



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Request regarding the acceptance of grant funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security 2019 Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI) Grant Program

1. Motion to accept grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to execute an agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the award of funds under the FY19 UASI grant program.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for _____ **March 24, 2020** **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

Carl Povilaitis, Police Chief

Prepared by:

Alison Finch, Public Safety Business Administrator

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., Assistant City Manager

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

Yasmin K. Beers, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

The Glendale Police Department respectfully recommends that the City Council approve a motion authorizing the City Manager, or her designee, to enter into an agreement with the City of Los Angeles for the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the 2019 Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI) Grant Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The City of Glendale has been successful in obtaining \$25,000 under the 2019 Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) Grant Program. These grant funds are allocated between the City of Los Angeles and those cities recognized by the County of Los Angeles Operational Area (OA), which includes Glendale. The grant is administered by the City of Los Angeles. Management of the grant award is the responsibility of the Glendale Police Department. These funds are available for purchases of approved equipment and training of first responders which meet identified national, state, county and local priorities.

The project associated with the FY19 UASI grant program is for the purpose of continuing enhancements of public safety efforts within Glendale and the region. The project is part of the Los Angeles Operational Area's regional funding priorities and has been vetted through the Los Angeles area police coordination agencies and the City of Los Angeles Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety. The project has been approved by the State of California Office of Emergency Services Homeland Security authorizing branch. The recommended agreement authorizes these funds for the Police Department's purchase of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras in the amount of \$25,000.

Over the past ten (10) years, the Police Department has purchased and successfully implemented ALPR systems. ALPR technology consists of mounted cameras that digitally process photographs of license plates and queries those plates against multiple state and federal law enforcement databases. Sharing the information through the databases among agencies, or system interoperability, is a critical component in the success of the ALPR units as a force multiplier and one of the major reasons the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association (LAPCA) has strongly supported the acquisition of this technology through UASI grants. The cameras connect to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) hot list and are Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant. Through these resources, the Police Department is able to use hot plate alerts, create custom alerts, and search footage to access evidence to assist with ongoing investigations as over 70% of crime occurs with a vehicle.

While the prior ALPR cameras were vehicle mounted, the Police Department proposes to purchase portable ALPR units with these funds as a pilot project. These cameras are solar powered, self-contained and can be mounted on power poles, light poles, or other fixtures. Although mounted, they can be easily be relocated giving the Police Department and the community a valuable tool that can address safety issues throughout the city. Portable ALPR systems have been successfully used by other jurisdictions, and if the pilot program is successful here, the Police Department will seek funding opportunities to purchase and deploy additional camera systems.

The Glendale Police Department has adopted strict policies governing the use of the equipment and access to ALPR data. The images are not used to track the whereabouts of individuals or their vehicles or any occupants. The system can however be programmed to alert passing officers to the presence of a wanted vehicle. The license plate information is anonymous and is generalized in a data base that can later be searched with cause by plate number. The value of detecting wanted vehicles and suspects, as well as those on nationwide terrorism watch and want lists, by far outweigh concerns for collection of the anonymous data. The data is collected in open/plain public view and in public places with no expectation of privacy of one's state required license plate. By collecting this anonymous data (easily gathered by the average consumer with a smartphone or the police officer jotting it down on a pad), technology improves a process used by law enforcement agencies for decades by replacing the punch-and-log system of running license plates in favor of an automated system that helps police immediately identify a criminal suspect's vehicle. The ALPR system has enabled law enforcement to capture innumerable wanted vehicles and suspects since its inception.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is a reimbursement grant and requires no matching funds. Funds were appropriated as part of the FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget in the Police Grant Fund 45150-2610-GPD-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000 as outlined below.

Account	From	To	Description
31671-2610-GPD-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000-GPD00277AG	\$25,000		FY19 UASI - Police
45150-2610-GPD-0020- P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000-GPD00277AG		\$25,000	ALPR Cameras
GRAND TOTAL	\$25,000	\$25,000	

The equipment listed above is part of ongoing projects to sustain and maintain current capabilities and therefore should not have a fiscal impact with respect to program implementation costs.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve as requested by the Police Department.

Alternative 2: Not approve the request of the Police Department.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

EXHIBITS

None.