

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: March 22, 2018

Item Number: **097**

Police

Approve an ordinance accepting \$160,500 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program; and amending the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to appropriate \$160,500 for the Regional Special Operations Project.

Lead Department	Austin Police Department
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$160,500 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. A City match is not required. A fiscal note is attached.
For More Information	Troy Gay, Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will accept \$160,500 in grant funds from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program; and amend the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Austin Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20170913-001) to appropriate \$160,500 for the Regional Special Operations Project for a one-year grant period extending from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

Funding will allow the City to purchase four nano systems and a generator to power them. A nano system is a portable and dense suitcase-size x-ray device that improves explosive

ordnance disposal(EOD) technician response and decreases the likelihood of injury and casualties. When a call is received and the concern is a suspicious package, the bomb technician will arrive on scene with the nano system. Depending on the size of the package, the officer will take one or more x-rays and have the ability to immediately view the results. The clear visual evidence provided by the device allows for rapid assessment and gives the technician confidence to deem packages safe or unsafe. The technicians are fully trained to use the nano system and will deploy the devices at local and regional levels. While Austin's area is approximately 325 square miles, the Austin Police Department (APD) provides EOD services for the entire 10-county Capital Area Council of Governments, or CAPCOG, area. With over 400 calls for suspicious packages in the last 48 hours, APD is in critical need of additional nano systems to ensure public safety.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, APD's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.