

2018-2019 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Police

REQUEST NO.: 175

REQUESTED BY: Tovo

DATE REQUESTED: 9/4/18

DATE POSTED: 9/6/18

REQUEST: Can the Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC) Sustainability Fund be used for the Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications (CTECC) security upgrades?

RESPONSE:

The Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC) is a collaborative effort of public safety agencies in the 10 county Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) region. The mission of ARIC is to maximize the ability to detect, prevent, apprehend, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity.

During the fall of 2010, each of the ARIC partner agencies' governing bodies approved an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement that established a framework for the organization of the ARIC. The Agreement assigns the primary responsibility for the operation of the ARIC to the City of Austin through the Austin Police Department (APD). In the fall of 2012, an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement was approved for the purpose of establishing sustainment funding for the ARIC. This Agreement defines the funding and expenditure mechanism for the ARIC. Per the Agreement, the Director of ARIC shall prepare an annual budget and submit this budget to the ARIC Operational Management Team. The Operational Management Team shall review and adjust the budget, and then submit the budget to the Executive Board. The Executive Board then recommends that each partner agency approve the budget and appropriate its annual assessment in its budget for the next fiscal year. After the budget has been approved and funded by the partner agencies, the City of Austin is authorized to incur costs in accordance with the approved budget. Any costs to be incurred in excess of the approved and funded budget require additional budget approval and funding by all partner agencies. The Executive Board approved the FY 2019 budget in July 2018, and the CTECC security upgrades are not an approved expenditure in that budget. The security upgrades at CTECC do not align with the overall mission of the ARIC, so it is unlikely that the partner agencies would approve a budget amendment that includes funding for security upgrades that do not specifically benefit all of the contributing partner agencies and contribute to the detection, prevention, and apprehension of terroristic activity. Additionally, the balance in ARIC's sustainability fund is specifically reserved for future necessary computer hardware and network server replacements.