

Agency Name: Fort Bend County

Grant/App: 4938001 **Start Date:** 10/1/2024 **End Date:** 9/30/2025

Project Title: Investigative Response Support Kit

Status: Application Pending Submission

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Fort Bend County

Project Title: Investigative Response Support Kit

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office

Address Line 1: 301 Jackson Street

Address Line 2:

City/State/Zip: Richmond Texas 77469-3108

Start Date: 10/1/2024

End Date: 9/30/2025

Regional Council of Governments(COG) within the Project's Impact Area: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Headquarter County: Fort Bend

Counties within Project's Impact Area: Fort Bend

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

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Email: county.judge@fortbendcountytexas.gov

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City: Richmond, Texas 77469

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Title: The Honorable

Salutation: Judge

Position: County Judge

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Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of this funding is to support projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

Certifications

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

Constitutional Compliance

Applicant assures that it will not engage in any activity that violates Constitutional law including profiling based upon race.

Information Systems

Applicant assures that any new criminal justice information systems will comply with data sharing standards for the Global Justice XML Data Model and the National Information Exchange Model.

Bulletproof Vests

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body armor with grant funds, that it has adopted a mandatory wear policy and that all vests purchased have been tested and found to comply with the latest applicable National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ballistic or stab standards. Additionally, vests purchased must be American-made.

Cybersecurity Training Requirement

Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not be in compliance with the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Government](#). A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training programs, visit the [Texas Department of Information Resources Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training](#) page.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.

Entities That Collect Sexual Assault/Sex Offense Evidence or Investigate/Prosecute Sexual Assault or Other Sex Offenses

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected, must participate in the statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit [DPS's Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program website](#) for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

DNA Testing of Evidentiary Materials

When funds are used for DNA testing of evidentiary materials, any resulting eligible DNA profiles must be

uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) by a government DNA lab with access to CODIS.

Interoperable Communications

Funds to support emergency communications activities must ensure compliance with the FY 2018 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants; adherence to the technical standards set forth in the FCC Waiver Order, or any succeeding FCC orders, rules, or regulations pertaining to broadband operations in the 700 MHz public safety band; and are fully coordinated with the full-time [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\)](#) for Texas.

Twelve-Step Programs

Grant funds may not be used to support or directly fund programs such as the Twelve Step Program which courts have ruled are inherently religious. PSO grant funds cannot be used to support these programs, conduct meetings, or purchase related materials.

Program Income

Applicant agrees to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for program income and agrees to report all program income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant agrees to report program income through a formal grant adjustment and to secure PSO approval prior to use of the program income. Applicant agrees to use program income for allowable costs and agrees to expend program income immediately after PSO's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of funds.

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless PSO authorizes otherwise. Program income which the grantee did not anticipate at the time of the award shall be used to reduce the PSO award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project.

Asset Seizures and Forfeitures - Program income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

National Instant Background Check System (NICS)

Entities receiving funds under this solicitation that are to generate or upgrade court dispositions or other records that are relevant to National Instant Background Check System (NICS) determinations must have a system in place to ensure that all such NICS-relevant dispositions or records that are generated or upgraded are made available in timely fashion to state repositories/databases that are accessed by NICS.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body-worn cameras with grant funds, that it has adopted adequate policies and procedures related to BWC equipment usage, data storage and access, privacy considerations and training. The certification form related to BWC policies and procedures can be found [here](#).

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to PSO and is active until August 31, 2025 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan)

If awarded, applicant agrees to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEOP) requirements per 28 C.F.R. § 42 Subpart E. Agencies may use the EEO Utilization Report Builder to assist with preparing Verification Forms and, if required, Utilization Reports.

