



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting November 11, 2025

DATE: November 11, 2025

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Brandon Wade, Fire Chief
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**Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application for the FY 2025
Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Projects under the Homeland
Security Grant Program from the Texas Office of the Governor for the
Corpus Christi Fire Department**

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$212,981.28 for the FY 2025 Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Projects under the Homeland Security Grant Program from the Texas Office of the Governor for funding for the purchase of a HAZMAT Response Robot for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

SUMMARY:

This resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Texas Office of the Governor for the FY 2025 Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Projects (SHSP and UASI) grant in the amount of \$212,981.28. If awarded, the funding will help enhance the safety of the public and firefighters by providing funding for a HAZMAT Response Robot. This advanced equipment will improve the Corpus Christi Fire Department's ability to safely assess and respond to hazardous materials incidents, particularly those related to border security threats, while minimizing risk to personnel for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

By applying for this grant, the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) is seeking funding to be used to enhance its HAZMAT response capabilities through the purchase of a PackBot 525 Robot.

The PackBot 525 Robot is manufactured by Teledyne FLIR Defense, a global leader in advanced sensing and unmanned systems technology. Teledyne FLIR Defense has a long-standing reputation for producing high-performance robotic platforms used by military, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies worldwide.

The PackBot 525 Robot is a transportable, multi-mission robot designed for rapid deployment in under two minutes. It is equipped with high-definition cameras, a laser range finder, and a manipulator arm capable of lifting up to 44 pounds. The system is controlled through a tablet interface allowing for remote operation in complex or hazardous environments.

CCFD does not currently have a robotic platform capable of conducting remote operations in hazardous environments, particularly those involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats. This capability gap poses a significant risk to first responders and limits the CCFD's ability to safely and effectively respond to terrorism-related incidents or suspicious hazardous materials. If the grant funds are awarded to purchase the HAZMAT Response Robot, the Robot will be assigned to Fire Station #5 (3105 Leopard Street).

For CCFD, the PackBot 525 will serve as a critical tool in responding to HAZMAT incidents, particularly those involving unknown or potentially dangerous substances, including industrial chemicals, chemical warfare agents, combustible gases, and organic compounds. The robot's ability to remotely inspect, manipulate, and monitor hazardous environments will significantly reduce risk to personnel while improving operational efficiency. The Packbot 525 has stair-climbing capability, zero-radius turn, and a rugged design that makes it ideal for navigating urban and industrial settings common in the Corpus Christi area.

Importantly, the CCFD HAZMAT team also serves as the primary response unit for hazardous materials incidents at the Port of Corpus Christi, one of the largest and most strategically significant ports in the United States. The PackBot's advanced capabilities make it ideally suited for this mission, enabling safe and effective remote operations in high-risk environments. This alignment with regional homeland security priorities makes the project a strong candidate for funding under the State Homeland Security Grant Program administered by the Texas Office of the Governor.

The Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Projects Grant Program is a new grant program made available from the Texas Office of the Governor. This is the first time that the City has applied for this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to submit the grant application and find other funding sources from the General Fund for the purchase of a HAZMAT robot. However, these funds were not budgeted as part of the FY 2026 General Fund Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The application process has no fiscal impact. If awarded, \$212,981.28 will be appropriated in the Fire Grants fund in FY 2026. No City cash match will be required if the grant funds are awarded.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	1062	Fire Grants
Organization/Activity:	89	Grants & Capital Project Funds
Department:	10	Fire
Account:	520090	Minor Tools & Equipment
Amount:	\$212,981.28	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$212,981.28 for the FY 2025 Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement Projects under the

Homeland Security Grant Program from the Texas Office of the Governor for funding for the purchase of a HAZMAT Response Robot for the Corpus Christi Fire Department, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Resolution
Presentation