

# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>26-098</b>	Meeting:	<b>March 23, 2026</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>24</b>	Roll Call:	<b>26-0377</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Mike McTaggart, Chief of Police</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend approval to submit two applications to the 2026 Homeland Security Grant Program in support of the statewide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Task Force, the statewide Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Task Force.

## SYNOPSIS:

The United States (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/ Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and EOD teams. The City of Des Moines has been requested by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management office to serve as the financial agent and authorized representative to administer the 2026 Homeland Security grant program on behalf of both task forces. The requested funding will be utilized to replace expired safety equipment that is essential to the effective preparedness capabilities of the state. The teams must remain nationally certified to be eligible for support through the grant program.

The Police Department recommends approval to submit the applications for funding to support public safety.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: 2026 Homeland Security Grant applications: WMD/SWAT Task Force - \$87,620 and EOD Task Force - \$554,945

Funding Source: FY2027 Recommended Operating Budget, Department Detail Police Department, Special Revenues and Other Funds, printed Page 190.

## 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. This funding opportunity stipulates the funding must be used to support specific core capabilities related to terrorism preparedness. Each team must receive and maintain certification through the national Department of Homeland Security to be eligible for funding, and each statewide team must benefit from the equipment purchased with the grant. There are presently five (5) certified

WMD/SWAT teams and seven (7) certified EOD/bomb teams statewide which includes the Des Moines teams.

- 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 approved list of 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 specifications are accurate.
- The Homeland Security grants provide critical equipment and training to the statewide teams so they may 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.

#### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 10, 2025

Roll Call Number: [25-0193](#)

Action: [Submitting](#) applications for funding through the 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program in support of the statewide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/SWAT Task Force, the statewide Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) Task Force, and the Securing of Crowded Places project. ([Council Communication No. 25-049](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

#### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

#### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: YES**

- Acceptance of award if funded.

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