Civil Rights Liaison

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with PSO and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Yvette Maldonado

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

301 Jackson Street Richmond, TX 77469-3108

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

12813418630

Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

☒ **I certify to all of the application content & requirements.**

Project Abstract :

This project will create an Investigative Response Support Kit of essential items for Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and Special Operations Teams to conduct real-time, field-based investigations and research. Requested items for the kit include: Toughbook laptop computers; LED Streetlight Covert Pole Camera Systems; Handheld Camcorders with Night Vision capabilities, including night vision recording; High-Definition Binoculars; Air Pod Bluetooth headphones; dual-deployment Tasers for less lethal means when field personnel encounter aggressive individuals; and Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs). The Teams in CID that this request will benefit include the Special Operations, Burglary and Theft, Robbery and Homicide, Homicide, Special Crimes, Family Violence, and the Crime Scene Unit. It will also benefit the Misdemeanor Unit and the Fraud Unit, as these units are frequently tasked with supporting other units/teams investigating higher level crimes. Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office's CID investigation teams conduct operations and/or assist with investigations that target a range of often violent criminal activity. On paper, they are considered to be a reactive unit, but the operations they carry out are ultimately proactive. Despite stemming from criminal activities that have occurred, successful operations proactively prevent further criminal activity from occurring. The enhanced capability for our CID Teams to gather intelligence and to conduct investigations in the field will streamline and greatly speed up investigations into criminal or suspected criminal activity cases, allowing for increased ability to monitor ongoing investigations, communicate with other team members during operations,

and gather intelligence for new investigations (LED Streetlight Covert Cameras, Handheld Camcorders, HD Binoculars, Air Pods); to draft search and arrest warrants in the field (Toughbooks), obviating the need to return to the Sheriff's Office to prepare search warrants and/or have additional personnel on stand-by at the Sheriff's Office to do such preparation for the field officer, which is the current situation; to possess a less lethal means of engaging with and disabling violent, aggressive, and/or armed individuals (Tasers); and to record video evidence both during the day and night (Camcorders). As many of CID's operations occur at night, the camcorders are critical to evidence gathering. The availability of this "kit" of equipment optimizes the Teams' ability to be thorough, efficient, and to capitalize on every opportunity to gather evidence, check criminal histories, do real-time research, and write search and arrest warrants. Because this equipment will greatly speed up investigations and make them real-time, it closes a window of opportunity time-wise for suspects, groups, or "crews" to potentially identify Team personnel and discover ongoing operations. Further, it limits suspects' ability to prepare a response to or confrontation with LE, to destroy evidence, or to disappear. The last component of this kit is Individual First Aid Kits for all field personnel in Criminal Investigations. These kits contain essential supplies for rendering aid to self or others, such as tourniquets, Combat Gauze (for clotting gunshot wounds), and trauma shears. The kits will serve to protect LE should they become injured, or if suspects and citizens of Fort Bend County require first aid while waiting for medical professionals to arrive on the scene. As all sworn officers have a duty to act 24/7, should our sworn personnel come upon a crash scene or encounter another situation where individuals are injured, these IFAKs will allow them to render immediate aid.

Problem Statement :

