



San Bernardino County

Legislation Text

File #: 4295, Agenda Item #: 89

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO AND RECORD OF ACTION

June 8, 2021

FROM

JOHN McMAHON, Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator

SUBJECT

Grant Application to the U. S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Fiscal Year 2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Approve and authorize the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, in the amount of \$401,618.80 for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2023 for the Fiscal Year 2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program.
2. Authorize the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator to submit the electronic grant application, and accept related assurances and certifications, on behalf of the County, as requested by the U.S. Department of Justice, subject to review by County Counsel.
3. Direct the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator to transmit all documents in relation to this application to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days of execution.

(Presenter: John Ades, Captain, 387-0640)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

Pursue County Goals and Objectives by Working with Other Agencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will not result in the use of Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). If awarded, this grant would provide funding in the amount of \$401,618.80 to assist with backlogged DNA analysis and fund the cost of one Contract Criminalist position. If the application is successful, the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator (Department) will return to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for acceptance of the grant award and may request a budget adjustment as part of a future quarterly budget report, if necessary. No matching funds are required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department is seeking grant funds from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) that are available to states and local governments with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis. The funds are to be used for analyzing backlogged forensic DNA casework samples, as well as improving DNA laboratory infrastructure and analysis capacity so that forensic DNA samples can be processed efficiently and cost effectively.

The Department has received funding under this program since 2006-07, which has been used to replace outdated equipment, purchase supplies, and provide training and overtime for the crime laboratory's personnel.

The Department's application under the Fiscal Year 2021 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction Program (Program) requests funding for personnel and overtime, contract services, training/travel and supplies, to improve the crime laboratory's efficiency in processing cases. The funding for personnel costs will fund one Contract Criminalist position and overtime costs to provide additional staff time dedicated to DNA analysis.

The application for the Program requires the approval of certifications that are binding upon the County, as well as an up-front agreement to be bound by the conditions that will accompany the federal grant funds. No approval signatures are required until the grant is awarded. County Policy 05-13 requires Board approval to submit any grant application or related amendments that are legally binding.

PROCUREMENT

Not applicable.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Richard D. Luczak, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on May 18, 2021; Finance (Carolina Mendoza, Administrative Analyst, 387-0294) on May 20, 2021; and County Finance and Administration (Kelly Welty, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on May 20, 2021.