



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 20-1737, **Agenda Item #:** 66.

4/23/2020

### **Posting Language**

Approve an ordinance accepting grant funds from the National Science Foundation; amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Communications and Technology Management Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) in the amount of \$50,000; authorizing execution of an agreement with US Ignite and Automated Training Systems to reimburse Augmented Training Systems for costs up to \$50,000 incurred in developing virtual and augmented training for first responders.

### **Lead Department**

Communications and Technology Management

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to IT Manager, Charles Purma III at 512.974.5644 or

Charles.PurmaIII@austintexas.gov

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

Communications and Technology Management approved applying for funding from US Ignite on February 17, 2017.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The training uses virtual reality technology to allow emergency responders to train for mass casualty events in a simulated environment. After completing the training, participants report up to a 45% reduction in errors, which can mean life or death in a crisis. This lifesaving technology was initially developed through a three-year partnership between the City of Austin and local startup [Augmented Training Systems](https://augmentedtrainingsystems.com/) [<https://augmentedtrainingsystems.com/>](https://augmentedtrainingsystems.com/), with funding from a previous US Ignite grant.

The City of Austin has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the [National Science Foundation](https://nsf.gov/) [<https://nsf.gov/>](https://nsf.gov/)-funded US Ignite [Smart Gigabit Communities](https://www.us-ignite.org/program/smart-gigabit-communities/) [<https://www.us-ignite.org/program/smart-gigabit-communities/>](https://www.us-ignite.org/program/smart-gigabit-communities/) project. Austin-Travis County EMS and CTM's Collaboration Services team initiated the grant funding application. The funding will expand the use of a virtual reality training for first responders across Texas. This public-private collaboration will not only improve training for countless first responders, ultimately save lives and improve safety in our community and beyond.

### **Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety, Government that Works for All.