WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

DATE: December 16, 2020
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Victoria Jakubowski, Fiscal Compliance Officer, District Attorney
775-325-6710, vjakubowski@da.washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Christopher Hicks, District Attorney
SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [$50,000; no match required], from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance via the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and direct Human Resources to create two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions, as approved by the Job Evaluation Committee, to coordinate victim services retroactively from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement. (All commission districts)

SUMMARY
The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grants and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

The District Attorney's Office proposes to add two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions who will jointly serve as the point of contact for these cases, providing oversight of victim management, coordination, and the implementation of evidence-based and best practices. These individuals will serve on the Washoe County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), which coordinates the response to victims of sexual assault and serve as a critical resource for prosecuting sexual violence crimes

Award is retroactive to January 1, 2021. This is the first BCC meeting after documentation was available.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION
On June 16, 2020, the Board accepted accept a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to the to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [$46,093, no match] from the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance to fund equipment and training; retroactive from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The District Attorney's Office has identified a critical need for additional staff in the investigation of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking cases. In 2019, the agency saw a reduction in investigator contacts that was directly related to staff shortages. In recent months, the agency has applied for and/or added additional staff dedicated to the prosecution of these crimes. The next step includes the addition of investigation staff and this funding will make that possible.

The DA's Office is committed to becoming a model in Nevada for the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. We will collaborate with core partner agencies in Washoe County and implementing evidence-based practices. The addition of two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions make it possible for the DA's Office to improve the investigation of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking cases. These staff members will jointly serve as the point of contact for these cases, providing coverage for victim management, coordination, representation on SART, and the implementation of evidence-based and best practices

As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly.

Award is retroactive to January 1, 2021. This is the first BCC meeting after documentation was available.

GRANT FUNDING SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Improving Investigation of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Cases in Washoe County

Scope of the Project: Create and hire two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: To improve the investigation of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking cases.

On-Going Program Support: This is a pilot program. We will consider additional grant funding after the initial year.

Award Amount: $50,000

Grant Period: January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Funding Source: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety

CFDA Number: 16.738

Match Amount and Type: No match required for this federal funding

Sub-Awards and Contracts: This grant does not include a sub-award or contract.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board approve the contract, accept the federal funding, and approve these amendments, the FY21 Department name, adopted budget will be increased by $50,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-11804 – JAG 2021	431100-Federal Grants	$50,000
IO-11804 – JAG 2021	701130-Pooled Posotions	$50,000

Indirect costs are not permitted by the grantor.

As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly.

Grant funds shall be reported to grantor monthly and drawn as a reimbursement.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [$50,000; no match required], from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance via the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and direct Human Resources to create two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions, as approved by the Job Evaluation Committee, to coordinate victim services retroactively from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"*move to accept a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [$50,000; no match required], from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance via the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance and direct Human Resources to create two intermittent hourly Investigative Assistant positions, as approved by the Job Evaluation Committee, to coordinate victim services retroactively from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement."