



City Council Report

Date: October 17, 2022
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Ken Cost, Police Chief
Kim Meza, Forensic Services Administrator
Subject: Grant Award from the Office of Justice Programs – DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into a Grant Award with the Office of Justice Programs, to accept \$307,717 in grant funds for the Police Department's Forensic Services Division for DNA capacity enhancement and backlog reduction.

Background

The Mesa Police Department's Forensic Services Biology Unit is responsible for processing biological evidence from homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries, and numerous other crimes. During 2021, the unit processed over 3,200 samples and prepared over 1,300 reports regarding their scientific analyses. The laboratory is a National DNA Index System participant.

Discussion

The goals of the Biology Unit are to increase capacity and reduce backlog. To accomplish the goals, grant funds will be used to obtain preventative maintenance and service for instruments, validate and verify laboratory equipment, renovate lab space for additional analytical capacity and update two microscopes. Funding will also be used for overtime for six scientists and one supervisor to work cases.

Alternatives

If this Grant Award is declined, the Mesa Police Department's Biology Unit will not accomplish their goal of increasing the number of samples processed and reducing the turnaround time for all requests (persons and property crimes).

Fiscal Impact

The award amount is \$307,717 and no match is required. Mesa Police Department personnel will be responsible for submitting invoices to the Office of Justice Programs. The Office of Justice Programs will remit monies due upon receipt of the invoices.

Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the approval of the Grant Award from the Office of Justice Programs for the DNA Backlog Reduction Grant Program.