

Request for Board Action Details

File #: 2021-298

Type: Administrative Item **Status:** Passed

In control: Board of Commissioners

On agenda: 6/15/2021 **Final action:** 6/15/2021

Title: Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Commerce for Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program - Youth Intervention Project

Sponsors: County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Grant Agreement - General Auto Theft Prevention, 2. Resolution

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/15/2021	1	Board of Commissioners	approved	Pass

Sponsor: County Attorney's Office

Title

Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Commerce for Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program - Youth Intervention Project

Recommendation

1. Accept a grant award of \$499,929.60 and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Commerce for Auto Theft Prevention Program - Youth Intervention Program for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
3. Approve an increase in the personnel complement of the Sheriff's Office by 1.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff.
4. Approve an increase in the personnel complement of the County Attorney's Office by 1.0 FTE Assistant County Attorney.

Background and Rationale

This board action is one of two requests related to auto theft prevention grants from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Commerce Fraud Bureau, Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program. Both the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office applied for and were awarded grant funds from the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program for the next two state fiscal years (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023).

The Minnesota Automobile Theft Prevention Program is intended to reduce auto theft and auto theft related crimes. Under this state program, grant funds are awarded for programs and services that aid in the reduction of auto thefts, increase education and awareness of the community, respond to auto theft incidents, and prosecute offenders. This grant, administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Commerce Fraud Bureau, provides financial support to communities that (1) engage in collaborative efforts to reduce auto theft and (2) have the greatest rates of automobile theft.

Ramsey County has some of greatest auto theft rates in the state:

- Ramsey County accounts for 9% of the state's population, but 28% of its auto thefts.
- Of the 417 law enforcement agencies in Minnesota, only six agencies responded to more auto thefts in 2019 than the Sheriff's Office.
- In the past year, approximately 40% of persons involved in auto thefts in Ramsey County were under the age of 25.
- Recent data suggests an increase in auto vehicle thefts accompanied by a more serious charge of aggravated robbery or assault (i.e., "car-jacking").
- Incidents of car-jackings in Ramsey County have mostly involved individuals operating as a group and under the age of 25.
- From 2018 to 2020, the number of juvenile auto-theft cases referred to the County Attorney's Office increased nearly 25%, accompanied by an increase in repetitive criminal conduct.

This grant provides a rare opportunity for the County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, and the community to partner together to focus resources on intervention and prevention of auto theft and auto theft related offenses. In the past year, approximately 40% of persons involved in motor vehicle thefts in Ramsey County were under the age of 25. Recent data suggests an increase in motor vehicle thefts accompanied by a more serious charge of aggravated robbery or assault (i.e., "car-jacking").

Employing the fundamentals of an approach known as focused deterrence, this grant will implement a pilot project aimed at deterring and reducing juvenile and young adult motor vehicle thefts. The core components of this work incorporate three basic elements: community members with moral authority over group members to deliver a credible message against violence; law enforcement to place individuals and groups on prior notice about the consequences of further group-involved violence for the group; and, support and outreach providers making a genuine offer of help to those who want it.

With this grant, funding will be provided for a focused deterrence Assistant Ramsey County Attorney (prosecutor), a focused deterrence Deputy Sheriff, a community-based partner (contract services), and a restorative justice specialist (contract services).

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

☒ Well-being ☒ Prosperity ☒ Opportunity ☒ Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

The Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office remains committed to monitoring and reviewing program outcomes through a racial equity lens. Both elected offices will monitor this program for any disparities.

Community Participation Level and Impact

The County Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office has engaged community groups, including with the African American Leadership Council and Black Ministerial Alliance. With this grant, the two elected offices will seek community members as volunteers to serve as circle participants who will provide a critical layer of support to young people and their families who reach out and make connections to community-based services.

In addition, information about this action is available through County Board documentation that is published on the County's website at

www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/board-commissioners/board-meetings-information
<<http://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/board-commissioners/board-meetings-information>>.

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

Fiscal Impact

State grant funds of \$499,929.60 will pay for personnel and non-personnel expenditures through June 30, 2023.

County Manager Comments

County Board approval is required to accept grant awards over \$100,000 and to increase the personnel complement.

Last Previous Action

On November 24, 2015, the County Board approved the Auto Theft Prevention Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Resolution B2015-562).

On June 16, 2015, the County Board Approved an increase in the personnel complement of the County Attorney's Office by 0.5 FTE Assistant County Attorney, designated to the unclassified service, for the Auto Theft Prevention Grant (Resolution B2015-290).

On September 4, 2012, the County Board approved the Auto Theft Prevention Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Resolution 2012-249).

Attachments

1. Grant Agreement - Youth Auto Theft Intervention Project (General Auto Theft Prevention)