Criminals already have access to modern technology, a deep pool of financial resources, and an abundance of willing accomplices, and Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office lags behind them both in technology, funding, and personnel to support our investigations. The equipment we are requesting will significantly level the playing field and enable the CID Operations Teams to do real-time investigations and research into homicides, aggravated burglaries, burglary crews, and violent crime; to write search and arrest warrants in the field; to research criminal histories and verify identities; to have hands-free communication capabilities among multiple team members while setting up perimeters, doing surveillance, and carrying out the operation plan; to maintain safe distance, preserving their cover and maximizing team safety; to record in high definition criminal activities to aid in prosecution; and to perform other activities for streamlining and optimizing investigations. In addition to the research and writing capabilities that the laptops offer, they also allow Investigators to monitor--in the field, during the operation--activities captured by the Streetlight Cameras and have multiple team members able to view the same real-time footage and communicate with each other hands free. This allows for a common operational picture, which fosters rapid response, improves coordinated efforts, increases safety of team members, the public, and the suspects, and greatly improves operational outcomes. Time delays are the enemy of ongoing investigations, as they offer a window of opportunity for individuals and groups involved in criminal activities to relocate, destroy evidence, or disappear altogether. Currently, field personnel are often required to return to the Sheriff's Office to access a computer on-site or have a fellow investigator on standby at the office to assist. This wastes time, opportunity, and resources. Delays also present an opportunity for suspected criminals to mount a response to investigators and other field personnel, compromising the safety of law enforcement and citizens alike. This recently occurred: while conducting an operation, Investigators were faced with aggressive residents who surrounded their vehicles and threatened violence. The Investigators had no less lethal means to preserve their safety or disable the aggressors, thus dual-deployment Tasers--that do not require reloading the cartridge after a deployment--would have benefitted this situation immeasurably. Further, hands-free capabilities for communication among team members and even cooperating business and store managers/owners is critical to successful outcomes. The current means of undercover communication among CID team members involves a walkie-talkie-type system (though using a cell phone) which requires investigators to hold the phone close to their faces to speak and hold it to their ears to hear. This method is hardly surreptitious, and acquiring Bluetooth headphones both maintains their cover and frees their hands. FBC is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, growing at a rate of 3% annually and having grown more than 40% from 2010 to 2020. With increased population comes increased crime. In addition to County-specific crime, we are also experiencing "spill-over" crime due to our proximity to Harris County/the City of Houston. As criminal networks grow in Houston, they frequently expand to neighboring regions, such as Fort Bend. FBC has four (4) major transportation corridors running through it: U.S. 59/IH69, IH 10, SH 6, SH 36; these are extreme high traffic roadways that allow for criminal groups and drug traffickers to blend in with common commuters, and we are seeing an increase in drugs/drug traffickers entering from the Southern border and traveling through FBC on their way to Houston and other destinations, a rate of entry higher than in previous years. It is common for armed and dangerous criminals to traverse the supply-chain route from Houston and San Antonio, passing through Fort Bend, and to utilize other major highways in our County. As an overview, in 2023, FBCSO's Criminal Investigations Division handled nearly

9,800 cases involving aggravated assaults, aggravated burglary, homicide, aggravated robbery, kidnapping, and rape, and this figure is far from a comprehensive accounting of all the other types of cases investigators handled, totaling more than 16,000. The CID Teams conducted XXX operations in 2023 and ...

