



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council meeting of June 25, 2024

DATE: June 25, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
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361-886-2601

Approval to submit a grant application to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to continue the Motor Vehicle Theft Unit in the Police Department

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for \$864,514 to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority to continue the Motor Vehicle Theft Unit activities in the Police Department with a City cash match of \$184,005 and an in-kind match of \$750,763 for a total project cost of \$1,799,282.00 for salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits for four sworn officers and three civilians (authorizing the four sworn officers and three civilian positions), and for operational needs for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force; and designating several City staff members as designated officials for the grant; and appropriating \$864,514 in the Police Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes submission of a grant to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for salary, benefits, overtime, and travel of four sworn officers and three civilians. The City must apply for these funds each year.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The City of Corpus Christi is applying for grant FY 2025 funding from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) to continue the motor vehicle theft unit in the Police Department. The MVCPA was established in 1991 due to rising auto thefts and is funded through a monthly fee of \$4 on every insured vehicle in Texas charged to insurance companies who provide vehicle insurance coverage in Texas. The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts collects the fee.

The unit focuses not only on detection and apprehension of stolen and burglarized vehicles, but also on motor vehicle fraud and proactive policing of automotive businesses in the City and County to reduce the sale of stolen vehicles and parts. There is an extensive public awareness campaign that is a requirement of the grant which includes crime prevention programs focusing on reducing motor vehicle crime.

The grant provides funds for one Lieutenant to supervise the Auto Theft Task Force unit, consisting of three additional sworn CCPD officers and three civilians (seven total employees).

As part of the Auto Theft Task Force unit, the civilians conduct data analysis, crime analysis, manage the required public awareness campaign, provide customer service to victims of auto crime, and maintain grant paperwork.

The General Fund cash match is for vehicle maintenance on nine vehicles, unit operating expenses, and training. In-kind contributions include a copy machine, office space, and the salaries, benefits, and overtime of four sworn officers and three civilians.

The grant requires designating the Chief of Police as the authorized official, the Deputy Chief of Police of the Criminal Investigations Division as Program Director, and the Director of Finance, or the Director of Finance's Designee, as financial officer for this grant.

Because these funds are neither Federal nor State but from an insurance fee, there is no set time limit for the grant to end. The City must reapply each year because the MVCPA requires a very close review of performance and the grantee's ability to utilize the funds efficiently. The grant period is September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025. The City has received the grant for 25 years. Last year the City received \$822,431 from this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to approve the submission of the application for this grant. However, if the grant application is not authorized, personnel and funding will be lost or reduced to continue the Motor Vehicle Theft Unit as these funds are not part of the FY 2024 General Fund Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact in FY 2024 with the submission of the grant application. If grant funds are awarded, the fiscal impact will be for one month in FY 2024. The grant funds of \$864,514.00 will be appropriated to the FY 2024 Police Grants Fund and the City cash match of \$184,005.00 will be available in the FY 2024 Police Department General Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: 1061
Organization/Activity: 822328S-89
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 510100 = \$593,811
511000 = \$246,108
510200 = \$24,595
Amount: \$864,519.00

Fund: 1020
Organization/Activity: 11721
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 510100 = \$484,977
511000 = \$181,810
510200 = \$22,338
547012 = \$39,638
530160 = \$22,000
Amount: \$750,763.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends submitting the application to the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution