



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 12

Agenda Date: April 20, 2023

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 submission of a grant application, and acceptance of funds upon award, not to exceed \$6,250,000, 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 \$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 \$22,839,720 for a four year period. The program will begin October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028, and establishes a budget and personnel contingent upon approval.

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. 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 104 Police Officer in prior COPS Hiring Grant Awards as detailed below:

- FY2010 - 50 Officers to enhance Patrol Services
- FY2016 - 4 Officers to augment the Mental health Unit
- FY2018 - 25 Officers to address violent gun crime
- FY2020 - 25 Officers to address domestic violence

The City's FY 2023 COPS Hiring Grant application will request funding to hire 50 new Police Officer positions. These officers will be assigned to Patrol to address the UTSA 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, 2023 and include a commitment to retain the officers for one (1) year after the grant ends, with the program ending around September 30, 2028.

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 be submitted as part of the FY2024 Budget Process.

ISSUE:

An ordinance authorizing the submission of a grant application and acceptance of 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 \$22,839,720 for a four year period. The program will begin October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028, and establishes a budget and personnel contingent upon approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

This grant provides an opportunity for the City to have the Federal government fund a portion of 50 new police officers for a period of four years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the submission and acceptance of funds upon reward, not to exceed \$6,250,000, to 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.

| COPS Grant | FY 2024 | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | Total |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Grant | \$2,500,000 | \$2,187,499 | \$1,562,501 | \$0 | \$6,250,000 |
| City Contribution | \$3,658,320 | \$4,923,533 | \$6,262,597 | \$7,995,270 | \$22,839,720 |
| Total | \$6,158,320 | \$7,111,032 | \$7,825,098 | \$7,995,270 | \$29,089,720 |

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.