



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1059, **Agenda Item #:** 36.

1/27/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept and appropriate \$148,284 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund for the Crime Lab Enhancement Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$148,284 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund for the project period of January 1 - September 30, 2021. A City funding match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

February 20, 2020 - Ordinance No. 20200220-025 was approved on consent on Council Member Alter's motion, Council Member Harper-Madison's second on a 10-0 vote.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department at 512-974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will accept \$148,284 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund; and amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20200812-001 to appropriate \$148,284 for the Crime Lab Enhancement Project for the grant period (January 1 - September 30, 2021).

Coverdell funding will provide:

- \$60,284 in overtime for existing civilian analysts to reduce backlogs in the specialty areas of chemistry, toxicology, AFIS and latent print, firearms/tool marks, and crime scene.
- \$45,000 in equipment upgrades and \$31,000 in supplies that will allow analysts to effectively and efficiently conduct non-DNA casework in their respective specialties.
- \$12,000 for 10 crime scene examiners to complete ISO/IEC 17025 Forensic Assessor training.

This is the seventeenth year of this project. APD anticipates that Coverdell funds will allow for the analysis of approximately 3,700 samples of evidence.

The services covered by this grant meet the direction of Council Resolution No. 20200611-096, which directs the City Manager to review all grants received by the Austin Police Department to determine if those funds and initiatives align with and advance Council's affirmed vision for department policies and practices.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Police Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.