



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Bureau of Justice Assistance 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Grant

1. Motion authorizing acceptance of the BJA 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction 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 \$250,000 in BJA 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Grant funds.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Consent Calendar

Approved for October 24, 2023 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glendale Police Department requests acceptance of \$250,000 in grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the grant period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2025 to be used for salary and benefits for one full-time employee, to purchase equipment and maintenance contracts, and to provide training for the Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory (VRCL).

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program Grant Funds in the amount of \$250,000, authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements, certification, and other documents required to implement the grant, and adopt a resolution of appropriations in the amount of \$250,000 for salary and benefits for one full-time employee, contract services, and training.

BACKGROUND

The DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program was established to assist accredited crime laboratories with the procurement of equipment and logistical supplies for purposes of enhancing DNA processing turnaround time. In past years, similar grant funds have been utilized by the Police Department to procure additional equipment and to reimburse the City for the salaries and benefits of part-time Forensic Biology staff.

ANALYSIS

In applying for the grant, the Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory conducted a needs assessment and identified the equipment and materials required to fulfill the grant objectives to positively impact the laboratory's ability to reduce turnaround time and increase sample capacity.

The assessment identified the need for increased staffing to perform DNA testing and analysis. Using FY2022 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program grant funds, the Forensic Biology Unit of the Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory has hired an additional Criminalist I to assist in these functions. The 2023 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program funds will be used to pay for salary and benefits of the full-time employee assigned to the Forensic Biology Unit, equipment maintenance contracts and training. The grant award period is from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2025.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

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

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2023 DNA CEBR Program grant will cost \$250,000, which was not included as part of the FY2023-24 approved budget. The grant does not require matching funds. Therefore, staff is requesting an appropriation of \$250,000 from grant revenue. The appropriation request is outlined on the following page:

| Requesting Appropriation | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Amount | From (Account String) | To (Account String) | Funding Source |
| \$250,000 | GL: 31240-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01105AG | | Police Fund – Federal Grant |
| \$152,172 | | GL:41100-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01105AG | Police Fund – Labor |
| \$77,828 | | GL:43110-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01105AG | Police Fund – Contractual Services |
| \$20,000 | | GL: 44650-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD01105AG | Police Fund – Training |

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore, not subjected 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. The salary and benefits for the full time Criminalist I and expenses for contract services 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.