



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: PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,341 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 \$27,022 TO BE USED BY THE NORMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR PURCHASING A POLICE STAFFING ANALYTICAL SERVICE, FORENSIC EQUIPMENT, ADVANCED TRAINING (AND ASSOCIATED TRAVEL); CONTRACT K-2223-62; 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 2022 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 \$42,341. 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 \$31,978. The MPD's recommended share of the award is \$10,363. Cleveland County did not qualify for a direct award based on lack of violent crime data. Disparate jurisdictions, however, must all remain as partners and are responsible for determining the actual individual allocations through an associated memorandum of understanding.

On September 26, 2022 the Norman Police Department (NPD) received notice of an award for the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Award No. 15PBJA-22-GG-02380-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 as a partner, but this is the first year that the MPD has been considered a disparate entity.

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

Project No.1.1, Staffing and Analysis Project (NPD): Recent personnel and staffing trends show a significant reduction in available commissioned personnel. Recruiting and retention data indicate that we likely lose personnel faster than we can hire them and there is no foreseeable change to this trend. As one “prong” of our efforts to overcome this issue, we hope to use grant funds to purchase a subscription for *DeployPlus*, a police staffing analytical service that links data from the City of Norman’s Records Management System (RMS) and call information from the City Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System to identify optimal times, days of the week, and areas of the city where service needs can be anticipated. The service can be used at both an executive level for strategic planning and at an operational level for service delivery.

Project No. 1.2, Field Fingerprinting Project (NPD): The capability of making positive identification of suspects in the field has increased in importance. Over the past several years, violent crime has increased and our need to positively identify suspects has grown in proportion. Unfortunately, we have had no built-in capability to make positive identification without an arrest and the associated book-in fingerprinting at the jail. With a low-level offense, this process is onerous for all individuals involved. Our only other option is to roll field prints, release the suspect and then submit the prints to the state laboratory for analysis. We are requesting, therefore, to use grant funds for the purchase of four (4) fingerprint scanners that can be used in the field to make positive identifications of criminal suspects. This project provides inter-operable equipment with neighboring agencies who help with identification as their availability allows.

Project No. 1.3, Forensic 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 also make available 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. We are requesting funds to allow both technicians to attend an Advanced Shooting Reconstruction (or an equivalent based on availability) course that fulfills both needs.

Project No. 2.1, Pass-Through Field Fingerprint Scanners Project (CCSO): As with NPD, CCSO has seen a significant increase in the importance of making positive identification of suspects in the field. Like NPD, CCSO does not have the capability to make positive identification without an arrest and the associated book-in fingerprinting at the jail. With a low-level offense, this process is onerous for all individuals involved. The only other option is to roll field prints, release the suspect and then submit the prints to the state laboratory for analysis. CCSO has requested grant funds for the purchase of three (3) fingerprint scanners.

Project No. 3.1, Pass-Through Body-Worn Camera Project (MPD): MPD will use funding to purchase ten (10) body-worn cameras. A Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Policy Certification is included with this application.

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 by the grant.

RECOMMENDATION No. 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 Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government,

RECOMMENDATION No. 3: Appropriation of \$42,341 from the Special Grant Fund balance (account 22-29000); and allocate as follows:

- \$ 6,980 to Minor Equipment & Tools-Other (account 22660117-43699)
- \$15,225 to Maintenance & Repair - Contract Data Processing (account 22660117-44226)
- \$ 4,817 to Employee Travel Workshop & Seminar (account 22660117-44604)
- \$15,319 to Miscellaneous Services-Miscellaneous (account 22660117-44754)

The expenditure and revenue accounts project number is GP0036.

RECOMMENDATION No. 4:

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