

Agenda Report

November 22, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: RECOGNIZE REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$92,500 OF A \$125,000 TWO YEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACT (LEMHWA) PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment;
2. Authorize the City Manager to accept the grant award in the amount of \$125,000; and
3. Amend the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriations of \$92,500 in the Police Department's General Fund (101) as detailed in the Fiscal Impact Section of this report.

BACKGROUND:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 **Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program** funds are used to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs. The FY21 LEMHWA program will fund projects that develop knowledge; increase awareness of effective mental health and wellness strategies; increase the skills and abilities of law enforcement; and increase the number of law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders using peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other promising practices for wellness programs.

Law Enforcement personnel (sworn officers, dispatchers, and operations support staff) are consistently exposed to situations daily that other people may never experience in their line of work. Due to the nature of the work, they are at an increased risk of experiencing a variety of personal and professional issues but are often resistant to seeking help. Police personnel often respond to incidents that can be stressful and traumatic. In doing so, law enforcement personnel are inherently impacted by the trauma on all different levels whether it be acutely, chronically or vicariously. These high levels of exposure often times lead law enforcement personnel to experience anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse and suicide.

The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act was signed into law in January 2018. The LEMHWA act is in place to create awareness and show the importance of keeping officers safe, healthy and well on the job and in their personal lives. The object of this program is to create a system of organizational and professional support that fosters awareness, prevention and intervention through education, training and accessibility to mental health resources. The goals of this program are to:

- Change the organizational culture and build capacity to reduce stigma and bring awareness of mental health and wellness services
- Increase awareness of resources provided by peer support through training and technology.
- Provide accessibility to tools for mental health and wellness resources to all PPD employees and their families.
- Improving awareness of the Wellness Unit and reducing the stigma around mental health
- Provide agency wide training on wellness and resiliency

On June 9, 2021, the Police Department submitted their grant application requesting grant funding in the amount of \$125,000 to expand and improve the current peer support and wellness unit. All funding will allow PPD to provide personnel and the respective family members with the much-needed resources to build a resilient, healthy, and effective agency that continues to provide world-class service. This proposal focuses on prioritizing and supporting officer wellness and health by 1) Providing agency-wide training to establish a culture of wellness and resiliency; 2) Enhancing the knowledge and skills of PPD's Peer Outreach Wellness and Resiliency (P.O.W.R.) team through refresher and advanced training; 3) Providing PPD employees and the respective family members with on-demand access to relevant, trusted, and effective wellness resources, and; 4) Improving awareness of the Wellness Unit and reducing the stigma around mental health through educational material for all employees.

On October 14, 2021, the Police Department received notification that the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) approved the application submitted for an award under the LEMHWA Project in the amount of \$125,000. The grant period runs from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023. No matching funds are required by the City.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Plan Goals to ensure public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed purchase order contract has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Such is the case with the proposed grant from the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This action will amend the Police Department's Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriations of \$92,500. The funding from the Department of Justice will be used to fund the costs of wellness related programs and activities as detailed in the chart below. The remaining funds of \$32,500 will be budgeted during the annual Operating Budget cycle. There are no anticipated indirect or support costs such as maintenance and IT support.


Budget Item	Account String	Amount
Equipment	10133018-810900-91216	\$ 2,000
Travel/Training	10133018-812700-91216	\$58,000
Supplies	10133018-811400-91216	\$32,500
Total Appropriation		\$92,500
Total Revenue	10133018-624000-91216	\$92,500

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN E. PEREZ

Chief of Police
Pasadena Police Department

Prepared by:


Domino Scott-Jackson, Sergeant
Special Operations Section

Approved by:


STEVE MERMELL
City Manager