



City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

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**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** September 27, 2022

**In Control:** Public Safety Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Police Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** William McManus, Chief of Police

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

- A. Briefing and possible action on a San Antonio Police Department grant award in an amount up to \$359,806.00 for the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program from the U.S. Department of Justice.
- B. Briefing and possible action on a San Antonio Police Department grant application in an amount not to exceed \$843,000.00 for the Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

**SUMMARY:**

Briefing and possible action on San Antonio Police Department Grant awards

- A. U.S. Department of Justice grant to Support the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program in an amount up to \$359,806.00 and authorizing a local agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and the designation of Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent.
- B. Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in an amount not to exceed \$843,000.00.

The acceptance of the grant is scheduled for City Council approval at the September 29, 2022 City Council "A" Session.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- A. Justice Assistance Grants were first awarded in 2005. Provisions of the grant require the City and Bexar County to submit a joint application. The grant funds are used to support a joint City/County project for addressing child sexual abuse/assault.

The funds for the 2022 JAG grant will be used to continue supporting the joint City/County project called Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program. The purpose of the project is to conduct joint investigations with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Bexar County Housing and Human Services Department, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, and ChildSafe.

The City's portion of the grant will be used to continue to fund two (2) Detective Investigator positions. These Detective Investigators will investigate sexual abuse/assault cases involving children. Tasked with the investigation of more than 28 different offenses, a large portion of the Special Victims Unit's caseload involves children as victims. The County will utilize the FY2022 JAG grant to continue funding grant-funded positions that are currently funded by the existing JAG programs that include problem solving courts, jail diversion, and victim advocacy. The majority of the funds will go to fund various positions (Adult & Juvenile Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Court Case Managers, etc.) in the Bexar County Drug Courts, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, and the Juvenile and Adult Probation Offices.

The total joint grant amount for the City and Bexar County is \$899,516.00 (\$35,261.00 more than FY2021). The grant funds are to be split with \$539,710.00 for the County and \$359,806.00 (\$14,104 more than FY2021) for the City.

Bexar County, acting as the Fiscal Agent for this grant, was responsible for submitting the grant application and all certifications, the administration of the funds, including distributing the funds, monitoring the award, submitting reports including performance measures and program assessment data.

- B. 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.

The TxDOT award consists of up to \$843,000.00 from TxDOT, a City cash match of \$265,000.00, and an in-kind match of \$77,500.00. The total proposed program budget is \$1,185,500.00. 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.

The grant application was authorized by a Grant Application Approval Form dated December 6, 2021 and the application will be submitted to TxDOT by the application due date of January 5, 2022. The STEP will pay 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.

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

- 2014 - \$1 Million
- 2015 - \$1 Million
- 2016 - \$1 Million
- 2017 - \$1 Million
- 2018 - \$900,000
- 2019 - \$900,000
- 2020 - \$900,000
- 2021 - \$900,000
- 2022 - \$900,000

**ISSUE:**

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on two San Antonio Police Department Grants:

- A. U.S. Department of Justice grant to Support the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program in an amount up to \$359,806.00 and authorizing a local agreement with Bexar County regarding the distribution of grant funds and the designation of Bexar County as the grant fiscal agent.
- B. Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in an amount not to exceed \$843,000.00.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

- A. The grant award consists of \$359,806.00 for the City from U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for a Child Welfare Strategic Alliance Program. There is no cash or in-kind match required.
- B. The total program budget is estimated at \$1,185,500.00. The total proposed program budget includes grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$843,000.00. The City's cash contribution is \$265,000 from the FY 2023 General Fund and an in-kind contribution of \$77,500. 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 Public Safety Committee forwards these grants to full City Council for approval and acceptance. These items are scheduled for consideration in "A" Session on September 29, 2022.