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OAKLAND

19 AUG 29 PM 4:25

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Sabrina B. Landreth
City Administrator

FROM: Anne Kirkpatrick
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: 2018 OPD Crime Lab Coverdell Grant **DATE:** August 6, 2019

City Administrator Approval

Date:

8/28/19

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator, Or Designee, To Accept And Appropriate Grant Funds To The Oakland Police Department (OPD) In An Amount Not To Exceed Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$66,285) From The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) For The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program During The Grant Period Of January 1 – December 31, 2019 To Help OPD's Accredited Crime Lab Improve The Quality, Timeliness, And Credibility Of Forensic Science Services By Investing In Staff Training, Operational Expenses, and Equipment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPD was awarded a one-year grant of sixty-six thousand two hundred eighty-five dollars (\$66,285) from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) for Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program (the Coverdell program). The grant period is January 1 - December 31, 2019. Funding will be invested in a range of comprehensive conference, training, and training-related travel expenses for OPD Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) staff; many of the trainings are not only required for staff, but critical for OPD's Crime Lab to maintain its accreditation. Additionally, grant funds will be used to purchase crime scene supplies and tools and a variety of Crime Lab supplies and equipment (e.g. drug analysis equipment, firearms database software, and microscopes). Funds will allow up to fifteen (15) staff members in at least six forensic science areas to attend eleven training events.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Coverdell program awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner and coroner services. The funding amount of this award is formula-based. Among other things, funds may be used to

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September 10, 2019

eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.¹ A state or unit of local government that receives a Coverdell Grant must use the grant for a number of purposes, including:

1. Carry out all or a substantial part of a program intended to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science or medical examiner and coroner services in the State, including those services provided by laboratories operated by the State and those operated by units of local government within the State;
2. Eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic science evidence, including, among other things, a backlog with respect to firearms examination, latent prints, toxicology, controlled substances, forensic pathology, questioned documents, and trace evidence;
3. Train, assist and employ forensic laboratory personnel as needed to eliminate such a backlog;
4. Address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation); and
5. Educate and train forensic pathologists.

OPD has received twelve (12) Coverdell grants since 2008; past awards tended to be approximately one-third the size of the 2018 Coverdell grant that OPD was awarded, below the threshold requiring City Council approval. However, this year the program budget was increased at the state level; therefore, the formula-grant to OPD this year has increased to above the \$50,000 level requiring City Council approval.

ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

OPD's Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) does not have an independent budget for staff training; in order to maintain critical staff forensic certifications, OPD needs funds to provide training. Crime Lab staff are either certified by the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC), the Association of Firearms and Toolmarks Examiners (AFTE), the International Association for Identification (IAI), or are seeking relevant external certifications in their specialty area. OPD's Crime Lab goal is to maintain 100 percent certification for Crime Lab scientific staff (the current level is 83 percent).

Certification maintenance requires each certificate holder to demonstrate on-going professional development through training. OPD's laboratory ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) accreditation requires demonstrated continuing education for all scientific staff. In addition to these requirements, OPD expects this training to improve skills, knowledge and overall competence. This training is critical for maintaining the quality standards of Crime Lab forensic work. **Table 1** below details the expected Crime Lab staff trainings which will be completed with 2018 Coverdell grant funding.

¹ <https://www.nij.gov/topics/forensics/lab-operations/capacity/nfsia/pages/welcome.aspx>

Table 1: Crime Lab Projected Trainings in 2019

Individual	Title of Course	Purpose	Cost
Drug Analysis Unit Related Training			
1 Drug Unit Analyst	American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)	Annual conference on a wide range of forensic topics	\$1,806
1 Drug Unit Analyst	Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists (CLIC)	To keep up with emerging trends of drug chemistry and new types of submissions analyzed across the nation	\$2,240
1 Drug Unit Analyst	DEA Forensic Chemist Seminar	A fundamental course to train a new analyst in drug analysis	\$1,426
Latent Print Unit Related Training			
2 Latent Print Examiner II	International Association for Identification National Conference	Keep up with developments in the field of latent prints. Learning about technical improvements and efficient methodology will help reduce backlog	\$3,781
3 Latent Print Examiner II or III	Evolve Forensics: Essentials of Latent Print Examinations	Covers foundational knowledge of friction ridge discrimination. Excellent opportunity to provide continuing education to maintain IAI certification	\$2,739
Firearms Unit Related Training			
1 Firearms Examiner/Criminalist III	AFTE Conference	National meeting of Association of Firearms and Toolmarks Examiners covering topics in forensic firearms examination.	\$2,004
1 Firearms Examiner and IBIS Technician	Shot Show	Annual tradeshow to see new firearms and trends in the field	\$1,238
1 Firearms Examiner	CAC meeting registration (local)	Semi-annual meeting of California Forensic Professionals	\$300
Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Laboratory Management Related Training			
Quality Assurance Program Supervisor	CQE Examination	Certification for Quality Engineer	\$350
Quality Assurance Program Supervisor	Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM)	Training for quality managers in issues related to accreditation and risk management	\$1,995
Quality Assurance Program Supervisor and one other member of staff	ANAB Assessor Tuition	Coursework to become an assessor for ANAB. Assist with laboratory internal audits and assessing external labs to aid in adoption of best practices.	\$2,390
TOTAL			\$20,269

