



City Council Report

Date: November 20, 2023
To: City Council
Through: Scott Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Ken Cost, Police Chief
Michael Bellows, Commander
Subject: SubGrant Award Agreement between the City of Mesa and the Arizona Department of Public Safety - 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 a Subgrant Award Agreement with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, to accept \$485,430 in grant funds from the Victims of Crime Act, Victim Assistance Grant Program. Funds will be used for personnel expenses at the Police Department's Mesa Family Advocacy Center.

Background

The Mesa Police Department Victim Services Unit has been the recipient of Arizona Department of Public Safety funds through the Victims of Crime Act since 1997. Grantees must be operated by a public agency, must provide direct services to crime victims, must assist victims in obtaining victim compensation, must utilize volunteers and must promote coordinated public and private efforts to aid victims.

Discussion

The Police Department's Victim Services Unit responds to emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assists victims of crime to stabilize their lives, assists victims through the criminal justice system and provides a measure of safety and security.

The Victim Services Specialists provide services to victims of domestic violence, sex crimes and violent felony crimes. Personnel are responsible for providing crisis intervention, educational and emotional support, and referrals to community services. The Victim Notification Clerks are responsible for contacting crime victims to provide victims' rights and request/waiver procedure information. Their responsibilities also include the provision of information to victims regarding arrest, initial appearances, releases, and release conditions.

Alternatives

Decline the funding. If the funds are declined, they will be returned to the Department of Public Safety who will then reallocate the funds. If the funding is declined, the Mesa Police Department Victim Services Unit will not be able to provide crisis intervention to victims of crime.

Fiscal Impact

Based on estimates, the Police Department anticipates salary costs to exceed the award amount by \$271,808. A 20% match of \$121,358 is required; this amount will be fulfilled through the City's estimated obligation of \$271,808. These funds are available through the Police Department Budget.

Mesa Police Department personnel will be responsible for submitting invoices to the Arizona Department of Public Safety which will remit monies due upon receipt of the invoices.

Coordinated With

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the approval of accepting funds through a SubGrant Award Agreement with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).