



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program, Request for Authorization to Accept Grant Funds in the amount of \$56,850 to be used for equipment and training for the Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory.

1. Motion authorizing acceptance of the 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant and authorizing the City Manager, or a designee, to execute the necessary agreements, certification, and other documents required to accept the Grant.
2. Resolution to appropriate \$56,850 in 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant funds.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for July 25, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glendale Police Department requests acceptance of \$56,850 in grant funds from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the grant period of April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, to be used for equipment, laboratory supplies and training in the Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory (VRCL).

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant funds in the amount of \$56,850, authorize the City Manager or designee to execute the necessary agreements, certification, and other documents required to implement the Grant, and adopt a resolution to appropriate the funds for equipment, laboratory supplies, and training.

BACKGROUND

In December 2022, an application seeking grant funds was submitted to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to improve the quality and timeliness of case processing by the Police Department's Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory ("Laboratory"). The Police Department was recently notified that its application was approved in the amount of \$56,850 as part of the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program. Grant funds will be used for equipment, laboratory supplies and training.

ANALYSIS

In applying for the grant, the Laboratory conducted a needs assessment and identified equipment, materials and training required to fulfill the grant objectives of improved forensic testing services. Grant funds will be used to upgrade digital evidence examination hardware and provide digital evidence training opportunities to examiners.

Over the last twenty years law enforcement investigative techniques have evolved due to advances in DNA testing technology. These advances have placed increased demands on a computer forensics laboratory to conduct examinations of evidence obtained from mobile devices to cloud data. As changes are rapidly occurring, it is incumbent upon laboratories to stay abreast of developments within the field of digital evidence examination to service the community with expedient examination of submitted evidence.

Online, on-demand, and online instructor-led courses cover a range of topics using different software currently in use in the laboratory. From fundamentals to advanced offerings, the range of training opportunities will address varying experience levels within the Computer Forensics Unit to improve the overall quality and efficiency of digital examination services.

The evolution of technology and increased storage capacity of digital devices has directly affected the timeliness of digital evidence examination. Mobile devices have developed into handheld computers, and the volume of acquired data on a single device can incapacitate the current processing capabilities of existing forensic workstations. Examination software is unable to parse acquired data in a timely manner, delaying dissemination of vital investigative information. The Laboratory will use grant funds to assemble high performance forensic workstations specifically configured to process data intensive computing operations will improve the timeliness of digital examination services

offered by the Laboratory.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

Grant funds will be used to improve the quality of forensic testing services provided to customer agencies and the public.

FISCAL IMPACT

The 2022 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant funds in the amount of \$56,850, which was not included as part of the FY2023-24 approved budget. Therefore, staff is requesting for an appropriation of \$56,850 from grant revenue. The appropriation request is outlined below:

Requesting Appropriation			
Amount	From (Account String)	To (Account String)	Funding Source
\$56,850	GL: 31240-2610-GPD-0020 PL: GPD01032AG		Police Fund – Federal Funding
\$44,350		GL: 44650-2610-GPD-0020 PL: GPD01032AG	Police Fund – Training
\$12,500		GL: 45350-2610-GPD-0020 PL: GPD01032AG	Police Fund – Supplies

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore, not subject to CEQA/NEPA review. There is no possibility that the acceptance of this award may have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3)).

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Approve as requested by the Police Department.

Alternative 2: Deny the Police Department's request. Expenses for laboratory equipment, supplies and training would be absorbed by the Police Department budget.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

Catherine Nguyen, Lab Director

Approved by:

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

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

None.