Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2421, **Agenda Item #:** 71. 7/28/2022

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the application for and acceptance of $411,300 in grant funding from the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to continue the Austin Police Department Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of $411,300 is available from the Texas Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) for the project period of September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. A City match of $175,841 is required and will be met by accounting for the base salary and fringe benefits of existing City positions.

Prior Council Action:

June 10, 2021 - Council approved Resolution No. 20210610-022 authorizing the application and acceptance of grant funds for this project on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Robin Henderson, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department at 512-974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

The purpose of this grant is to continue the APD Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project.
The City Manager's Office has reviewed this grant for alignment as directed by Resolution 20220728-091 and recommends approval. Through enforcement and outreach, the project will focus on reducing the rate of auto theft and burglary of vehicles in the City of Austin.
The budget for the September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 project period will cover personnel and fringe costs for existing positions (three detectives, one full-time administrative specialist and a part-time neighborhood liaison). The City match ($175,841) will be met by accounting for the base salary and fringe benefits of existing City positions assigned in part to the project.
The resolution must state:

- Funds will be used for the MVCPA purpose provided in statute (Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 1006)
- Funds will be returned in the event of loss or misuse
- Designate the Authorized Official (Assistant City Manager), Financial Officer (Financial Manager), and Project Director (APD Lieutenant)

APD has partnered with the Texas MVCPA, formerly the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, since the late 1990's. With the assistance of MVCPA grant funding, the APD Auto Burglary and Theft Interdiction Project has been successful in implementing a variety of strategies to reduce auto thefts, recover stolen vehicles, and prosecute offenders. Proactive crime analysis assists in identifying problems involving commercial auto thefts and in targeting "theft for profit" offenders. Examples of commercial auto theft activities occurring in Austin, Travis County include vehicle identification number switches, vehicle cloning, chop shops, illegal part dealings and international smuggling operations. Continued population growth in Austin generates

an increased number of vehicles, naturally leading to additional opportunities for criminal activity. MVCPA-required measures include the number of vehicles recovered, number of vehicle theft cases cleared, number of persons arrested for vehicle theft, number of burglary cases cleared, number of persons arrested for burglary, number of groups of offenders identified, number of identified/documented offenders, number of cases where law enforcement officers? collaborated with prosecutors, number of bait vehicle deployments, number of covert operations, general operations, number of agency assists, number of internal contacts, number of external law enforcement contacts, number of cases investigated, number of intelligence meetings attended, number of crime analysis bulletins disseminated, number of 68A inspections, number of vehicles inspected, number of collaborations related to fraud, number of businesses inspected and value of parts recovered, number of "round up" operations, number of outreaches, number of presentations, number of etching events, number of advertisements, number of cards issued, number of postings in social media outlets, number of classes, and number of participants.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.