

## AGENDA



Thursday, November 8, 2007

**Police  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 35**

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**Subject:** Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, in the amount of \$93,000 for the Austin Police Department (APD) Coverdell Project for laboratory personnel overtime, equipment, and supplies.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. A match is not required.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Art Acevedo, Chief/974-5030

**Prior Council Action:** April 19, 2007, previous award acceptance

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This action approves a resolution authorizing the City to apply for and accept \$93,000 from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. The grant period is January 1 - June 30, 2008.

The needs of the Austin Police Department (APD) Forensics Division are numerous. The Forensics Division recently added personnel and experienced an increase in workload. As such, its needs for updated equipment and additional basic resources are critical. Purchases of equipment and supplies in the amount of \$71,710 are requested. The Forensics Division implemented a new laboratory information management system (LIMS) in January, 2007. The implementation has gone well, but there is still a need for peripheral equipment in order to complete the workflow within the Forensics Division sections and ensure that no bottle necks are experienced. The Forensics Division also requests funding for the purchase of Crystal reports software to support the reporting mechanism within LIMS. These purchases will be the last ones necessary to complete the LIMS project. The Forensics Division's Chemistry Section is in need of replacing its infrared spectrophotometer (FTIR), which is currently used for narcotics analysis. The Crime Scene Section is in need of immediate replacement and addition of digital video cameras for documenting crime scenes. Digital video cameras are among the highest priority items needed for the effective operation of the Crime Scene Section.

The Latent Print, Firearms, and Crime Scene Sections are all experiencing significant backlogs in case work, which is affecting the turn around time for results to investigators. As such, APD requests funding for overtime in the amount of (\$21,290) to strategically reduce and/or eliminate the backlogs being experienced.

The goal of the APD Forensic Laboratory for 2008 is to prepare for ISO 17025 accreditation. The above requested funds are critical to improving the Forensics Division's analysis processes and ensuring that it makes significant strides towards reaching its goal of ISO 17025 accreditation.