
Sponsor: Sheriff's Office

Meeting Date: 10/3/2023

Title: Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety
for Driving While Impaired and Traffic Safety Enforcement

File Number: 2023-398

Background and Rationale:

On August 10, 2023, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, in the amount of \$150,000. This is the second grant award for Driving While Impaired and Traffic Safety Enforcement for the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and represents a 20% increase from last year.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, promotes the safety of public roadways. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides federal funding to the Department of Public Safety to implement Minnesota's highway safety program to reduce traffic crashes and the deaths, injuries, and property damage resulting from those crashes. To that end, the Office of Traffic Safety is funding grants to law enforcement agencies for full-time Driving While Impaired/Traffic Safety Officers.

From 2018 to 2022, Ramsey County had an average 146 traffic fatalities and serious injuries crashes per year, with 38 related to speed, 35 related to alcohol, 13 related to nonuse of seatbelts, and 11 related to distracted driving. Ramsey County is the second highest county in the state for fatalities and serious injuries behind Hennepin County.

The funding provided by this grant is for salary, benefits, and overtime for one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Deputy Sheriff. The Deputy Sheriff will work the peak nights and times when data indicates impaired driving is most likely to occur. While primarily seeking to detect and interdict impaired drivers, the Deputy Sheriff will also focus on the dangerous driving behaviors of speeding, distracted driving, and occupant protection.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety in the amount of \$150,000 for Driving While Impaired and Traffic Safety Enforcement.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$150,000.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Frethem

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board