

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: August 25, 2022

FROM: Sheriff John Matz

RE: State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agency Initiative Grant

General Description:

Authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept a \$113,209.00 State of Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agency Initiative Grant for training, equipment, and recruitment incentives.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve resolution for acceptance of the \$113,209.00 grant from the State Wisconsin Law Enforcement Agency Initiative program.

Procedural Steps:

(Show each level of committee and board approval needed, with meeting dates.)

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary _____ Meeting date: 9/12/2022

Action taken: _____ APPROVED _____ Vote: 5-0

Other Committee: Personnel and Finance _____ Meeting date: 10/06/2022

Action taken: _____ APPROVED _____ Vote: 4-0

County Board _____ Meeting date: 10/11/2022

Background:

In March of 2022 Governor Evers announced a new investment for law enforcement agencies statewide, which included \$19 million allocated to each and every local and tribal law enforcement agency across the entire state. The allocation for each law enforcement agency is based on the size of the population served. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office portion is allocated at \$113,209. The State provided mechanism for receiving the funding first became available on August 16, 2022.

This reimbursement program is intended to provide law enforcement agencies with additional resources within specific grant parameters to cover costs associated with recruitment incentives, training, testing, and equipping law-enforcement officers as well as updating certain technology and policies and crime-reduction initiatives.

Policy Discussion:

The Sheriff's Office plans to use this generous allocation to assist in funding programs that have been fiscally outside of the realm of possibility, as they have been cost-prohibitive. Within the regular budget, the Sheriff's Office has not been in a position to absorb additional costs, and has routinely had to make staffing cuts to meet budget constraints. To give some perspective, the Sheriff's Office had 208 FTE positions on the Table of Organization in 2019. The proposed Table of Organization for 2023 contains 193

FTE positions. This is a reduction in 15 FTE positions in a four-year time span in an effort to meet the fiscal restraints imposed by tax levy limits.

The funds from this program have specific uses and can be used to reimburse the costs of providing training to help reduce violence and improve community safety, including programs to train officers in any of the following subject areas: crisis intervention, including training for interactions with individuals suffering from mental illness and addiction; resiliency and suicide prevention; use-of-force options and de-escalation tactics, including scenario-based training aimed at stabilizing potentially dangerous situations to allow more time and options for safe resolution; implicit bias; active bystander training; the emergency detention process; homicide investigation; any annual recertification training required by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board; and costs related to training and equipping K9 teams.

Attachments:

Attachment 1-Resolution

Attachment 2-Budget Transfer