



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1764, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

4/9/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) authorizing 1.0 full-time equivalent grant position funded from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Victims of Crime Act Program.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,213,309 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division through the APD Victim Crisis Intervention Project. A City funding match of \$303,327 is required and is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Police Department's Operating Budget. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

On June 28, 2018 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20180628-039, which was approved on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will authorize the addition of 1.0 grant-funded Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to serve as a victim counselor for the Austin Police Department (APD) Victim Crisis Intervention Project. The department has retained a qualified counselor for the program and brings forward this request to ensure retention by providing minimal benefits; healthcare and retirement.

Converting this position to a regular grant funded FTE should allow the City to retain the counselor for the duration of the project, which is funded through September 30, 2020. The position is also included in a grant application, with full funding provided through September 30, 2021.

The Victims of Crime Act, or "VOCA" counselor provides mental health and practical intervention citywide for victims of crime as close to the time of an incident as possible. This intervention may include crisis counseling and stabilization, justice support, personal advocacy, emergency placement in shelter, safety planning, and information and referrals to other helpful service providers.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant or to the funding of this position. When the grant funds expire, the Austin Police Department's need for this position will be evaluated and the position may be eliminated.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.