attached Supplier Contract Certification.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 2:** Upon acceptance and approval, the Norman Police Department will:

1. Create an invoice directed to the Office of Attorney General in the amount of \$59,464 to be deposited into the Special Grants Fund, Other Revenue-State Grant Reimbursements (account 226-331380).
- 2.

**RECOMMENDATION No. 3:** Upon receipt of funds, appropriate \$59,464 from Other Revenue-State Grant Reimbursements (account 226-331380), and allocate the funds to Miscellaneous Police Department Grants: Plant & Operating Equipment – Lab Equipment (account 22660211-45122).