



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/11/2022

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 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,489 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE/OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (DOJ/OJP) THROUGH THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME (OVC) AND AUTHORIZED THROUGH THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) TO BE USED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO EMPLOY AND PROVIDE TRAINING FOR A VICTIM ADVOCATE, CONTRACT K-2223-59, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT.

BACKGROUND:

On August 8, 2022, the Norman Police Department was notified of a grant award from the United States Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs (DOJ/OJP) through the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) and administered through the District Attorneys Council (DAC) for the purpose of hiring a Victim Advocate and purchasing associated supplies. These funds are awarded yearly on a competitive basis with priority to programs that serve victims of violent crime.

Due to the specific nature of the services provided by critical community partners, we estimate that 60-70% of the victims of violent crime in Norman are never referred to advocacy services. Traditionally, victim advocacy is provided almost exclusively by the District Attorney's Office (usually when a charge is filed), the Mary Abbott Children's House (when an incident involves child abuse, child neglect, or a sexual assault involving a child), and the Women's Resource Center (when the incident involves a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking). Victims of crimes that fall outside of these services are left with no voice, and since access to victim information is necessarily limited, the Department is in the best position to reach out to victims of crime and provide resources.

VOCA funding is not guaranteed each year, and the Department has not been awarded this grant since the 2019-2020 grant year. In an effort to maintain advocacy efforts, we have been collaborating with the University of Oklahoma and the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work to provide internship opportunities to students.

DISCUSSION:

On September 21, 2022, the District Attorneys Council notified the Department of an award in the amount up to \$71,489. Due to emergency measures adopted as a result of the pandemic, there is no matching requirement. However, the award amount does not include funds that would have made up the City's matching portion. Additionally, available VOCA funds have decreased in recent years making the awarded amount less than we requested. Therefore, additional funding in the amount of \$29,163 by the City is necessary to cover those "matching" funds to ensure that the advocate position has adequate training opportunities, computer hardware and software, and telecommunications equipment.

This position will continue to collaborate with the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work to improve notification services to the victims of violent crime, improve the coordination of victim services during the course of an investigation, improve coordination with collaborative agencies through Cleveland County, and identify currently untracked under-served populations within the City of Norman. The goal is to expand the use of graduate interns from the university by developing the advocate into a "Field Instructor" who is able to teach social work graduate students through hands-on advocacy work through the Department.

Specifically, this position is tasked with ensuring necessary referrals are made, and that essential services are provided, at the initial phase of an investigation and at a time when the trauma is acute and the need most pressing. The focus is to reach out to those victims who do not receive advocacy services elsewhere (i.e., child-victims, domestic violence/stalking/sexual assault victims, and those referred to the District Attorney's Office). Graduate interns would be able to assist with identifying underserved victims and reaching out to offer assistance. Our goal is to ensure that every victim of a violent crime has access to services, is given assistance from the earliest opportunity, and has a voice throughout an investigation.

The performance period for this grant runs from 10-01-2022 to 09-30-2023.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1: Acceptance of the grant and approving the contract acknowledging the terms of the agreement by completing the associated certifications, disclosures, and agreements.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2: Appropriation of \$71,489 from the Special Revenue Fund Balance (22-29000); and designating:

- \$47,138 to account 22660043-42001; Salaries-Full-Time
- \$14,200 to account 22660043-42210; Other Benefits-Medical Insurance
- \$ 38 to account 22660043-42211; Other Benefits-Life Insurance
- \$ 3,606 to account 22660043-42901; City Share-FICA-Medicare
- \$ 4,007 to account 22660043-42902; City Share-Retirement-Employee
- \$ 1,250 to account 22660043-44130; Business Services-Printing-General
- \$ 1,250 to account 22660043-44701; Miscellaneous Services-Postage

And that, when grant funds are received, they will be deposited into VOCA Grant Revenue (account 226-333367).

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: Appropriation of \$29,163 from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance (10-29000); and designate:

\$15,713 to account 10660321-42001; Salaries-Full-Time
\$ 4,375 to account 10660321-42210; Other Benefits-Medical Insurance
\$ 13 to account 10660321-42211; Other Benefits-Life Insurance
\$ 1,202 to account 10660321-42901; City Share-FICA-Medicare
\$ 1,336 to account 10660321-42902; City Share-Retirement-Employee
\$ 750 to account 10660321-43208; Maint Sup-Telecommunication
\$ 417 to account 10660321-44130; Business Services-Printing-General
\$ 1,940 to account 10660321-44604; Employee Travel-Workshops & Seminars
\$ 417 to account 10660321-44701; Miscellaneous Services-Postage
\$ 2,000 to account 10660321-45302; Telecom Equip Personal Computer
\$ 1,000 to account 10660321-45304; Telecom Equipment - Computer Software