


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-297	Meeting:	July 15, 2024
	Agenda Item:	49	Roll Call:	24-0977
	Submitted by:	Dana Wingert, Chief of Police		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval to apply for the 2024 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation to Support Law Enforcement Agencies Grant through U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

SYNOPSIS:

The application requests funding to support 20 new body-worn cameras to be used as spare equipment due to the issuance of body cameras to Animal Control officers and additional officers assigned to provide community-oriented policing to support public safety in the downtown area and entertainment district. The grant will supply funding up to \$2,000 per camera system with a 50% match requirement. The camera system includes docking and data transfer stations as well as magnetic shirt mounting equipment.

The body-worn camera program has proven to be crucial to maintaining public trust and transparency. National studies credit the devices with impartially preserving video evidence, reducing complaints, and improving behavior while offering opportunities for training with real scenarios. The requested equipment will provide cameras that can be issued when current cameras are not functioning properly.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Grant funding \$40,000, the matching funds \$60,903.95

Funding Source: Grant Funding: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Recommended Operating Budget, Police Special Revenues and Other Funds, Page 190; Matching Funds Supplied by State Forfeiture Funds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Police Department began the Body-Worn Camera Program in 2016. The program has expanded to allow every officer to be equipped with a camera. The benefits of the captured digital evidence have proven very invaluable in collecting evidence and improving behavior while we strive for transparency in interactions with the community.

This grant will increase the number of cameras to allow Animal Control officers to wear the cameras and to equip newly hired officers designated to support public safety efforts in the downtown area, the entertainment and market districts.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Possible acceptance of the grant award in September 2024.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.