



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Request for Authorization to Accept Grant Funds in the amount of \$15,088 to be used to Purchase Automatic License Plate Reader Equipment.

1. Motion to Accept Grant Funds and Authorize the Purchasing Administrator to Purchase Automatic License Plate Reader Equipment
2. Resolution to Appropriate \$15,088 in Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, FY20 Local Justice Assistance Grant Program Grant funds

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for March 9, 2021 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

Carl Povilaitis, Police Chief

Prepared by:

Alison Finch, Public Safety Business Administrator

Reviewed by:

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

Approved by:

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that the City Council adopt the attached motion approving participation in the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, FY20 Local Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program and accepting grant funds in the amount of \$15,088. City Council is also requested to authorize the Purchasing Administrator to purchase Automated License Plate Reader equipment with the grant funds.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In August 2020, an application seeking grant funds was submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, FY20 Local JAG Program. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. The Glendale Police Department has been approved to use FY20 Local JAG Program funds to purchase automated license plate reader (ALPR) equipment.

Over the past ten years, the Police Department has purchased and successfully implemented ALPR systems. ALPR technology consists of mounted cameras which 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 has strongly supported the acquisition of this technology through grant programs. The cameras connect to the FBI's National Crime Information Center 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.

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 legally 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 manual typing process to run license plates to 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. Since October 2020, the Glendale Police Department has recovered nine stolen vehicles and located four vehicles wanted in connection with robberies/burglaries using this technology.

As a requirement of the grant, 3% of the funding received will be used for the Police Department to become National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliant. NIBRS was implemented by CJIS to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement as it captures details on single crime incidents. The Glendale Police Department is currently upgrading the Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS). The funding from this grant will further contribute to NIBRS compliance through funding employee's time to attend training on CAD/RMS. Upon completion of the CAD/RMS project, the Police Department will be deemed NIBRS compliant.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, FY20 Local JAG Program does not require matching funds from the grantee.

Upon Council's approval, \$15,088 will be appropriated from the Police Special Grants Fund, Federal grant revenue account, to the FY20 Local JAG Program Project GPD00526G Salaries and Contractual Services.

From:

31240-2610-GPD-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000- GPD00526AG \$15,088

To:

41100-2610-GPD-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000- GPD00526AG \$453

43110-2610-GPD-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000- GPD00526AG \$14,635

As the total program cost with the NIBRS requirement is \$15,953, the remaining balance in the amount of \$865, will be absorbed in the Police Department's general fund account 43110-1010-GPD-7000-P6301-T0000-F0000-0000.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve as requested by the Police Department.

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

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

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

EXHIBITS

None