



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 15-3384

Agenda Item Number: 34.

Agenda Date: 6/18/2015

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: SAPD

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Anthony Treviño

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award, not to exceed \$3,125,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of funds upon award, not to exceed \$3,125,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for a Hiring Program grant, and authorizing a General Fund contribution of \$7,753,282 establish a budget and a personnel complement for the period October 2015 through September 2018.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and funds salary and benefits approved by the COPS Office expenses over a three (3) year grant period. Under the updated CHP there is a maximum of \$125,000 per officer over the 3 year period. There is a minimum 25% cash match required.

COPS have indicated that notice of funding award will go out on or about September 2015. Funds can begin to be expended as soon as notification is received. Part of the grant agreement is that the Department retains officers hired under the grant for a minimum of 12 months after funding has ended.

This project will add up to 25 new police officer positions to the Department. Officers will be assigned to a newly created Directed Patrol Unit focused on supporting Patrol Operations. This unit will also focus on

building trust within the community as well as ramping-up crime prevention efforts on a city wide basis using community policing practices. The last COPS hiring grant award was in 2009 for 50 officers under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in which the City was awarded \$10,354,400.

The grant funds do not pay for equipment, overtime, and in the case of this Department, retiree's prepaid health insurance, and leave buyback.

The grant period is estimated to begin in or around October 1, 2015 and run for a 3 year period ending around September 30, 2018. The actual award start date will be specified in the award letter if the City of San Antonio is awarded the grant.

Matching funds will submitted as part of the FY2016 Budget Process and acceptance of the grant will be contingent upon approval of the \$7,753,282 grant match.

ISSUE:

The proposed ordinance continues the City Council's policy of applying for financial assistance from outside sources for law enforcement programs addressing criminal activity in the community, and it continues the enhancement of community policing.

ALTERNATIVES:

Other than the General Fund, there is no alternative funding source. City Council may choose not to accept this grant. However, choosing not to approve this grant will result in the City losing up to \$3,125,000 for addressing community oriented policing activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost for this grant is \$10,878,282 of which the City will contribute \$7,753,282 for the period beginning October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2018.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the submission, and if awarded the acceptance, of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Grant.