



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 15-4169

Agenda Item Number: 12.

Agenda Date: 8/20/2015

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Anthony L. Treviño, Jr.

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

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

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds for the Texas Department of Transportation's Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. The STEP grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 will enhance the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) efforts to combat incidences of DWI, speeding, occupant protection and distracted driving. This ordinance will also establish a total budget of \$1,408,100.00 that includes a Cash Match not to exceed \$265,000.00 and an in-kind match not to exceed \$143,100.00.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program will pay for traffic enforcement and educational activity on an overtime basis to help augment the San Antonio Police Department's (SAPD) efforts to reduce the incidence of DWI, speeding, occupant protection and distracted driving. 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.

The TxDOT award consists of \$1,000,000.00 from TxDOT, a City cash match of \$265,000.00, and an in-kind match of \$143,100.00. The total proposed program budget is \$1,408,100.00. 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. Approximately 60% of the funding will be used for DWI enforcement and 40% of the budget is allocated for speeding, occupant and distracted driving traffic enforcement.

Past fiscal year awards from the Texas Department of Transportation include:

- 2015 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2014 - Awarded \$1,000,000.00
- 2013 - Awarded \$464,537.41
- 2102 - Awarded \$556,482.84
- 2011 - Awarded \$840,000.00

The submission of the application was authorized with a Special Category Grant Opportunity Authorization with final approval given on January 5th, 2015

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 aggressive traffic enforcement and public information and education through community outreach provided by the SAFFE units.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council may choose not to authorize the acceptance of the grant. However, enforcement as well as the educational efforts would be significantly impaired without the funding. Historical data shows that at least 25% of SAPD's overall DWI arrests come as a result of the TxDOT grants. In addition, 15% of all occupant protection and speeding tickets issued in FY14 were from officers working the TxDOT grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes a program budget not to exceed \$1,408,100.00. The total proposed program budget includes grant funding of \$1,000,000.00, a FY 2016 General Fund Cash-Match of \$265,000.00, which has been budgeted, and an In-Kind contribution of \$143,100.00. 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

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