CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Agenda Date:	August 21, 2023
Action Required:	Appropriation of Funding Approval of City Manager Signature on Statement of Grant Award and Applicable Grant Agreements
Presenter:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager, Kim Powell - Schools
Staff Contacts:	Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	**Resolution to appropriate funds from the Department of Criminal Justice Systems FREE GRANT School Security Officer: School Resource Officer Incentive Grant Program - $150,000 (1 of 2 readings)**

Background

The Office of Community Solutions in coordination with the Charlottesville City Schools applied for and received a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The FREE GRANT FY24 School Security Officer: School Resource Officer (SSO: SRO) Incentive Grant Program total allocations is $150,000 to be expended between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Discussion

Charlottesville City Schools currently employs seven (7) Care and Safety Assistants (CSA's), which are Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) certified School Security Officers (SSOs). The seven CSA's are currently distributed across Charlottesville City Schools as follows:

- Charlottesville High School (4 CSA's total)

  1. 1 Lead
  2. 3 CSA's

- Buford Middle School (3 CSA's total)

  1. 1 Lead
  2. 2 CSA's

- Walker Upper Elementary School (0 CSA's total)

As the safety model for the Charlottesville City Schools has continued to evolve, a need for additional CSAs has been identified, specifically 1 additional CSA at Charlottesville High School to provide full campus coverage, and 2 CSAs at Walker Upper Elementary School to provide services to their students.

This grant opportunity will provide funding for 3 additional CSAs to be distributed between Charlottesville High School and Walker Upper Elementary School.

The CSA will provide the following services:

- Access and Control to the School Buildings

  1. Check the identity of visitors on school premises
  2. Escort visitors to the school office or other locations on the school premises

- Patrolling of School Grounds and Buildings

  1. Check hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, and remote areas for potential safety and security problems
  2. Check doors, windows, gates, and/or rook access points
  3. Investigate suspicious behavior and/or activities
  4. Detect safety hazards (e.g. broken tree limbs, security door propped open, etc.)
  5. Physically place yourself at a hot spot for violations

- Incident Response Drills and Training

  1. Active shooter drills
  2. Secure-the-building
  3. Shelter-in-place

- Intervention- Proactive and Reactive

  1. Early referral of individuals exhibiting mental health issues
  2. Separate individuals or groups where there is hostility between them
  3. Encourage students to use positive verbal and behavioral alternatives
  4. Encourage academic achievement and positive involvement in the school community
  5. Model effective communication skills daily
  6. Discuss the logical consequences of disobeying school rules and regulations
  7. Respond to requests for routine and/or emergency medical assistance
  8. Sound alarms or call the police or fire department
  9. Report incidents to the school administrator
  10. Report incidents to the school administrator
  11. Refer students having problems to administrative staff

- Traffic Control and Parking Enforcement

  1. Direct traffic (e.g. during special events or where the layout of the school creates greater potential for safety incidents)
  2. Patrol parking lots, checking for proper permits and issuing citations for improper parking
  3. Assist with impounding vehicles

- Support Disaster and Emergency Response

  1. Escort and guide individuals to pre-determined shelter locations
  2. Escort and guide individuals to fire evacuation assembly areas
  3. Assist in controlling the assembly area and name-checking to account for people
  4. Assist in marshaling pick-up areas

- Monitoring Security Cameras/ Technology

  1. Monitor security cameras and other technology
  2. Inspect equipment to make sure it is working properly
  3. Report equipment issues to school administrators (e.g. broken equipment, equipment not in the appropriate place)

- Ad Hoc Assistance to the Community

  1. Support the safe and secure coordination of special events
  2. Provide escorts to people who feel unsafe
  3. Other assigned duties

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan
This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's Community Vision Statement within the Consolidated Plan which states, "The City will prioritize equitable and effective emergency response and public safety, with clear strategies aimed at building trust and confidence in all neighborhoods". This grant provides additional staff at Charlottesville City Schools to increase the safety of students and provide additional resources to the students of Charlottesville City Schools.

Community Engagement
There was no direct community engagement for this grant. However, extensive research has been conducted to show the need for School Resource Officers in schools.

Budgetary Impact

This grant is state funded at $45,720 with a local match requirement of $104,280 which will be met by Charlottesville City Schools. There is no budget impact for the City of Charlottesville. All funds will be distributed to Charlottesville City Schools for service provision.

Recommendation
Staff recommends approval and appropriation of grant funds. Staff recommends the approval of appropriate signatures for the Statement of Grant Award and any applicable grant agreements by the City Manager.

Suggested Motion: "I move to recommend the APPROVAL of the appropriation of $45,720 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services" and the signature by the City Manager or their delegate on the Statement of Grant Award and applicable grant agreements to accept the funding allocation".

Alternatives
Council may elect to not accept the funds and Charlottesville City Schools will not have the capacity to administer the following services to the students at Charlottesville City Schools access and control to the school building, patrolling of school grounds and buildings, incident response drills and training, intervention- proactive and reactive, traffic control and parking enforcement, support disaster and emergency response, monitoring security cameras/ technology, and ad-hoc assistance to the community.

Attachments
1.   FREE GRANT SSO SRO Incentive Grant Program Resolution