



City Council Report

City Council Meeting: March 10, 2020
Agenda Item: 3.F

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Cynthia Renaud, Chief of Police, Police Department
Subject: Authorization to Accept United States Department of Justice (USDOJ)
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant awarded in the amount of \$8,649 from United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) for the 2019 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant for the purchase of bulletproof vests by the Police Department.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to accept the grant and all grant renewals.
3. Authorize budget changes as outlined in the Financial Impacts & Budget Actions section of this report.

Summary

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) a two-year grant of \$8,649 as part of the 2019 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) grant program. This grant would reimburse SMPD for 50 percent of the cost of approximately 15 replacement bulletproof vests purchased under the program. Bulletproof vests are an important tool for keeping officers safe in the field. This grant program aligns with the value of “Safety,” one of the seven values identified in the City’s Framework for a Sustainable City of Wellbeing. Funds must be spent by August 31, 2021.

Discussion

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement. Bulletproof vests save lives by protecting officers from gunfire. The vests are an important resource for officer safety,

which was one of the six main pillars identified in the Final Report of the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing released in 2015. The report states that every law enforcement officer should be provided with a bulletproof vest and that all law enforcement agencies should adopt policies that require officers to wear bulletproof vests.

The Santa Monica Police Department currently provides a vest to every sworn and field assigned uniformed civilian employee and has a policy mandating that these employees wear their assigned vests. The City has been a recipient of these grant funds previously in 2006, 2010 and 2013 - 2018. These grant funds would help SMPD to continue to meet the mission of providing every law enforcement officer with a bulletproof vest. The 2019 program funding would provide 50% of the cost for approximately 15 replacement vests. Bulletproof vests are on a five-year replacement cycle because of the degradation of the Kevlar from repetitive use; additionally, body moisture reduces the vest's ability to maintain the threat level guarantee, a circumstance that voids the manufacturer's warranty. The current grant award of \$8,649 would support the purchase of the vests through August 2021.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
10/22/2019 (attachment A)	Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant 2018
2/27/2018 (attachment B)	Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant 2017

Financial Impacts and Budget Actions

Staff seeks authority to accept a grant from the US Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program.


FY 2019-20 Grant Budget Changes			
Establish Revenue Budget		Appropriate Funds	
Account Number(s)	Amount	Account Number(s)	Amount
20180001.404277	\$8,649	20180001.555507	\$8,649
Total	\$8,649	Total	\$8,649

Prepared By: Nicole Bustamante, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved

Forwarded to Council


Cynthia Renaud, Chief of Police 2/27/2020


Rick Cole, City Manager 3/2/2020

Attachments:

- A. October 22, 2019 Staff Report
- B. February 27, 2018 Staff Report