



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council meeting of September 3, 2024

DATE: September 3, 2024
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
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Approval to accept and appropriate a grant from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for a FY 2024 Catalytic Converter Grant in the Corpus Christi Police Department

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for catalytic converter theft detection and prevention in the amount of \$98,728.00 for overtime for four sworn officers and two civilians, and for equipment and supplies 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 \$98,728.00 in the Police Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the acceptance of a grant and appropriation of the grant funds from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority for the Corpus Christi Police Department (CCPD). The grant funds will go towards overtime for four sworn officers, two civilians, equipment, and for operational needs for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force's program with an additional focus on Catalytic Converter theft detection and prevention. It also designates several City staff members as designated officials for the grant

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The City of Corpus Christi has been awarded funding from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) for an additional focus on catalytic converter theft detection and prevention in the Police Department. The MCVPA 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 amount awarded to the City is based upon the number of auto thefts in the area and the performance of the Auto Theft Task Force's program.

The grant provides overtime funds for work to be performed for proactive operations, reactive assessments and public awareness with an additional focus on catalytic converter theft detection and prevention for four sworn officers and two civilians. Most covert operations occur in the evening along with large case breaks that require detectives to work outside of normal business hours. Most public awareness events occur in the evening and on weekend hours.

The equipment includes a Mobile Vehicle Lift, which is a portable lift that can be used in various settings to accommodate different types of vehicles. The lift is used as part of carrying out tasks such as painting, marking, etching, and engraving Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) on catalytic converters. The lift will also be used at public awareness events to lift vehicles so that laser engraved serial or VIN numbers can be engrave on catalytic converters. Additionally, funds from this grant will be used to purchase two laser engravers, two thermal surveillance cameras, and a search drone that will be used for intelligence gathering before a search warrant is issued and for searching for suspects. Other supplies include headlamps, rolling trolleys, gloves, car jacks, and safety glasses.

The grant period is August 7, 2024 to August 6, 2025. This is the first year that the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority has issued grant awards for catalytic converter theft detection and prevention.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to accept the grant. However, if the grant is not accepted, the funds will not be available as they have not been budgeted in the General Fund budget. If the acceptance of the grant is not approved, CCPD will have to search for alternative sources of funding to continue this program.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2025 fiscal impact will be an appropriation into the Police grants fund in the amount of \$98,728.00. There is no City cash match required as part of this grant award.

Funding Detail:

FY 2025

Fund: 1061 Police Grants Fund
Organization/Activity: 89
Department: 29
Project #: 822523S
Account: 510200
Amount: \$23,474.00

Fund: 1061 Police Grants Fund
Organization/Activity: 89
Department: 29
Project #: 822523S
Account: 520090
Amount: \$75,254.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend accepting and appropriating the grant award, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Grant award letter