


July 31, 2023

To: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 

202301849

Subject: Emergency Ordinance – Police: Virtual Reality De-Escalation Site-Based Initiative Grant

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

AUTHORIZING the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a FY 2023 Virtual Reality De-Escalation Site-Based Initiative Grant of up to \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (ALN 16.054), to develop and operate technology solutions to improve officer training; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Law Enforcement Grant Fund 368, project account no. 23VRDI.

This Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a FY 2023 Virtual Reality De-Escalation Site-Based Initiative Grant of up to \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice of Assistance (BJA) (ALN 16.054), to develop and operate technology solutions to improve officer training. This Emergency Ordinance further authorizes the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Law Enforcement Grant Fund 368, project account no. 23VRI.

The Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Virtual Reality De-Escalation Site-Based Initiative Grant is available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (ALN 16.054), to develop and operate technology solutions to improve officer training through the utilization of virtual reality-based technology and provide for specialized training focused on de-escalation of situations involving individuals in crisis.

The grant application deadline was July 6, 2023, and the City has already applied for the grant prior to this deadline, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

There are no new FTEs associated with this grant, and no matching funds are required.

Acceptance of this grant is in accordance with the “Live” goal to “[c]reate a more livable community” as described on pages 156-163 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is to ensure timely acceptance of the grant funds.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew Dudas, Budget Director
Karen Alder, Finance Director

Attachment