Supporting Data :

According to the U.S. Census, Fort Bend County (FBC) is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States and is projected to reach 1.8 million residents by 2050 (Woods & Poole, 2021). In addition to individuals and families moving to FBC from out of state, we also are gaining population spillover from densely populated Harris County, which had one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation, according to the FBI 2022 Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The rates for UCR Part 1 crimes dropped slightly in 2023 for Harris County, but in Fort Bend County, incidents of Murder and Non-negligent Homicide, Manslaughter by Negligence, and Rape rose in 2023. Still, Fort Bend County appears a safer alternative for individuals and families. While our overall population is growing and with it crime rates, especially violent crime and burglaries of apartment complexes, single-family homes, and businesses, our law enforcement (LE) personnel is declining in numbers, as is the case nationwide. LE agencies and officers are forced to do more with less due to fewer sworn officers and year after year of slashed operating budgets. In just the first two weeks of January 2023, Fort Bend County saw its first homicide and had five shootings. We had 10 homicides in the year. Currently, there are 175 outstanding gang fugitives last known to have resided in Fort Bend County. We average 450 incoming warrants a month, many of which are felony warrants. In 2023 Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office's CID worked a total of 9,782 cases which involved crimes against persons--including aggravated robbery, aggravated, aggravated assault, aggravated burglary, sexual assault against children and adults, rape, and homicide--and cleared 387 by arrest. These are just the cases involving violence and do not include human trafficking, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), theft, drug offences, and other non-violent crimes. The Burglary and Theft Division (BNT) of CID conducted 23 major operations in 2023, and 11 of those involved individuals with weapons/firearms; in other words, approximately 50% of them involved a firearm. BNT had 98 cases cleared by arrest. Considering that all Sheriff's Office specialized teams--the range of CID Operations Teams, the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force (FBCNTF), Gang Unit, SWAT--are comprised of small numbers of law enforcement officers, in part due to on-going staffing shortages, each team carries a high case load of operations that are complex, sophisticated, multi-faceted, dangerous, and span both time and geographic boundaries. This makes the need for equipment to support LE while in the field critical to streamlining operations and sharing information, making the best use of LE personnel and protecting field personnel by eliminating potential opportunities for suspects to identify LE and escape or retaliate. Our teams regularly collaborate with and support other law enforcement agencies, both locally and regionally, including the PDs in Fort Bend County's 10 municipalities, ISD PDs, the Texas Department of Public Safety, FBI, and law enforcement agencies in other parts of the State. For example, the Dallas-Fort Worth area was experiencing a rash of aggravated robberies, conducted by the "crews" that are now a staple in Texas. FBCSO CID was tracking the same crew here in Fort Bend, as this crew was operating in multiple areas around the State. Upon learning that we, too, were tracking the same violent criminal crews, law enforcement in Dallas-Fort Worth and at FBCSO CID collaborated and successfully apprehended those individuals involved, making multiple arrests and clearing multiple cases in various parts of the state. In 2023 our Narcotics Task Force seized 1,241 pounds of illegal narcotics, 44 firearms, nearly \$3.7 million in illicitly obtained currency, made 102 arrests, and filed 206 criminal charges. The Task Force team is comprised of LE from local and Federal law enforcement agencies, with members from police departments in Richmond, Missouri City, Sugar Land, and Rosenberg. FBCSO's Emergency Communications Center (911 Dispatch) received 565,600 emergency calls and calls for service in 2023, which underscores the demand for our services and citizen needs.

