



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of March 25, 2025

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

**FROM:** Brandon Wade, Fire Chief  
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**Authorization to submit a grant application to the State of Texas - Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office funding available under the FY 2026 Criminal Justice Grant Program by the Corpus Christi Fire Department**

### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing submission of a grant application for \$92,387.25 to the State of Texas - Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office under the Criminal Justice Grant Program for funding for the purchase of one replacement Arson K-9 Response Vehicle for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

### **SUMMARY:**

This Resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application for \$92,387.25 to the State of Texas under the Criminal Justice Grant Program for funding for the purchase of one replacement Arson K-9 Response Vehicle for the Corpus Christi Fire Department. Federal funding is available through the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division for the Criminal Justice Grant Program for projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

Federal funds are available under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) for projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

The Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) will use these grant funds to purchase one replacement Arson K-9 Response Vehicle for their Fire Prevention division. The replacement vehicle will be a 2025 Ford F-150 Crew Cab with K-9 equipment and investigation evidence storage installed. CCFD will use the vehicle to transport its Arson K-9 and equipment necessary for arson investigations. The Arson Investigator will also use the vehicle to transport crime scene evidence that needs to be sent to the lab for verification. Furthermore, the vehicle will be equipped with specific K-9 safety features. The K-9 safety features that will be included in the vehicle are ultimately for the purpose of monitoring the temperature inside the vehicle to prevent the K-9 from overheating. The safety features will include a kennel compartment in the back seat, a temperature monitoring system, a remote temperature monitoring pager system, and window fans along the kennel. The vehicle will also have a "bail out" remote door opening system in the case

that the K-9 has to immediately be let out of the vehicle due to overheating or another emergency situation involving the vehicle.

The current Arson Investigator's vehicle is past its useful service life. It has become unreliable and repair costs are outpacing the price of the vehicle itself. Corpus Christi has seen an increase in arson cases, increasing the demand for the Arson Investigator and K-9. Specifically, the number of arson cases has gone up from an average of 56 annually to an average of 84 annually within the past 10 years. FY 2024 was the first full year the Arson Investigator K-9 team responded to investigations, and they were deployed to 69 calls which lead to six arrests (some cases open for prosecution). The continued use of the outdated vehicle has caused delayed response times to scenes, which could potentially lead to the loss of vital and timely crime scene evidence.

Furthermore, CCFD is the only department within 100 miles with a certified arson dog handler. CCFD has assisted other municipalities with the Arson Investigator K-9 team, including Alice, Aransas Pass, and Portland. A reliable and safe vehicle will help ensure that CCFD continues to be able to provide vital and timely arson investigation services to Corpus Christi and surrounding communities needing assistance.

The project period is from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. The Corpus Christi Police Department has applied for and received funds from this grant for many years; however, this is the first time that CCFD has applied for this grant.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to submit the grant application and find other funding sources for the critical Vehicle for the Corpus Christi Fire Department. This funding is not included in the FY 2025 General Fund budget. If the funding is not awarded through this grant, the City will need to identify alternate funding in order to purchase the equipment.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If awarded, the grant monies will be appropriated in FY 2026 Fire Grants Fund.

#### **FUNDING DETAIL:**

Fund:	N/A
Organization/Activity:	N/A
Department:	N/A
Project # (CIP Only):	N/A
Account:	N/A
Amount:	N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends authorizing the Corpus Christi Fire Department to submit the grant application for \$92,387.25 to the State of Texas - Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office under the Criminal Justice Grant Program for funding for the purchase of one replacement Arson K-9 Response Vehicle for the Corpus Christi Fire Department, as presented.

#### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Resolution