



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 08/27/2024

REQUESTER: John Stege, Standards Administrator, Police Department

PRESENTER: Kevin Foster, Chief of Police

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,281 FROM THE OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE (OHSO) TO BE USED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT HIGH-VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT, SATURATION PATROLS, INFORMATION/EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED TOWARD TRAFFIC SAFETY, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN OHSO MOBILIZATIONS; APPROVAL OF CONTRACT K-2425-46; AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

The Oklahoma Highway Safety Office (OHSO) has informed the Norman Police Department that it has been awarded a \$59,281 grant. The funds are allocated for “high visibility saturation patrols” with an emphasis on impaired driving and any other allowable countermeasure activity that contributes to statewide traffic safety improvement goals and the reduction of serious injury and fatality collisions in the City of Norman.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department will conduct high-visibility traffic enforcement with a minimum of two (2) different stops per hour, staffed by off-duty personnel paid overtime per bargaining unit agreements, in support of state and national goals to reduce the incidence of serious injury and death (KA) crashes in our community.

To identify those times and locations where serious injury and fatality crashes most often occur, the Project Director shall utilize state and local data and reference sources available. Impaired driving enforcement will address a greater variety of traffic violations, dependent upon local problem identification.

Not all causal factors can be reduced statistically to a specific location, time, or day. Further, impaired driving activity is not always observable and may go undetected. Additionally, many high collision locations and times occur when officers are taxed with other calls and roadway conditions do not allow safe high visibility enforcement.

The Police Department will participate in all National Highway Traffic Safety Administration mobilizations following the terms of the grant agreement, and employ the following evidence-based strategies in grant-related activities:

- Countermeasure: High Visibility Enforcement
- Planned Activity: State and Local High Visibility Enforcement

The Police Department will conduct a minimum of two (2) impaired driving related Public Information and Education (PI&E) activities each month and an additional general traffic safety related activity, as well. Our efforts, therefore, will include:

1. Social media posts,
2. Press releases,
3. Radio/TV spots, and
4. Officer initiated educational efforts (e.g., "Know Your Limit", "Safety Town", and "No Refusal Weekends")

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Acceptance of the grant, acknowledging the terms of the agreement by signing and dating the associated Certification, approval of the contract, and authorization of electronic acceptance of the grant.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Budget appropriation of \$59,281 from the Special Grant Fund balance (Account 22-29000; Project GP0128); and designate:

\$55,068.28 to Traffic Enforcement-Overtime Salaries (account 22660119-42110);
\$ 4,212.72 to Traffic Enforcement-Benefits (account 22660119-42901; Project GP0128)

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Upon reimbursement, deposit funds into the Special Grants Fund, Other Revenue/Traffic & Alcohol Enforcement (226-333340).