



Board Agenda Item 28

DATE: December 17, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: John Zaroni, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

SUBJECT: Retroactive Grant Application/Award/Agreement for Central California Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program and Grant Award

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1. Retroactively approve and authorize the Sheriff's previous submittal of an online grant application on behalf of the County to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), for the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program, effective October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$469,594;**
- 2. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Sheriff's, or his designee's, execution of retroactive Grant Award/Agreement Number 15PJDP-22-GK-04888-MECP, which requires compliance with assurances and certifications that relate to conduct during the performance of the Award/Agreement on behalf of the County to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), for the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program, effective October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025, in the amount of \$469,594;**
- 3. Authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to sign claims for reimbursement, activity reports, and extend the grant ending date to expend allocated funding; and**
- 4. Authorize the Sheriff, or his designee to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in substantially the form as attached to this item to add new participating law enforcement, investigative, and prosecutorial agencies to the ICAC task force, subject to approval as to legal form by County Counsel.**

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with these recommended actions, which will approve an agreement with DOJ/OJP/OJJDP for the continuation of the Central California ICAC Task Force (Task Force) program. The first recommended action retroactively approves submittal of the online grant application on behalf of the County. The second recommended action retroactively authorizes the Sheriff's, or their designee's, execution of the cooperative agreement for the third year of the three-year grant program. The third recommended action authorizes the Sheriff to sign documents associated with this grant agreement, and extend the grant ending date to expend allocated funding. The fourth recommended action will authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to execute MOUs with any agencies that would like to be added to the ICAC task force, subject to approval as to legal form by County Counsel. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Not approving the recommended actions will result in cancellation of the grant, and de-obligation of the allocated Federal funding.

RETROACTIVE AGREEMENT:

The recommended agreement is retroactive to October 1, 2024. DOJ/OJP/OJJDP published a letter of invitation for ICAC 2022 application on September 18, 2024. To meet the application deadline of October 10, 2024, the Department submitted the online application on October 7, 2024, contingent upon your Board's approval. The Sheriff's Office was notified on November 1, 2024, that the application was accepted for funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. Sufficient appropriations and estimated revenues are included in the Sheriff's Org 31116309 FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget and will be included in future budget requests to fund one Deputy Sheriff position, one Community Service Officer position, and associated costs for the Task Force. If funding goes away, positions will be deleted unless an alternative funding source is found. There is no match requirement associated with the program.

DISCUSSION:

OJJDP created the ICAC Task Force Program, a national network of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to enforce laws regarding ICAC, under the Missing and Exploited Children's programs within the Department of Justice Appropriations Act. The Sheriff's Office is the recipient of a DOJ/OJP/OJJDP grant to enforce laws regarding ICAC and has been using the funds to administer and operate the Task Force.

On November 28, 2023, your Board accepted the ICAC award for the performance period from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, in the amount of \$491,054; as well as the second of the three-year cooperative agreement. On January 24, 2023, your Board accepted the ICAC award for the performance period from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, in the amount of \$449,906; as well as the first of the three-year cooperative agreement. . The first recommended action will retroactively approve and authorize the Sheriff's submittal of an on-line application for the third of the three-year cooperative agreement. The second recommended action will retroactively approve the Sheriff's, or their designee's, execution of the Grant Agreement.

The grant is requesting to continue funding one Deputy Sheriff position, and one Community Service Officer position to investigate internet crimes perpetrated against children; to provide educational programs aimed at law enforcement officers, teachers, parents, and children; to serve as a forensic resource to law enforcement agencies; and to participate in nationally-coordinated investigations. The application is also requesting to fund travel costs associated with task force training, software programs, and miscellaneous office supplies. The Task Force is dedicated to locating, identifying, and arresting those who prey upon our children, and who sexually exploit children through the use of technology, including the crime of child pornography.

The Task Force service area is comprised of nine (9) counties within Central California, and presently provides training and support to sixty-four (64) cooperating affiliate agencies. Approval of the third recommended action will allow the Sheriff's Office to execute MOUs with those agencies involved in the Task Force, as well as add new agencies to the Task Force. The agencies currently participating include:

1. Arroyo Grande Police Department
2. Atascadero Police Department
3. Avenal Police Department
4. Bakersfield Police Department
5. Bishop Police Department
6. California BFS: Fresno
7. California Highway Patrol: Fresno

8. CDCR: State Parole: Bakersfield
9. CDCR: State Parole: Fresno
10. CDCR: State Parole: Visalia
11. Chowchilla Police Department
12. Clovis Police Department
13. Clovis Unified School District Police Department
14. Coalinga Police Department
15. Coalinga State Hospital Services
16. Corcoran Police Department
17. Dinuba Police Department
18. Exeter Police Department
19. Farmersville Police Department
20. Firebaugh Police Department
21. Fowler Police Department
22. Fresno County District Attorney's Office
23. Fresno County Probation Department
24. Fresno Police Department
25. Grover Beach Police Department
26. Hanford Police Department
27. Inyo County Sheriff's Office
28. Kerman Police Department
29. Kern County District Attorney's Office
30. Kern County Sheriff's Office
31. Kings County District Attorney's Office
32. Kingsburg Police Department
33. Lemoore Police Department
34. Lindsay Police Department
35. Los Banos Police Department
36. Madera County Sheriff's Office
37. Madera Police Department
38. Mariposa County Sheriff's Office
39. Mendota Police Department
40. Merced County District Attorney's Office
41. Merced County Sheriff's Office
42. Merced Police Department
43. Parlier Police Department
44. Paso Robles Police Department
45. Pismo Beach Police Department
46. Porterville Police Department
47. Reedley Police Department
48. Ridgecrest Police Department
49. San Luis Obispo Sheriff 's Office
50. San Luis Obispo Police Department
51. Sanger Police Department
52. Selma Police Department
53. Tehachapi Police Department
54. Tulare County Bureau of Investigations
55. Tulare County District Attorney's Office
56. Tulare County Sheriff's Office
57. Tulare Police Department
58. University of California Police Department: Cal Poly Tech
59. Visalia Police Department
60. Woodlake Police Department
61. Madera County District Attorney's Office

- 62. Coalinga Police Department
- 63. Dos Palos Police Department
- 64. Gustine Police Department
- 65. San Luis Obispo County District Attorney's Office

The form MOU contains mutual indemnification language, which is not standard in County agreements, but is common in the County's agreements with other public agencies. The Department believes that the benefits of entering into this MOU would outweigh the associated risks.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

- BAI #39, November 28, 2023
- BAI #25, January 24, 2023

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

- On file with Clerk - Grant Application
- On file with Clerk - Grant Award/Agreement
- On file with Clerk - MOU

CAO ANALYST:

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