



## AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

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<b>MEETING NAME:</b>	City Council
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	April 21, 2024
<b>ITEM TITLE:</b>	Consider and take appropriate action on report from Police Chief on JAG grant status and ongoing staffing needs.
<b>STAFF INITIATOR:</b>	Patrick Austin, Chief of Police

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### BACKGROUND:

On February 3, 2025, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2025-005 approving the submission of a grant application for the Bureau of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to the office of the governor for fiscal year 2026. Our department applied for grant funding in the amount of \$482,844.46 to assist in the addition of three officers, as well as equipment and vehicles for those officers.

On April 2, 2025, we presented our grant proposal to the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC). The CJAC is responsible for reviewing, prioritizing, and scoring applications for this region. At the conclusion of the presentations, CJAC provided their recommendations to the SPAG Board of Directors. Our application was not recommended for funding, likely because the total amount of JAG funds available for distribution was only \$241,676.55, which was about half of the amount we requested. Clearly the committee was trying to distribute the funds to as many agencies as they could, and our application didn't fit into that strategy.

As previous Chief Scott and Mr. Criswell have discussed with you in the previous two budget cycles, we are still not adequately staffed (even though we are *fully* staffed) to safely and efficiently provide the services our growing community expects and deserves. You, the Mayor and Council, have consistently expressed your understanding of the need to add officers, and your support of the JAG grant demonstrated a financial commitment to growing the Wolfforth PD. I've visited with the City Manager about this, and he has authorized me to ask for your continued commitment to add personnel in the Police Department in the upcoming budget.

### EXHIBITS:

### COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation at this time