



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of December 6, 2022
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of December 20, 2022

DATE: December 6, 2022
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Markle, Chief of Police
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Acceptance and appropriation of the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant for the Corpus Christi Police Department

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing acceptance of a grant in an amount of \$150,000.00 from the State of Texas, Criminal Justice Division for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant for the purchase of a 3D laser scanner for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Forensic Services Division; and appropriating \$150,000.00 in the Police Grants Fund.

SUMMARY:

Federal funding has been awarded 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. The grants funds will be used for the purchase of a 3D laser scanner for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Forensic Services Division.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Coverdell Grant will support the purchase of a 3D laser scanner for the documentation and capture of crime scenes, particularly homicides and officer-involved shootings. The 3D laser scanner will be purchased in January 2023 and assigned to the Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) Forensic Services Division once it is received.

The 3D laser scanner works by recording millions of points of data to create a three-dimensional point cloud that is a digital reconstruction of a crime scene. It provides unprecedented levels of detail and precision versus traditional methods of documentation and measurement. It also greatly reduces the amount of time and manpower needed to thoroughly document crime scenes. From initial documentation to the preparation of final diagrams, a typical crime scene can take dozens of hours, both at the scene itself and afterwards. Currently, crime scenes are mapped by CCPD by compiling measurements and creating sketches, either by hand or by using antiquated software. The use of a 3D laser scanner will reduce the time to map out a crime scene by up to 80 percent or more. Furthermore, data acquired with this device can be integrated with information captured by drone-based 3D mapping in order to provide a completely digital workflow for documenting both indoor and outdoor crime scenes. CCPD has received a drone-based 3D mapping system. Currently, the system is being tested and validated by CCPD.

Overall, this modern technology will greatly enhance CCPD's ability to conduct thorough, accurate, and timely crime scene analysis. It also will aid investigators, judges, attorneys, and juries in understanding the scene to a much greater degree by allowing for examination from literally all angles, as well as 3D "flythroughs." This puts the viewer virtually inside the crime scene. Such detail is increasingly expected in the courtroom setting. The combined approach of laser scanning with drone photogrammetry will advance CCPD's capabilities by several decades by bringing CCPD into the modern era of crime scene investigation and forensic analysis. The equipment will be the first of its kind owned by CCPD. The 3D laser scanner also will be made available for calls for assistance from other area agencies. If this occurs, technicians from CCPD's Forensics Unit will take the scanner to the requested location and operate it themselves.

This is the fourth year that the City has received this grant. In 2022, the City received \$233,030 for this grant. The project period for this grant is October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is not to accept the grant and continue with current manual operations. However, this will leave CCPD decades behind in crime scene mapping technology.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The financial impact for FY 2023 is the appropriation of \$150,000.00 into the Police Grants Fund.

Funding Detail

Fund	1061
Organization/Activity:	Police Grant Fund –
Mission Element:	152
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	520090 – Minor Tools & Equipment
Amount	\$150,000.000

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends accepting the grant and appropriating the funds, as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Award letter