Project Approach & Activities:

The methodology for this project is to establish real-time investigation capabilities for violent crime cases, robbery and homicide, burglary crews, and other cases where gathering evidence in the field, maintaining cover, rapidly and accurately identifying suspects in the field, researching criminal histories, writing search and arrest warrants, and having hands-free open communications lines/capabilities are critical to the safety of law enforcement officers and the citizens of Fort Bend County. This project will allow for the following activities: 1. Real-time information, data, and evidence sharing, including images, photos, diagrams, and schematics; 2. Researching criminal histories and identifying fugitives and wanted individuals by accessing mugshots, photos, etc.; 3. Identifying and responding to suspicious activity while in the field; 4. Information sharing and working with area task forces in searching for and apprehending dangerous felons; 5. Information sharing with Crime Analysts; 7. Enhanced surveillance abilities for plain-clothed investigators; 8. Support of County municipalities and Constables; 9. Locating evidence before it is destroyed through the ability to act swiftly and to write search and arrest warrants in the field; 10. Possess a less lethal means of engagement; 11. Render aid to self,

other field personnel, suspected criminals, and Fort Bend County citizens when needed (this last pertains to the request for Individual First Aid Kits).

Capacity & Capabilities:

Founded in 1837, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is the largest law enforcement agency in this geographically vast, fast-growing County of nearly one million residents. FBCSO has over 500 sworn peace officers protecting and serving Fort Bend County residents. We are headquartered in Richmond, Texas, but have staffed annexes located in Sienna, Fulshear, and Katy, Texas. The SO oversees the U.S. DOJ certified County Jail and operates the regional Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). This Academy provides mandated and specialized continuing education and training for law enforcement personnel in the 13-county Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) region. More than 95% of our field operations personnel are ALERRT trained, and close to the same percentage are also AIRR trained. Deputies are also trained in safety techniques by uniformed personnel who are assigned to field operations. Their advanced safety training includes de-escalation for mental health consumers who are in crisis and who may be armed with firearms or knives. FBCSO leads a Type I Regional SWAT Team, has a dedicated Gang Unit, a Type II Air Support Unit, operates the Fort Bend County Narcotics Task Force, and is part of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Initiative. Additionally, a higher level of performance is achieved through intra- and inter-agency collaboration and partnerships. Other agencies with which the Sheriff's Office partners for a range of activities include Texas Department of Public Safety and the county and municipal agencies within Fort Bend County and within adjacent counties. These include Harris, Brazoria, Waller, Wharton, and Austin counties, as well as regional partners: Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff, Waller County Sheriff; four FBC precinct Constable Offices, and the municipalities of Arcola, Fulshear, Katy, Meadows Place, Missouri City, Needville, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford, and Sugar Land. The Narcotics Task Force is a partnership between FBCSO, the DEA, and police departments in Sugar Land, Rosenberg, Richmond, and Missouri City. The Gang Unit works with a range of outside agencies as needed. CID regularly works with local and regional agencies, particularly in investigating burglary crews that operate in Fort Bend, Harris County, and throughout the state. FBCSO is led by a team of law enforcement professionals who together have over 100 years in the field. It is led by Sheriff Eric Fagan, who was elected Sheriff in 2020 after more than 30 years with the Houston Police Department (HPD). During his tenure with HPD, Sheriff Fagan won the prestigious Officer of the Year Award three times. In 2023 Sheriff Fagan was elected Chair of the Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Executive Board. Chief Deputy Mattie Provost was with HPD for over 31 years, where she reached the rank of Assistant Chief. She is the 2022 winner of the Melvin Drum Chief Deputy of the Year Award given by the Texas Chief Deputies Association. Assistant Chief Deputy Manuel Zamora, PhD, commands the Administrative Bureau, including the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, the Investigations Command, Support Services, Emergency Management and Communications, Public Information Office, and Grants. Dr. Zamora began his career in 1981 with HPD, during which he authored the grant proposal and contributed toward the design of the \$2.0 million Houston Police Real Time Crime Center, led a Special Response Group field force, and managed the Planning & Research Section, where he led product and equipment evaluation, program assessment, and the analysis and development of policy. Assistant Chief Norman Wong oversees the Field Operations Command, Detention Command, Human Resources, and Internal Affairs. Assistant Chief Wong has served over three decades with the Houston Police Department and his last 10 plus years, he served at the rank of Assistant Chief.

Performance Management :

Success will be measured by qualitative and quantitative methodologies, qualitative by overall streamlining of operational processes and quantitative by increasing the number of successful operations conducted. The acquisition of this robust kit of essential equipment will improve operational outcomes by disrupting criminal networks throughout the County. Success will be measured by the efficient use of time and personnel; the improved ability to collect and record evidence through covert cameras and high vision camcorders, which supports prosecution; by optimizing team members' safety, maintaining their cover, improving operational communication and coordination; by the provision of less lethal options for engagement; and by possessing the ability to render aid when necessary. 1) Gathering, collecting, and routing of accurate information and resources in timely manner from remote locations can be measured by numbers of successful operations and arrests. 2) Generating search and/or arrest warrants from the field greatly reduces the amount of time expended per operation and optimizes the use of resources. 3) Enabling Team members to access law enforcement indices from the field, which eliminates need for such research activities to be conducted by a second detective at the office. 4) Enabling Team members to timely access and initiate investigations from the field, which otherwise would not be possible without remote access the Toughbooks provide. 5) Providing other than lethal means in engagements. The best measure of all of the above would be the time period needed for the CID Team to conduct operations efficiently and to complete assigned caseloads, which reduces overtime

per case load average and the number of supervisor case call out summaries generated yearly. Lastly, equipping all field personnel with the ability to render critical medical aid (to whomever) while waiting for medical first responders to arrive on the scene is also a measure of this project's success, and the Sheriff's Office has already seen the importance of equipping law enforcement personnel with Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs). A grant awarded in 2023 allowed for the purchase of IFAKs for our Patrol Division, and shortly after issuing them to Patrol Deputies and training them on the contents and their proper use, a Deputy who was responding to an accident administered aid to an individual with a gashed and bleeding leg, and when this individual arrived at the ER, "the doctor complimented the technique and the wrap" that the Deputy had performed. We learned this from an email the individual's mother sent to the SO, thanking the Deputy for this medical attention to her son.

