



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 21, 2025

DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Ami Irby, Detective Sergeant, Human Exploitation Recovery Operations (HERO)
775-564-9156, airby@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Darin Balaam, Sheriff

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a fiscal year 2026 Our Rescue grant award [amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, \$250.00 County match required] as administered from Our Rescue for a one-year Virtual Investigation Platform (VIP) Lite software subscription for the retroactive grant period of August 27, 2025 through subscription expiration date; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This item is presented seeking approval to accept the grant award from Our Rescue.

Per County policy, the Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

This grant has been awarded to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of a one-year subscription to Virtual Investigation Platform (VIP) Lite software to create online personas or profiles that will be used for the Human Exploitation and Recovery Operations (HERO) detectives to complete open-source investigations and intelligence gathering and allow the detectives to have undercover social media platforms to conduct investigations.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations: Support vulnerable populations with a regional approach

PREVIOUS ACTION

This is the first time the Washoe County Sheriff's Office has received grant funding from Our Rescue.

BACKGROUND

This grant has been awarded to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for one annual subscription to Virtual Investigation Platform (VIP) Lite for use by our Human

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Exploitation and Recovery Operations (HERO) unit, who combat human trafficking and exploitation through prosecution, protection, and prevention. The unit investigates and arrests traffickers, provides support for survivors, and raises public awareness.

VIP is a software as a service platform that provides a single environment for easy access, security, and confidentiality for our digital investigators. It is designed with security and accessibility in mind and does not require the user to access a separate standalone system for doing research, while still ensuring operational security for the user. VIP is accessible via a web browser from any computer, tablet, or smartphone that has an internet connection, allowing our digital investigators to continue their work from anywhere.

VIP is designed to leave no digital trail for the user, to keep persona accounts alive, and to make management of these as easy as possible. It is designed to scale and scale quickly, which means we can have the tool with all its features match the size of our teams at any given time. Outsourcing this solution to a commercial company lets us focus on core business functions like investigation and analysis, saving time and boosting productivity.

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

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *FY26 Our Rescue VIP Lite Grant*

Scope of the Project: *Subscribe to VIP Lite software to solve two critical time and resource-consuming challenges in persona management: streamlining persona creation and eliminating the learning curve.*

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *Increased capacity of the HERO Team to investigate and arrest human traffickers, provide support for survivors, and raise public awareness.*

On-Going Program Support: *N/A*

Award Amount: *\$5,000.00*

Grant Period: *08/27/2025 – Subscription Expiration Date*

Funding Source: *Our Rescue*

Pass Through Entity: *N/A*

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: *N/A*

Grant ID Number: *N/A*

Match Amount and Type: *\$250.00 cash*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *None*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Washoe County Sheriff's Office adopted budget will be increased by \$5,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-29079 FY26 Our Rescue VIP Lite	484195 – Non-Govt'l Grants	\$5,000.00
IO-29079 FY26 Our Rescue VIP Lite	710212 – Software Subscription	\$5,000.00

- \$250.00 match required, will be met with funding from the HERO Team's budget (Cost Center 150620)
- Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a fiscal year 2026 Our Rescue grant award [amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, \$250.00 County match required] as administered from Our Rescue for a one-year Virtual Investigation Platform (VIP) Lite software subscription for the retroactive grant period of August 27, 2025 through subscription expiration date; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance 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 fiscal year 2026 Our Rescue grant award [amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, \$250.00 County match required] as administered from Our Rescue for a one-year Virtual Investigation Platform (VIP) Lite software subscription for the retroactive grant period of August 27, 2025 through subscription expiration date; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments."