

Agenda Report



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

TO: City Council

FROM: POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING THE FY 2024 EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,759

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2024, in the amount of \$20,759 to fund crime analysis software, and to execute all required documents, future amendments, if any, and appropriate the funds to the grant budget.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recognizes that many state and local criminal justice systems currently face challenging fiscal environments and an important, cost-effective way to relieve those pressures is to share or leverage resources through cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement. JAG awards are based on a statutory formula and applicants are limited to units of local government appearing on the FY 2024 JAG Allocations List. The City of Watsonville's allocation is \$20,759.

Program Areas

JAG funds may be used for to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)

- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and correction programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams
- Implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives

The Watsonville Police Department (WPD) is proposing using the grant funds to continue funding crime analysis software. Crime analysis has become an essential tool in law enforcement efforts to enhance public safety, identify emerging trends, allocate resources and plan crime prevention strategies. The software will increase the effectiveness of the strategies and help the crime analyst with gathering crime data, pattern analysis, crime mapping, predictive analytics and with disseminating reports to the officers in order to respond more swiftly and appropriately to emergent public safety issues.

Staff recommends City Council approval in the acceptance of the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for FY 2024 in the amount of \$20,759 to continue funding crime analysis software.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The FY 2024 JAG Grant supports the Strategic Plan Goal 05-Public Safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This grant will need to be appropriated in the grants fund.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.