

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: November 17, 2022

FROM: Sheriff John Matz

RE: State of Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Homeland Security Grant

General Description:

Authorize the Sheriff's Office to accept a \$3,200 WEM HS Alert equipment grant.

Action Requested:

Motion to approve resolution for acceptance of \$3,200 WEM HS Alert equipment grant.

Procedural Steps:

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

Committee of Jurisdiction: Judiciary_____ Meeting date: 12/05/2022

Action taken: _____ Vote:

Other Committee: Personnel and Finance____ Meeting date: 01/05/2023

Action taken: _____ Vote: _____

County Board Meeting date: 01/17/2023

Background:

Winnebago County has a regional SWAT Team that is one of nine specialized regional, multijurisdictional teams in the state. The State of Wisconsin regularly provides additional funding for specialized and technical equipment, offering the funds specifically and solely to the nine regional teams, to enhance performance and capabilities regionally. This grant will support the Aligned Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT) initiative of providing funding to the regional response teams for specialize equipment for marksman for responding to high-risk situations.

Policy Discussion:

One of the most critical requirements while resolving a high-risk or critical incident is the ability to gather current, and real-time information and intelligence. Often times due to the heightened threat of these incidents, being able to directly observe areas, structures, or vehicles are hampered due to safety concerns, or overexposing deputies. SWAT team members and deputies oftentimes have to sacrifice their safety and positioning in order to gather necessary intelligence during an incident.

A key component of any SWAT team is its dedicated marksmen and observers. These marksmen are often given the task of selecting a covert position and maintaining observations of a specific area, structure, or vehicle. In order to facilitate this task safely, they rely on covert positioning and camouflage. In order to maintain a covert position, they are required to use outside terrain, structures, or vehicles to establish their observation position. These varying terrains may provide concealment, but do not always provide a stable, or efficient observation platform. Marksmen and observers have been forced to construct their

own observation platforms and equipment in order to complete this critical task. This specialized grant will allow the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team the ability to purchase and update the observation tools utilized by our marksmen and other team members. These tools will enhance their ability to observe, gather data, and provide real-time intelligence to Commanders. The Sheriff's Office will purchase two tripods, camouflage tripod covers, high magnification monocular or spotting scope, laser range finder, and polarized lens caps. The tripods will provide a stable and multi-functional observation platform that can be used in any terrain or position. The tripods will supply a stable platform for high magnification monoculars or binoculars, and can be used in various terrain, vehicles, residences, and aid in the proper use of cover and concealment. The high magnification monocular or spotting scope allows the observers to see clearly, and have the ability to be positioned further away from a high-risk area to maintain safety, but not inhibit their observation abilities. The laser rangefinder provides accurate data to be used by the observers and to provide real-time information to Commanders. During critical incidents, observers are often attempting to observe or identify suspects, while the suspects are inside residences, structures, or vehicles. A common barrier that they encounter is glass windows. The polarized lens caps help to eliminate the glare from glass, and greatly improve the ability to see through glass, and into an area of interest. All of the equipment purchased will greatly improve the abilities of the SWAT Team, and assist in the safe resolution of critical incidents within Winnebago County.

Attachments:

Attachment 1-Resolution

Attachment 2-Budget Transfer