



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 19-6138

Agenda Item Number: 25.

Agenda Date: 9/12/2019

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a \$900,000.00 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. This ordinance also authorizes a grant project budget of \$1,222,393.00; a cash match not to exceed \$265,000.00 and an in-kind match not to exceed \$57,393.00.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant will provide for traffic enforcement and educational activity on an overtime basis to help augment the SAPD's efforts to reduce the incidence of DWI, speeding, occupant protection, distracted driving and intersection related violations. Enforcement activity will be conducted with sworn officers assigned to the program on an overtime basis and the educational component will consist of both regular duty and overtime assignments. This grant provides funding for over 11,000 hours of enforcement. In 2018, the City received \$900,000.00 from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in STEP grant funding.

The TxDOT award consists of \$900,000.00 from TxDOT, a City cash match of \$265,000.00, and an in-kind match of \$57,393.00. The total proposed program budget is \$1,222,393.00. The City's in-kind contribution will come from the cost of the vehicles used while performing grant activities (fuel, maintenance, repairs, etc.) and

the cost of court appearances by officers who make arrests while working the grant.

ISSUE:

The proposed ordinance continues the City Council's policy of seeking intergovernmental financial assistance for traffic safety programs. This program from TxDOT will expand the City's efforts in reducing crashes and fatalities with proactive traffic enforcement and public information and education through community outreach provided by the SAFFE units.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council may elect not to accept the funds from the FY 2020 STEP Grant program. This would adversely affect the San Antonio Police Department efforts to reduce the incidence of DWI, speeding, occupant protection, distracted driving and intersection related violations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes a program budget not to exceed \$1,222,393.00. The total proposed program budget includes grant funding of \$900,000.00, a cash-match of \$265,000.00 funded in the FY 2020 General Fund Budget, and an in-kind contribution of \$57,393.00 from the Police Department's General Fund FY 2020 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the submission and acceptance of the grant application for funds from TxDOT in order to continue the enhanced enforcement and educational efforts resulting from the Comprehensive STEP program.