



City Council Report

Date: April 21, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Ken Cost, Police Chief
James McCormick, Commander
Subject: Intergovernmental with Arizona Department of Public Safety
Regarding an Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the city manager or his designee to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department Of Public Safety (DPS) to assign one Mesa Police Department detective to the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (VTTF) and receive up to 75% in reimbursement of the detective's personnel services, full reimbursement of overtime, travel and a dedicated vehicle from DPS.

Background

An analysis of the past 2 full calendar year's data shows our region has experienced a significant increase in auto thefts, with a 27% rise in incidents compared to previous periods. This surge in vehicle theft has placed additional strain on our resources and has impacted the safety and property of our community members.

Discussion

Under the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Mesa Police Department will provide one detective to the Task Force, their duties will include:

- Disrupt the organized criminal networks involved in the sale of illegally obtained vehicles and parts by addressing identified violators and organizations.
- Gather and report intelligence data relating to auto vehicle thefts and associated businesses enabling this activity.
- Conduct undercover operations where appropriate and engage in other traditional methods of investigation to further the Task Force's agenda in effective prosecution before the courts of the United States and the State of Arizona.

Alternatives

If this Intergovernmental Agreement is declined, the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force's ability to act on the City of Mesa's behalf will be limited as there is no direct link to local criminal activity.

Fiscal Impact

Mesa Police Fiscal Division staff will remit invoices to DPS for payment as required by the Agreement. The Intergovernmental Agreement provides reimbursement for 75% of the Detective's salary, funding for the remaining 25% will be absorbed by the Police Department operating budget. The Fiscal Division will also invoice for full reimbursement of overtime and travel.

Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends approval and acceptance of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Public Safety.