



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting December 3, 2024
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting December 10, 2024

DATE: December 3, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
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Acceptance of two grants totaling \$215,009.32 from the Texas Office of the Governor—Homeland Security Grants Division for the Corpus Christi Police Department

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of two grants totaling \$215,009.32 from the Texas Office of the Governor—Homeland Security Grant Division for the State Homeland Security Program for the purchase of one additional 2025 Ford F-450 Police response vehicle and one replacement Spartan Robot for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad; and appropriating \$215,009.32 in the FY 2025 Fire Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes accepting and appropriation of two grants totaling \$215,009.32 from the Homeland Security Grant Program's (HSGP) State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). SHSP is one of three grant programs that comprise the HSGP.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The HSGP is a federal grant program that is managed by the State, through the office of the Governor, and is administered through the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG). The equipment purchased using these grants funds will support local and state efforts to prevent terroristic and catastrophic events and to prepare for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of Texas citizens. Since 2002, the United States Department of Homeland Security has issued grants to the State of Texas, who in turn awards the grants to municipalities through its State Homeland Security Program.

The grant funding will be used to purchase one additional response vehicle in the amount of \$109,507.75 for the Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) Bomb Squad. The additional response vehicle will be used to transport Bomb Squad personnel and equipment that is used for screening, detection and disposal of improvised explosive devices (IED). CCPD's Bomb Squad is comprised of five members. Currently, CCPD's Bomb Squad has two response vehicles. However, the two current Bomb Squad vehicles do not have the capacity to carry all the gear needed to screen, detect and dispose of IEDs. As a result, the Bomb Squad is forced to use

reserve patrol vehicles to transport additional equipment and personnel to an incident. The additional Bomb Squad vehicle will allow CCPD's Bomb Squad to transport all five Bomb Squad personnel and all necessary equipment to an incident without having to use reserve patrol vehicles. This will greatly improve the efficiency and safety of CCPD's Bomb Squad operations.

The remaining grant funding of \$105,501.57 will be used to purchase one replacement Spartan Robot that will be used by CCPD's Bomb Squad. CCPD currently has three Spartan Robots. The Spartan Robot purchased with these grant funds will replace one of the current Spartan Robots that is 18 years old and non-operational. The Spartan Robots serve as an alternative to sending Bomb Squad personnel into scenes that contain an improvised explosive device (IED). The Spartan Robot is controlled remotely by a bomb squad member and is equipped with cameras and an arm that make it capable of dismantling IEDs. The Spartan Robot's capabilities limit exposure to bomb squad personnel in dangerous areas.

Since 2002, the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) has submitted grant applications to the HSGP on behalf of the CCFD and other City departments. In FY 2024, the City received two grants from the HSGP totaling \$181,346.31. The funds were used to purchase anti-terrorism and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) equipment for the Corpus Christi Police Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to not accept the two grant awards and instead seek alternative funding. However, this funding was not included in the FY 2025 General Fund budget. If the funding is not awarded through this grant, the City will need to identify alternate funding in order to purchase the equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2025 fiscal impact is the acceptance of funding in the amount of \$215,009.32 and appropriating \$215,009.32 into the FY 2025 Fire Grants fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund:	1062 Fire Grants
Organization/Activity:	821275F, 821276F
Department Number:	10 Fire Department
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	520090 Minor Tools & Equipment
	550020 Vehicles & Machinery
Amount:	\$215,009.32

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance to accept and appropriate two grants totaling \$215,009.32 for the purchase of one additional response vehicle and one replacement Spartan Robot for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Bomb Squad, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance