



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of February 9, 2021

DATE: February 9, 2021
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
mikema@cctexas.com
(361) 886-2603

Approval to submit a grant application to the State of Texas, Criminal Justice Division for funding available under the FY 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant

CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing submission of grant application for \$233,030.00 to the State of Texas under the FY 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant.

SUMMARY:

Federal funding is available through the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division from the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant Program. There is no match requirement for this program.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

If received, the \$233,030.00 Coverdell Grant will allow for the purchase of a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), along with a dedicated quality management system, for the Forensic Services Division (FSD). Currently, the FSD does not have the computerized means of generating and maintaining data and case documentation, which presents challenges regarding physical storage space, information retrieval, metrics, and workflow efficiency. In addition, as an accredited forensic laboratory, quality control is a key requirement to maintaining the integrity of the FSD

The Forensic Services Division conducts analysis on forensic evidence in the firearms and friction ridge (latent print) disciplines, as well as processing and documenting crime scenes. The laboratory operates and maintains state and national comparison databases, including the State of Texas Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), FBI Next Generation Identification fingerprint database, and the ATF National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN). The majority of requests for service are generated within the Corpus Christi Police Department; but as one of only two accredited forensic labs in the Coastal Bend region (as well as the only NIBIN-equipped facility in South Texas), a significant number of service requests come from surrounding agencies as well. The FSD is fully accredited to ISO 17025:2017/AR 3125 standards in each of its disciplines and complies with applicable rules and regulations of the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

The implementation of a LIMS with an integrated quality assurance system will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Improve the quality and timeliness of forensic services
2. Improve efficiency, reduce turnaround time, and assist with reducing existing backlogs
3. Enable detailed analysis of statistics, performance metrics, and associated data such as uncertainty of measurement and contextual bias
4. Improve documentation and tracking of required training records, operational procedures, competency/proficiency testing, and policy changes
5. Enable faster and more efficient responses to requests for information from stakeholders and other external entities, such as Open Records Act requests, Texas Forensic Science Commission, and judicial partners
6. Improve efficiency and accuracy in performing required audits and quality reviews
7. Reduce physical space requirements for storage and archiving

The project period is 10/1/2021 – 09/30/2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to not submit the grant and continue operating without the ability to improve processes such as response times, data integrity, storage space, etc.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No financial impact at this time.

FUNDING DETAIL

Fund 1061
Organization/Activity: Police Grant Fund – 822903F
Mission Element: 152
Project # N/A
Account: 520090 – Minor Tools & Equipment

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends submission of the grant application.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

N/A