

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	February 3, 2025
Action Required:	Appropriation of Funding
Presenter:	Michael Kochis, Police Chief
Staff Contacts:	Holly Bittle, Budget and Management Analyst Ross Cundiff
Title:	Resolution to Appropriate Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - \$25,375 (2nd reading)

Background

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program furthers the Department's mission by assisting state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence. The DOJ is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights, increases access to justice, supports crime victims, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community.

Discussion

To support its mission, the Charlottesville Police Department (CPD) is committed to better the treatment, safety, and well-being of all those who work within the Charlottesville Police Department.

If appropriated, these grant funds will allow CPD to equip the department's Special Response Team (SRT) members with Avon Protection C50 protective masks, as well as a KBT Powder Actuated Kinetic Energy Forced Entry Tool. These items will increase the SRT's operational readiness, capabilities, and equip the team with tools that will increase officer safety and prioritize the preservation of all life. The Avon Protection C50 protective mask would enable officers assigned to SRT to more effectively communicate verbally with other SRT members as well as any other individuals during an active incident. This capability greatly exceeds the current capabilities of the older traditional protective masks currently issued to officers assigned to SRT. The KBT forced entry tool would allow SRT members to make entry more quickly through a locked or barricaded doorway. This is especially important where there is an imminent or immediate threat to the safety of innocent life. In addition, the more time spent in this danger area can potentially lead to a higher chance of injury or death to an officer.

Notification of the award approval was received on December 5, 2024 for reimbursement up to \$25,375.00.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This project supports the Public Safety strategic outcome area of Council's Strategic Plan.

Community Engagement

The requested equipment will increase the Police Department's Special Response Team (SRT) operational readiness. In the event the SRT is deployed, this equipment will improve communications between the team and any other individuals involved in the event the SRT is deployed to an active incident.

Budgetary Impact

This has no impact on the General Fund. No local match is required. The funds will be expensed and reimbursed to a Grants Fund.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds.

Alternatives

If grants funds are not appropriated, the Police Department will be unable to purchase this updated equipment and improve officer and community safety.

Attachments

1. Resolution - JAG Grant_15PBJA-24-GG-04876
2. Certifications and Assurances by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government