Target Group :

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and our Specialized Teams regularly work in collaboration with local, regional, and federal partners to achieve an outcome to a threat situation or risk posed by the actions of dangerous or armed individuals, including burglary crews and drug traffickers, individuals engaged in criminal activities or fleeing crimes, and the like. FBCSO's Criminal Investigations Division, Warrants Division, Narcotics Task Force, Gang Unit, and Patrol Unit all can potentially benefit from this project. For example, the ability for CID and FBC Narcotics Task Force to function at a higher, more efficient level relieves the burden from other units, such as Patrol, which is already understaffed and overtasked. Also benefitting through our improved ability to collect and share data and intelligence in real-time are those agencies with whom we collaborate: Fort Bend County police departments in Arcola, Fulshear, Katy, Meadows Place, Missouri City, Needville, Richmond, Rosenberg, Stafford and Sugar Land; FBC Independent School District PDs; Texas Department of Public Safety; Sheriff and Constable Offices in Waller, Harris, Brazoria, and Wharton counties; Houston Police Department; FBI; DEA; and through the HIDTA Initiative, Houston PD and PD/Sheriff Departments in Harris, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Jefferson, Liberty Montgomery, Walker, Austin, Victoria, Refugio, Nueces, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Kenedy, and Brooks Counties. This project will target and benefit all our LE partners in addition to FBC citizens through crime reduction, fostering a safer environment, and equipping field personnel with IFAKs to render immediate aid when necessary.

Evidence-Based Practices:

In a 2004 FBI Bulletin, researchers Boyd, Melis, & Myers state, "Overall, government and law enforcement seem to lag behind the private sector in both the use of technologies and the development of expertise in such applications. A common theme among members of the Society of Police Futurists International is the fear that the law enforcement profession will never 'catch up' with the necessary computer-based investigative skills to keep pace with criminals who use computer technology" (p. 6).

https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/200401_fbi_publication.pdf Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office Investigative Response Support Kit proposal addresses this problem head-on in seeking to do just that: catch up. Boyd et al., members of the Society of Police Futurists International wrote this 20 years ago. The future has arrived and we have some catching up to do technologically to stay ahead of criminals, who are often well funded, amply staffed, and able to conduct sophisticated, complex criminal operations. The technology we are requesting takes an important and necessary step toward not just keeping pace with criminals, but getting ahead of them. Hu, Chen, & HU (2009) write that "Timely information access and effective knowledge support is crucial to law enforcement officers' crime fighting and investigations" <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/1593254.1593278>. The requested equipment kit can provide that "timely information access" and information sharing for effective law enforcement. The use of computers in all professions across the board has improved outcomes, efficacy, speed, and efficiency, and using computers in law enforcement for real-time research, intelligence gathering and sharing, and writing search and arrest warrants is critical to giving the CID Operations Teams the edge against often nimble "crews," traffickers, and organizations, the majority of which are conducting operations using the same techniques as law enforcement, but with more advanced equipment—and more of it. Phillip Brey (2017) notes this in *The Handbook of Technology, Crime, and Justice*, concluding, "technologies strengthen the powers of criminals and law enforcement." The importance and value of surveillance technology to fight crime has been demonstrated again and again. One well-known example is the Boston Marathon bombing. It assists in both identifying criminals and crimes and exonerating individuals wrongly accused of crimes. Videotape, according to the National Safety Council, "will exonerate the innocent as fast as it will condemn the guilty" (<https://trid.trb.org/view/542707>).

LaVigne of the Urban Institute states that research shows "public surveillance camera systems can be a cost-effective way to deter, document, and reduce crime" (<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/how-surveillance-cameras-can-help-prevent-and-solve-crime>). Further, "camera footage provides additional leads in an investigation and aids in securing witness cooperation," and

