# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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| CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE | Number: | **26-276** | Meeting: | **August 3, 2026** |
| | Agenda Item: | **36** | Roll Call: | **26-0901** |
| | Submitted by: | **Mike McTaggart, Chief of Police** | | |

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Recommend approval to accept the FY25 Homeland Security Grants in support of the statewide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) response teams.

**SYNOPSIS:**

The United States 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 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 the statewide response teams. The requested funding will be utilized to replace expired safety equipment that is essential to the effective preparedness capabilities of the teams. The teams must remain certified to be eligible for support through the grant program. The Police Department recommends approval of the grant funding to support statewide preparedness and public safety.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: FY25 Homeland Security Grants: WMD/SWAT $266,000
EOD (Bomb) $278,767

Funding Source: FY27 Recommended Operating Budget printed page 190.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The City of Des Moines has received Homeland Security grants in support of the WMD 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 is not included 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 grant funds to support the WMD teams will be used to purchase chemical protection suits to ensure team members are protected when addressing chemical, biological, radiological nuclear and explosive chemicals. The funding awarded in support of the EOD teams will be used to purchase a robot used to address explosive ordnances along with portable x-ray imaging plates.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: February 5, 2024

Roll Call Number: 24-0191

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

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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