Other projects besides training can be taken on this year if the monies in this grant proposal are approved. The increased budget for the 2018 Coverdell grant affords the laboratory the opportunity to fund critical projects that have not been upgraded in recent years due to lack of funds. These include crime scene response, Drug Analysis Unit database and emerging drug standards acquisitions, firearms software upgrades, Latent Print Unit enhanced monitors for image analysis and Forensic Biology server and security upgrades as well as a microscope for improved casework documentation.

FISCAL IMPACT

CalOES will grant \$66,285 to OPD's Crime Lab over a one-year period to accomplish grant objectives. Specifically, funds will be spent on the following:

Use of Funds	Amount
Forensic Science Training Events and Related Travel	\$20,269
Supplies, Tools and Equipment for Crime Scene Response, Quality Assurance, Drug Analysis Unit, Firearms Unit, Forensic Biology Unit, and Latent Print Unit	\$30,416
Forensic Microscope and LIMS/CODIS server/software update	\$15,600
TOTAL	\$66,285

Funds will be allocated in the Criminalistics fund (2112), Crime Lab (102610), in the Project to be determined.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

No public outreach was required in the development of this report and resolution.

COORDINATION

This report and legislation have been reviewed by the Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Bureau.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: There are no economic opportunities identified in this report.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities identified in this report.

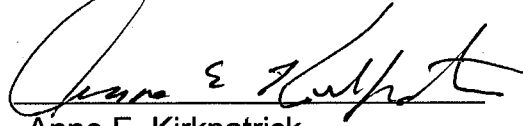
Social Equity: The activities completed under this grant will better position OPD's Crime Lab to maintain high quality services and training for staff; better Crime Lab services will benefit Oakland residents and visitors.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator, Or Designee, To Accept And Appropriate Grant Funds To The Oakland Police Department (OPD) In An Amount Not To Exceed Sixty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$66,285) From The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) For The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program During The Grant Period Of January 1 – December 31, 2019 To Help OPD's Accredited Crime Lab Improve The Quality, Timeliness, And Credibility Of Forensic Science Services By Investing In Staff Training, Operational Expenses, and Equipment.

For questions concerning this report, please contact Sandra Sachs, Manager of
OPD Criminalistics Laboratory at 510-238-2108.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne E. Kirkpatrick", is written over a horizontal line.

Anne E. Kirkpatrick
Chief of Police
Oakland Police Department

Reviewed by:
D. Nell Wallington, Fiscal Services Manager
OPD, Fiscal Services Division

Bruce Stoffmacher, Management Assistant
OPD, Research and Planning Unit

Prepared by:
Molly Giesen-Fields, Grants Coordinator
OPD, Fiscal Services Division

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

Micela Noyes
City Attorney

19 AUG 29 PM 4:25

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS TO THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT (OPD) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$66,285) FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (CALOES) FOR THE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM DURING THE GRANT PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2019 TO HELP OPD'S ACCREDITED CRIME LAB IMPROVE THE QUALITY, TIMELINESS, AND CREDIBILITY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE SERVICES BY INVESTING IN STAFF TRAINING, OPERATIONAL EXPENSES, AND EQUIPMENT.

WHEREAS, the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program (Coverdell Program), from the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), is designed to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner and coroner services, through grants to states and units of local government; and

WHEREAS, grant funds totaling sixty-six thousand two hundred eighty-five dollars (\$66,285) have been awarded by CalOES to OPD to continue its participation in the Coverdell grant program for the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the FY2018-19 Coverdell grant award period of performance is January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, OPD intends to use the grant funds to provide training to Crime Laboratory personnel; purchase Drug Analysis Spectral Libraries and Standards, Firearms Unit database and 3D software, Latent Print Unit reference materials, ink pads and improved monitors for print visualization, as well as a forensic biology microscope and other lab equipment; and purchase a variety of related supplies and tools; and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously authorized acceptance of twelve (12) similar Coverdell grants of much smaller amounts, not requiring City Council approval, since 2008; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council does hereby authorize the City Administrator or designee to accept and appropriate a grant award in the amount of sixty-six thousand two hundred eighty-five dollars (\$66,285) from CalOES; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the grant funds shall be maintained in the Criminalistics Fund (2112), Crime Lab (102610), in the Project to be determined; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or designee to act as an agent to conduct all negotiations and related actions and to sign all applications and agreements that may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned grant.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California