that prosecutors note that it complements eyewitness evidence in the courtroom (LaVinge, 2013). Giles-Sanchez (2022), reports that "studies have shown that having a surveillance camera system can result in a reduction in crime in an area by up to 50% or more" (<https://www.blackhillsfox.com/2022/10/24/ways-security-cameras-help-law-enforcement>). The same can be said for the importance of audio/video recorders, which are useful in both collecting and preserving evidence, real-time documentation of crime scenes, and interviewing eye-witnesses. "The advantages to TASER® technology are dramatic reductions in injuries to both suspects and law enforcement officers" reports at least one study. "When used properly, medical and law enforcement experts have concluded that TASER technology is among the most effective use-of-force interventions available to law enforcement officers to halt violent situations that pose a safety risk to an officer, suspect or innocent citizens"

https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/media/publications/taser_media_issue_talking_points.pdf. Lastly, LEOs are increasingly THE first responders, arriving to a scene well before EMTs, and the nature of their work means that LEOs are more likely to encounter injured individuals or be injured themselves. The availability of IFAKs allows them to render aid immediately and preserve life. For "Why every officer needs an individual first aid kit," see Brown (2018) <https://www.blueline.ca/you-only-have-minutes-why-every-officer-needs-an-individual-first-aid-kit-5294/>.

You are logged in as **User Name:** Signorotti

Agency Name: Fort Bend County**Grant/App:** 4938001 **Start Date:** 10/1/2024 **End Date:** 9/30/2025**Project Title:** Investigative Response Support Kit**Status:** Application Pending Submission**Project Activities Information****Introduction**

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Crime Prevention	50.00	1. Purchase and assign equipment to appropriate divisions. 2. Dissemination of suspicious and wanted persons information to investigators/field personnel and from peer to peer. 3. Immediate submission and distribution of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) related to risks, threats, and vulnerabilities pertinent to violent crime, criminal crews, narcotics activities and trafficking. 4. Identification of persons found in suspicious circumstances related to violent crime, gang crime, narcotics activities. 5. Real-time research into backgrounds, prior arrests/convictions or persons of interest.
Law Enforcement	50.00	1. Purchase and assign equipment to appropriate divisions. 2. Investigation of SARs, crime bulletins, dissemination of information to field personnel and peer to peer. 3. Coordination of activities related to real-time research and information gathering, writing search and arrest warrants, carrying out law enforcement operations to apprehend violent criminals, burglary crews, narcotics trafficker, etc. 4. Gather evidence to assist in developing probable cause and to support prosecution and conviction.

CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Project Title: Investigative Response Support Kit

Status: Application Pending Submission

Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Casework, non-licensed counseling, individual advocacy, or other support: Hours delivered.	0
Casework, non-licensed counseling, individual advocacy, or other support: Individuals receiving	0
Equipment or technology: Individuals/Operators equipped	60
General Law Enforcement or Public Safety: Arrests resulting from grant.	
Instruction and Support for Pro-social, Educational, Vocational, or Employment skills: Hours delivered.	0
Instruction and Support for Pro-social, Educational, Vocational, or Employment skills: Individuals receiving.	0
Targeted Investigation: Criminal cases resulting in arrest.	
Targeted Investigation: Grant-funded investigations carried out by the unit/division	
Training or professional development: Individuals provided	0
Training or professional development: Individuals received	0
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours provided	0
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours received	0

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Grant/App: 4938001 Start Date: 10/1/2024 End Date: 9/30/2025

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Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Specialized Audio-Visual System and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Qty = 50 Apple air pods Bluetooth headphones @ \$99/each X 50 = \$4950.00	\$4,950.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,950.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Video Camera and/or Recorder (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Qty = 10 Canon XA60 Handheld Camcorder with mix of daytime and nighttime recording features, including infrared capability, optical and digital zoom, dual-SD card recording. Qty = 10 at \$1799/each X 10 = \$17,990.	\$17,990.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,990.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Laptop System and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Qty = 25: Dell Latitude 5420 Rugged Toughbook laptop computers with 14-inch display, Intel Core processor, Windows 10 Pro or above software, minimum of 256GB hard disk drive, minimum 8GB memory, wireless card with Bluetooth,	\$52,537.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,537.50	0

