

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 9, FILE #090520**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

File #080931 authorizes the application, acceptance and funding of a COPS Technology 2009 Gunshot Locator grant from the United States Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services in the amount of \$650,000. Grant proceeds will be used to purchase 2 gunshot locator systems which utilize wide area acoustic surveillance to detect, locate and track gunfire. Operation of this 100% donor funded earmark grant is for the period September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012.

BACKGROUND

Administered through the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Technology grants provide funding for the continued development of technologies and automated systems that help state and local law enforcement agencies prevent, respond to, and investigate crime. Funding allows law enforcement agencies to purchase technologies to advance communications, interoperability, information sharing, crime analysis, intelligence gathering, and crime prevention in their jurisdictions.

A gunshot locator system utilizes acoustic sensors to distinguish gunfire “impulses” within a defined geographic zone. The system is able to distinguish a non-threatening event such as a firecracker or a motorcycle from the discharge of a weapon. Every incident captured by a gunshot locator system includes the precise location of the gunshots, the direction of car travel if fired from a moving vehicle, audio data that can reveal the weapon caliber, the number of rounds fired, and the number of guns involved. Sent over a network to dispatch and command centers, this information can be used by police and other first responders in providing more immediate aid to injured victims, preventing an escalation of violence, finding and preserving critical evidence, and interviewing witnesses. In addition, every gunfire incident detected by the locator system is easily retrieved to aid follow-up investigations, crime analysis, and contribute to prosecution evidence.

DISCUSSION

This grant will fund the purchase of 2 gunshot locator systems along with support services. Cost breakdown is provided below. All funding is provided by the grantor, with no required City participation.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
WGLS Metro Wireless System	\$199,500	2	\$ 399,000
System Maintenance	\$64,200	2	128,400
Non-Contiguous Coverage Fee	29,000	1	29,000
Support Costs	31,200	3	<u>93,600</u>
Total			\$650,000

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of this grant requires no City participation and has no impact on the tax levy.

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