



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 15, 2025

**DATE:** Thursday, April 10, 2025

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Steve Johnson, Forensic Science Division Director  
775-328-8721; [sjohnson@washoecounty.gov](mailto:sjohnson@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY24 Invited to Apply-Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, Award No 15PBJA-24-GG-00250-BRND [amount not to exceed \$996,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to retroactively execute the grant award documentation, and direct the Finance Department to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

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### **SUMMARY**

This item is presented seeking approval to accept the grant award from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Per county policy, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and direct the Finance Department to make the necessary budget amendments.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the Washoe County Sheriff's Office \$996,000.00 to fund the FY24 Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Rapid DNA Instruments project. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division will utilize these funds to pay costs associated with the establishment of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase two Rapid DNA instruments with associated software, chemical supplies, and service contracts. Additionally, funds from this grant will also be utilized to create a functional rapid instrument laboratory space accessible by trained rapid users to include personnel from law enforcement agencies.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Meet the needs of our growing community.

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None

## **BACKGROUND**

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division (WCSO-FSD) would like to create a Regional Rapid DNA program, whereby the WCSO-FSD works closely with law enforcement agencies in northern Nevada to accommodate the expeditious processing of good quality DNA evidence within a matter of hours versus months to generate investigative leads. The utilization of the Rapid DNA instruments will not replace conventional Forensic DNA testing but can be used on samples expected to have sufficient biological evidence to do both. Funds from this grant will be used to purchase two Rapid DNA instruments with associated software, chemical supplies, and service contracts. Additionally, funds from this grant will also be utilized to create a functional rapid instrument laboratory space that is accessible by trained rapid users to include personnel from law enforcement agencies. The Rapid DNA instruments will be housed at the Regional Public Safety Training Center which will have restricted access. The Manager's Board (comprised of the City of Reno Manager, the City of Sparks Manager, and the Washoe County Manager) approved using a portion of this facility for the Rapid DNA program at the October 30, 2024 meeting. As this is a brand-new program, an evaluation will be performed at the completion of the grant cycle which may include a cost analysis.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once award paperwork was received and processed.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *2024 Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program.*

**Scope of the Project:** *Funding for costs associated with the establishment of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *Expeditious processing of good quality DNA evidence within a matter of hours versus months to generate investigative leads.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *N/A.*

**Award Amount:** *\$996,000.00*

**Grant Period:** *10/1/24-9/30/26*

**Funding Source:** *Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs*

**Pass through From:** *Bureau of Justice Assistance*

**Assistance Listing #/CFDA Number:**16.753

**Grant ID Number:** 15PBJA-24-GG-00250-BRND

**Match Amount and Type:** None

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** Equipment will be purchased using Washoe County grant procurement processes compliant with 2 CFR 200.317-200.326.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Implementing this program at the Regional Public Safety Training Center requires periodic review of potential impacts associated with legal requirements of debt service and bond issuance. Should the Board accept this award and approve these amendments, the adopted FY25 budget will be increased by \$996,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	431100 - Federal Grants	\$996,000.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	710200 – Service Contracts	\$185,000.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$15,106.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	710319 – Chemical Supplies	\$269,180.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	711502 – Buildings and Improvements nonCapital	\$8,314.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	711504 – Equipment nonCapital	\$22,400.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	711508 – Computers noncapital	\$3,000.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	781004 – Equipment Capital	\$406,000.00
12507 FY24 Byrne Discretionary Community Projects Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	781009 – Computer Software Capital	\$87,000.00

There is no cash match required for this grant funding. This is reimbursement-based funding.

- *No match required*
- *Funds will be drawn as a reimbursement*
  - *General funds are source of the upfront cash*
- *Indirect cost reimbursement was not requested so that 100% of the grant funding can be directed towards enhancing public safety*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY24 Invited to Apply-Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, Award No 15PBJA-24-GG-00250-BRND [amount not to exceed \$996,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the establishment of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to retroactively execute the grant award documentation, and direct the Finance Department to make the necessary budget amendments.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY24 Invited to Apply-Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grants/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, Award No 15PBJA-24-GG-00250-BRND [amount not to exceed \$996,000.00, No County match required], to cover costs related to the establishment of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division Regional Rapid DNA Program, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to retroactively execute the grant award documentation, and direct the Finance Department to make the necessary budget amendments."