



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 19

Agenda Date: June 13, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds if awarded, not to exceed \$6,250,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

SUMMARY:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds upon award, not to exceed \$6,250,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for a Hiring Program grant of 50 police officers, and authorizing a City contribution of \$25,232,174 for a four-year period. This council action also authorizes the establishment of a budget and personnel complement.

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 guidance there is a maximum of \$125,000 per officer over the 3-year period. There is a minimum 25% cash match required. Funds can begin to be expended as soon as notification is received. Part of the grant agreement is that the Department will retain officers hired under the grant for a minimum of 12 months after funding has ended.

The City has been awarded a total of 154 Police Officer in prior COPS Hiring Grant awards as detailed below:

- 2010 - 50 Officers Problem Oriented Policing
- 2015 - 4 Officers Mental Health Unit
- 2017 - 25 Officers to address violent gun crime
- 2020 - 25 Officers to address domestic violence
- 2023 - 50 Officers to address community policing to include violent crime and gun violence

The City's FY 2025 COPS Hiring Grant application will request funding to hire 50 new Police Officer positions. These officers will be assigned to address concerns around crime and quality of life. For example, officers will be assigned to Patrol to address the SAPD's Violent Crime Reduction Plan, the Good Neighbor Program, and to enable the Department to make progress towards a 40/60 split of on call and proactive policing. It is anticipated that the increase in Patrol Officers will also improve response time and improve interactions with community members to include efforts focused on education, prevention, and intervention of crime. Lastly, this action will continue the Department's commitment to address community needs and concerns through traditional policing as well as innovative strategies which provide services and resources to the community.

The grant funds do not pay for equipment, overtime, and in the case of the SAPD, retiree's prepaid health insurance, and leave buyback. The grant period is estimated to begin on October 1, 2024, and includes a commitment to retain the officers for one (1) year after the grant ends, approximately September 30, 2029.

The actual award start date will be specified in the award letter if the City of San Antonio is awarded the grant. The application was submitted by the grant deadline of June 12, 2024. Matching funds will be submitted as part of the FY2025 Budget Process

ISSUE:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds upon award, not to exceed \$6,250,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for a Hiring Program grant of 50 police officers, and authorizing a City contribution of \$25,232,174 for a four-year period. This ordinance also establishes a budget and personnel complement upon approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

This grant provides an opportunity for the City to leverage Federal Government funding a portion of 50 new police officers for a period of four years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of grant funds upon reward, not to exceed \$6,250,000, from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to fund 50 officer positions. The table below provides the grant funds and City Contribution by fiscal year.

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	Total
Grant	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,187,500	\$ 1,562,500	\$ -	\$ 6,250,000
General Fund	\$ 4,899,865	\$ 5,310,842	\$ 6,652,447	\$ 8,369,020	\$ 25,232,174
Total	\$ 7,399,865	\$ 7,498,342	\$ 8,214,947	\$ 8,369,020	\$ 31,482,174

RECOMMENDATION:

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