



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council meeting of August 22, 2023

**DATE:** August 22, 2023  
**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 to continue the activities of the Auto Theft Task Force in the Corpus Christi Police Department**

### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority in the amount of \$822,431 with a City cash match of \$169,372 and an in-kind match of \$714,806, for a total project cost of \$1,706,609 for salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits for four sworn officers three civilians (authorizing two additional general fund 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 \$822,431 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 toward salaries, overtime, and fringe benefits for four sworn officers and three civilians, and for operational needs for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force's program. It also designates 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 Director of Finance's designee as financial officer for this grant.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The City of Corpus Christi has been awarded 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 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 unit focuses not only on detection and apprehension of stolen and burglarized vehicles, but also on the automotive businesses in the City and County in order to reduce the sale of stolen vehicles and parts. CCPD reports stolen vehicles in the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC), which is then shared with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Both TCIC and NCIC provide immediate access to vehicle data for law enforcement agencies researching the status of the stolen vehicles.

As part of the grant's requirements, there is an extensive public awareness campaign process put on by the Motor Vehicle Theft Unit. The public awareness campaign includes public outreach events, media interviews, public presentations, sign and bus wrap campaigns, social media campaigns, and other crime prevention initiatives. The ultimate purpose of the various public awareness campaign activities is to reduce victim-assisted auto crime. Examples of victim-assisted auto crimes include leaving cars unlocked, leaving keys in vehicles, and leaving valuable items inside vehicles, especially in plain sight.

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). This year's grant award increases the number of sworn officers in the unit by one (from three to four) and the number of civilians in the unit by one (from two to three).

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 match is for vehicle maintenance on nine vehicles, unit operating expenses, training, and for salary, benefits, and overtime of four additional sworn officers who currently work in the auto theft and auto burglary bureau. In-kind contributions include a copy machine and office space.

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. This year's grant period is from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024. The City has received the grant for 24 years. Last year, the City received \$429,518. The City must apply for these funds each year.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to accept the grant. However, if the grant is not accepted and appropriated, funding for the Auto Theft Task Force will be lost or reduced. This will result in less law enforcement activities being put toward decreasing auto thefts in and around Corpus Christi. It will also mean that it is less likely that the City will receive this grant in the future.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Police General Fund will provide a cash match of \$169,372 for unit operating expenses, training, and supplies and an in-kind contribution of \$714,806 for sworn officers' salaries/benefits, overtime and supplies. The City cash match for FY 2023 is \$14,114 for one month and is available in the FY 2023 Police Department General Fund. For FY 2024, \$155,258 is included in the proposed FY 2024 Police Department General Fund.

### **Funding Detail:**

#### **FY 2023**

Fund: 1020 General Fund  
Organization/Activity: Criminal Investigation Division 11720  
Department: 29  
Project # (CIP Only): N/A  
Account: Various

Amount: \$14,114.00

FY 2024

Fund: 1061 Police Grants Fund  
Organization/Activity: 89  
Department: 29  
Project # (CIP Only): N/A  
Account: Various  
Amount: \$822,431.00

Fund: 1020 General Fund  
Organization/Activity: Criminal Investigation Division 11720  
Department: 29  
Project # (CIP Only): N/A  
Accounts: Various  
Amount: \$155,258.00

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend accepting and appropriating the grant award and also 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 Director of Finance's designee as financial officer for this grant, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Grant award letter