

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-049	Meeting:	February 10, 2025
	Agenda Item:	28	Roll Call:	25-0193
	Submitted by:	Mike McTaggart, Chief of Police		

AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend approval to submit three (3) individual applications to the 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program. One (1) request will support each of the following: the statewide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Task Force, the statewide Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Task Force, and the Police Department's efforts to secure crowded places.

SYNOPSIS:

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security has allocated funds to state governments through the Federal Homeland Security grant program for approved initiatives supporting national priorities and state strategies directed towards prevention, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to targeted activities. The State of Iowa has implemented plans to enhance and sustain certified statewide WMD/SWAT and EOD task forces. The City of Des Moines has been requested by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management director to serve as the financial agent and authorized representative to administer the 2025 Homeland Security grant program on behalf of both task forces. The requested funding will be utilized to replace expired safety equipment for the statewide task forces that is essential to the effective preparedness capabilities of the teams. The teams must remain certified to retain eligible for support through the grant program.

An additional category was added to the grant program by the State of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This category seeks applications for the Securing of Crowded Places. The Police Department seeks approval to submit an additional application for funding to purchase vehicle deterrent barricades to restrict access to areas where groups of people gather for various events. If funds are awarded, the requested equipment will expand the quantity of barricades used to restrict the interaction between pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

The Police Department recommends approval to submit the three (3) applications for funding to support public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: 2025 Homeland Security Grant applications: WMD/SWAT Task Force - \$532,000
EOD Task Force - \$225,000
Securing Crowded Places - \$77,450

Funding Source: Adopted Operating Budget Department Detail for Fiscal Year (FY) Ending June 30, 2025, Police Department, Special Revenues and Other Funds, Page 218

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City of Des Moines has received Homeland Security grants in support of the WMD/SWAT and the EOD Bomb teams in previous years including 2024. The purchases made with this funding must support specific core capabilities related to terrorism preparedness and each team must receive/maintain certification from the Department of Homeland Security to be eligible for support through the grants. There are presently five (5) certified WMD/SWAT teams and seven (7) certified EOD/bomb teams statewide.
- The statewide teams meet monthly to discuss processes, equipment needs, and training requirements. The equipment is reviewed for functionality, dependability, compatibility with existing equipment, and sustainability. Specialized training is required to maintain certification and ensure the teams are current with up-to-date Homeland Security mandates. Any equipment or training needs are listed and prioritized by the team leaders to ensure immediate needs are included in the application for funding. The prioritized list is then submitted for review by the State of Iowa Homeland Security Coordinator. Each item requested must appear on The Federal Homeland Security Bureau's list of approved equipment/training. If the requested item does not appear on the list, the State of Iowa Homeland Security Coordinator notifies the team leaders, and the item is removed. The approved list is then presented to a Homeland Security governance committee for further review and approval. These processes are completed prior to applying for grant funding to ensure the application is within the guidelines of the grant specifications.
- The Homeland Security grants provide critical equipment and training for the statewide teams to remain prepared to support federal initiatives and maintain statewide response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices to support public safety. The purchased equipment will allow these teams to maintain their preparedness and effectiveness while remaining compliant with national requirements for federal certification.
- The Securing Crowded Places category requests application for programs to initiate or expand public safety for individuals gathered in a specific location. The Police Department currently deploys vehicle deterrent barricades in the downtown area to restrict vehicle access and funnel pedestrian access to predetermined entry points during special events such as the World Food Festival and The Arts Festival. However, the current number of barricades is not sufficient to restrict access at each street intersection included in the event area. Police Officers must use their marked patrol vehicles or other means to block the streets. The barricades are portable but require the use of a motorized lift to move or place due to their steel construction. They are highly visible and are designed to withstand the impact of most moving vehicles. They can be connected by cables to create an extended or circular barrier.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: February 4, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0191](#)

Action: [Submittal](#) of applications for the 2024 Homeland Security Grant Program on behalf of the statewide WMD/SWAT and the EOD task force teams. ([Council Communication No. 24-041](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Westergaard. Motion Carried 6-0.

Date: February 6, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0170](#)

Action: [Submitting](#) applications for the 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program on behalf of the statewide WMD/SWAT and the EOD teams with an additional application for the 2019 Homeland Security Reallocation grant on behalf of the WMD/SWAT statewide teams. ([Council Communication No. 23-067](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Boesen. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Acceptance of the proposed funding.

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