



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** November 17, 2020

**DATE:** October 21, 2020

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Victoria Jakubowski, Fiscal Compliance Officer, District Attorney's Office,  
325-6710 vjakubowski@da.washoecounty.us

**THROUGH:** Christopher J. Hicks, District Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$164,825; \$55,019 required match], from the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office to provide funding for a Deputy District Attorney III retroactive from July 1, 2020 through July 30, 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)

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### SUMMARY

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

The District Attorney's Office has received funding from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to the District Attorney's Office from the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office. This funding will pay for a Deputy District Attorney and replace the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative funding. This position will specialize in sexual assault and abuse cases.

Award is retroactive to July 1, 2020. This is the first BCC meeting date after award documents were completed.

County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 25, 2018, the Board accepted a Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of \$360,114 (no required match), from the State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General (AG) to hire a Full-Time Prosecutor and required training; retroactive from July 25, 2018 through September 30, 2019. Direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments, authorize Human Resources to create 1 FTE position of a Deputy District Attorney III, and retroactively authorize the District Attorney to sign the grant agreement.

**AGENDA ITEM #** \_\_\_\_\_

## **BACKGROUND**

Prosecution of human trafficking and sexual assault cases require specialized knowledge, abilities, and relationship skills. It is impractical for all Deputy District Attorneys with full caseloads to devote the necessary time and attention required for these specialized types of cases. The prosecutor needs to have strong relationships with law enforcement, experts, and the victims. This prosecutor will provide pre-arrest legal advice, screen cases, litigate and present cases to juries in Human Trafficking and other sex-crime cases.

Deputy District Attorney III position #70000121 already exists. Funding will change from SAKI grant to VAWA grant.

This grant approval is retroactive as we were waiting on paperwork and this was the first available meeting date.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Humand Trafficking and Sexual Assault Prosecutor

**Scope of the Project:** Deputy District Attorney dedicated to human trafficking, sexual assault, and sexual abuse cases

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Prosecution of sexual assault and human trafficking cases.

**On-Going Program Support:** Seek General Funds or grants

**Award Amount:** \$164,825

**Grant Period:** July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

**Funding Source:** U.S. Department of Justice; Office on Violence Against Women

**Pass Through Entity:** Nevada Office of the Attorney General

**CFDA Number:** 16.588

**Grant ID Number:** 2020-VAWA-53

**Match Amount and Type:** \$55,019.00

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** n/a

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 Department name, adopted budget will be increased by \$154,105 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>
IO-11778 FY21 VAWA STOP	431100-Federal Grants	\$154,105.00
IO-11778 FY21 VAWA STOP	701412-Salary Adjustment	\$107,205.00
IO-11778 FY21 VAWA STOP	705360-Benefit Adjustment	\$46,855.00

Indirect costs of 10% of salary are included in the grant budget [\$10,720].

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

Match is required in the amount of \$55,019 using Cost Center 106100 personnel (Deputy District Attorney who performs a similar fundtion).

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$164,825; \$55,019 required match], from the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office to provide funding for a Deputy District Attorney III retroactive from July 1, 2020 through July 30, 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 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$164,825; \$55,019 required match], from the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office to provide funding for a Deputy District Attorney III retroactive from July 1, 2020 through July 30, 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."