



Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 27
AGENDA DATE: Thu 07/29/2004
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SUBJECT: Authorize the application for \$119,809 in federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, for the creation and related training of one full-time employee (Firearm/Toolmark Examiner) at the Austin Police Department.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, for the grant period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2006. A cash match of \$13,312 is required and will be included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Operating Budget for the Austin Police Department.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Police
DEPARTMENT:

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Rick Coy

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Coy, Assistant Chief/974-5021

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: Apply and accept Fiscal Year 2004 funding on August 28, 2003.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This action authorizes the City to apply for \$119,809 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG). Grant funds will be used to fund 1.0 FTE. Proposed position is a Firearm/Toolmark Examiner for the Forensics Division. The grant period will run from October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2006. A cash match of \$13,312 is required.

The federal legislation which authorizes this grant program also includes a provision whereby cities and counties must submit a joint funding application if the state's Attorney General certifies that a funding disparity exists in a county's allocation compared with that of a single municipality (at least a 200 percent difference), and the county bears more than 50 percent of prosecution or incarceration costs arising from Uniform Crime Report Part 1 violent crimes reported by the municipality to the FBI. Once certified, jurisdictions are to decide if funds will be shared, and if so, the funding allocation. There is no requirement as to how funds should be shared. Since FY 2000-2001 the funding has been split 50/50. APD and Travis County have agreed to continue the 50/50 split of LLEBG funding this year.

Travis County's allocation is \$29,710, minus the 10% for the health benefits provision is \$26,739. Together, APD and Travis County have been allocated \$212,878. Dividing this amount equally results in \$119,809 going to both the City and the County from the FY2004-2005 LLEBG award.

APD will use its funds to pay for the salary and related training for a Firearm/Toolmark Examiner for the Forensics Division. The examiner will analyze and classify all firearms for the Austin Police Department to determine the usage of the firearms for particular crimes. The examiner may also be asked to testify in court when firearms evidence is presented. The LLEBG funding supports the APD Program Objective: The purpose of Forensic Science Services activity is to provide timely and accurate forensic science and operational support to APD, local law enforcement and judicial agencies so they can successfully resolve



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investigations.