



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019**

**Council Session**

## **Item G-21**

**#2019-82 - Approving Police Department 24-Month Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Application**

**Staff Contact: Robert Falldorf, Police Chief**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Police Department

**Meeting:** February 26, 2019

**Subject:** 2019 VOCA Grant Application

**Presenter(s):** Robert Falldorf, Police Chief

## **Background**

The Police Department has received a Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Federal grant since 2004. The VOCA grant funds support the Police Department Victim/Witness Unit, consisting of a Coordinator and an Advocate. The VOCA grant requires a 20% match from the City. In 2017 the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) changed the VOCA grant fiscal year from an October 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> grant period to a July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> grant period. Due to this change this grant application will cover a 24-month period from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and all subsequent grants, unless amended, will run on the July through June fiscal period.

The Police Department is applying for a 24-month VOCA grant requesting \$233,710 from the federal government with a match of \$58,478. The match covers rent offset, telephone, Information Technology assistance, volunteer time, and bilingual pay. The total amount for this grant including the federal share and match share will be \$292,188.

This action is to obtain Council approval to apply for the grant. It does not obligate the City to accept the grant if approved. Approval of an awarded grant will require Council approval at a later date.

## **Discussion**

The Police Department has received a Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grant since 2004. The department must have City Council approval to apply for a grant and also to accept a grant if awarded. VOCA grants require a 20% match of costs by the City.

## **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the application for a 24-month Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grant by the Police Department to the U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the Police Department's 24-month Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the Victim/Witness Unit.

RESOLUTION 2019-82

WHEREAS, The U. S. Department of Justice has provided funding for Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grants and instituted a 24-month grant award process; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Island Police Department has a Victim/Witness Unit that serves as a valuable resource to victims of crime in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has received VOCA grant funding in past years to support the Victim/Witness Unit; and

WHEREAS, the VOCA grant application must be submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission in March for a total grant amount of \$292,188; and

WHEREAS, The Police Department must have Council approval to submit a VOCA grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the Police Department 24-month Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$292,188 to fund the Victim/Witness Unit.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 26, 2019.

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Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
March 8, 2019	☐ City Attorney