



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1053, **Agenda Item #:** 32.

2/4/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance creating the Forensic Science Department; amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Austin Police Department Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out 86.75 full-time equivalent positions and decrease funding in the APD Decouple Fund in the amount of \$11,908,897, which consists of the positions and funding for the Forensic Science Bureau, and decrease the transfer from the General Fund to the APD Decouple Fund by the same amount; and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer in 86.75 full-time equivalent positions and increase funding in the amount of \$11,908,897 for the Forensic Science Department, which consists of the same positions and funding for the Forensic Science Bureau.

Lead Department

Management Services

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$11,908,897 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the APD Decouple Fund. Fiscal notes are attached.

Prior Council Action:

August 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200812-001, the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.

June 11, 2020 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20200611-096, which directed the City Manager to explore options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to the Austin Police Department.

For More Information:

Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, Management Services, (512) 974-2222.

Additional Backup Information:

On June 11, 2020, the City Council directed the City Manager to explore options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to the Austin Police Department. Pursuant to that direction, this ordinance is intended to create a new Forensic Science Department within the General Fund budget and to transfer the responsibilities, budgeted positions, and budgeted expenses of the Forensic Science Bureau to this new Department. The 86.75 positions being transferred are all non-sworn, civilian positions.

The purposes of the Forensics Science Department are to engage in the administration of criminal justice in support of state, federal, and local laws and operate to enhance the welfare and safety of the public. The Forensic Science Department will be responsible for the following services: crime scene investigation; evidence management; firearm/toolmark examination; seized drug analysis; toxicological analysis; latent print examination; DNA analysis; and related forensic services as may be now or later developed for public safety purposes.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety