



Grant
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 11
AGENDA DATE: Thu 08/05/2004
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SUBJECT: Authorize application for \$1,500,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Policing Services (COPS), Interoperable Communications Technology grant, to enhance communications interoperability of first responders. Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS, Interoperable Communications Technology, for the grant period October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS, Interoperable Communications Technology. A required cash match of \$500,000 is included in the Capital Budget of the Financial & Administrative Services 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: Pete Collins, Chief Information Officer/974-2344

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

This action authorizes the City to apply for \$1,500,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Oriented Policing Services Office, Interoperable Communications Technology Program. A required cash match of \$500,000 or 25% of the total program budget of \$2,000,000 is required and is included in the Capital Budget of the Financial & Administrative Services Department. The grant period runs from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. This funding is designed to improve the effectiveness of public safety communications systems and to assist in resolving both voice and data interoperability issues. If the grant is received, Communications Management and Technology will serve as the grant administrator.

The City of Austin will use this funding, if awarded, to upgrade the APD mobile data system to increase its capacity and coverage. Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services along with Travis County Sheriff's Office have implemented new mobile computing software in a pilot project. This mobile computing software has been shown to reduce the response time to incidents, and allows law enforcement officers to use a map to locate other units on the same incident and provide dispatchers with information about units nearest to a serious incident. This grant would provide this functionality to the Austin Police Department by making this software available to the officers through their Mobile Data Computers.

Currently, the mobile data radio backbone does not have the capacity to support adding this functionality for the Austin Police Department. The City of Austin has purchased the in-vehicle software and in-vehicle hardware as part of reaching this goal. The last step is to upgrade the capacity of the mobile data radio backbone to provide the capacity needed to support the operations of APD.

This grant addresses the Department goal to use this technology to: *Improve efficiency and effectiveness in order to provide information for daily operations, analysis and strategic planning and to increase the likelihood of successful prosecution of criminals.* It also addresses the following APD Activity Objective: The purpose of the Communications Operations is: *to receive and process emergency and non-emergency calls for police service from*



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the public in order to provide police assistance to persons in need and support police personnel in the delivery of that service.