



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the City Manager

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

Kurt D. Hodgen
City Manager

TO: Ande Banks, City Manager
FROM: Kelley Warner, Police Chief
DATE: 01/12/2024
RE: 2023 BYRNE Grant

Summary: Consider an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Presented By: Chief Kelley D. Warner

Brief Description: request for a Supplemental Appropriation to receive funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the budget year 2023-2024. The entitled amount will be \$16,964.00 for a program to outfit newly purchased police patrol vehicles with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to allow first responders every opportunity to provide life-saving aid to those in need. The hearing will be followed by a 30-day public comment period before the council considers approval of the funding recommendations.

Background/Justification:

Studies show that the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) by first responders and laypersons has reduced the time to defibrillation and improved survival from sudden cardiac arrest. When law enforcement officers are first on the scene of medical emergencies involving cardiac arrest, they potentially are the patient's best hope for resuscitation and survival. However, it is vital that officers have the necessary equipment and training to provide effective aid in such emergencies. The Harrisonburg Police Department prioritizes these focus areas in training its officers to act when they are called on to assist a person in cardiac arrest. We partner with the Harrisonburg Fire Department, which provides training in the use of AEDs and care of patients until EMS responders arrive.

Key Issues:

The Harrisonburg Police Department has been able to equip some, but not all, of its patrol cars with AEDs. As a result of growth within our community and the increase in our fleet of patrol vehicles, we have a need for additional AEDs to ensure that each patrol car carries one of the units. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased pressures on local government budgets, and Harrisonburg is no different. Being able to equip patrol vehicles with AEDs with the support of BJA funds will allow us to be in a better position to provide life-saving aid to our citizens should one of them suffer a sudden cardiac arrest. Being able to assure residents of Harrisonburg that all its officers are trained and equipped to aid in cases of sudden cardiac arrest will also help to cement relationships between law enforcement and members of the community.

RE:

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Environmental Impact: none

Fiscal Impact: This grant has no matching requirement. 100% of the program is financed by grant funds.

Prior Actions: 30 day public comment period followed by Council Approval.

Alternatives: (a) request funding in the next fiscal year budget
(b); or
(c) Do not accept the grant award

Community Engagement: 30-day public comment period required by the Bureau of Justice Assistance was over on 1/14/2024

Recommendation: To approve and accept the grant award

Attachments: Public Comment notice; supplemental appropriation; grant award package

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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