		microphone, camera, antennae, docking and passthrough capabilities. Price per unit = \$2101.50 X 10 units = \$52,537.50.						
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Crime Scene Equipment (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Headrest Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) with two Combat Application Tourniquets, Combat Gauze, Wound Packing Gauze, Trauma Dressing, Chest Seals, Bandages, Gloves, CPR Mask, Emergency Survival Blanket, Trauma Shears. Qty = 60 X \$243.16/each = \$14,589.60 Shipping = \$74.00. Total = \$14,663.60	\$14,663.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,663.60	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Crime Scene Equipment (\$5,000 or less per unit)	Qty = 10 Axon TASER X2 double-shot technology with warning arc to increase voluntary surrenders. 10 @ \$1700/each = \$17000.	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Specialty Camera and Accessories (\$5,000 or less per unit - e.g., in-car mounted systems)	Qty = 10 LED Streetlight Pole Covert Camera System Package with mounting kit, Canon camera, wiring, harness, SD card, software. 10 X	\$32,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,750.00	0

		\$3,225/each = \$32,250. Shipping = \$50 per unit X 10 = \$500. Total = \$32,750.						
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Project Supplies (e.g., binocular, battery, flexicuff, drug testing kit)	Qty = 10 Vortex Viper HD 10X50 binoculars @ \$809/each X 10 = \$8090	\$8,090.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,090.00	0

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Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must include a [resolution](#) that contains the following:

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office (PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the [approved](#) resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** sub-tab located in the **Summary** tab.

Contract Compliance

Will PSO grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes

☒ No

For applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, describe how you will monitor the activities of the sub-contractor(s) for compliance with the contract provisions (including equipment purchases), deliverables, and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing this project.

Enter a description for monitoring contract compliance:

Lobbying

For applicant agencies requesting grant funds in excess of \$100,000, have any federally appropriated funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ N/A

For applicant agencies that selected either **No** or **N/A** above, have any non-federal funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress in connection with this federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ N/A

Fiscal Year

Provide the begin and end date for the applicant agency's fiscal year (e.g., 09/01/20xx to 08/31/20xx).

Enter the Begin Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

10/1/2024

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

9/30/2025

Sources of Financial Support

Each applicant must provide the amount of grant funds expended during the most recently completed fiscal year for the following sources:

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of Federal Grant Funds expended:

116214776

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of State Grant Funds expended:

7053433

Single Audit

Applicants who expend less than \$750,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$750,000 in state grant funding are exempt from the Single Audit Act and cannot charge audit costs to a PSO grant. However, PSO may require a limited scope audit as defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Has the applicant agency expended federal grant funding of \$750,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$750,000 or more during the most recently completed fiscal year?

Select the appropriate response:

☒ Yes

☐ No

Applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, provide the date of your organization's last annual single audit, performed by an independent auditor in accordance with the State of Texas Single Audit Circular; or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

6/30/2023

Debarment

Each applicant agency will certify that it and its principals (as defined in 2 CFR Part 180.995):

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal Court, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the above bullet; and have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

Select the appropriate response:

☒ I Certify

☐ Unable to Certify

If you selected **Unable to Certify** above, please provide an explanation as to why the applicant agency cannot certify the statements.

FFATA Certification

Certification of Recipient Highly Compensated Officers

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires Prime Recipients (CJD) to report the names and total compensation of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) of each sub recipient organization for the most recently completed fiscal year preceding the year in which the grant is awarded if the subrecipient answers **YES** to the **FIRST** statement but **NO** to the **SECOND** statement listed below.

In the sub recipient's preceding completed fiscal year, did the sub recipient receive: (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

Select the appropriate response:

☒ Yes

☐ No

If you answered **YES** to the **FIRST** statement and **NO** to the **SECOND** statement, please provide the name and total compensation amount of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) within your agency for the current calendar year. If you answered NO to the first statement you are NOT required to provide the name and compensation amounts. NOTE: "Total compensation" means the complete pay package of each of the sub recipient's compensated officers, including all forms of money, benefits, services, and in-kind payments (see SEC Regulations: 17 CCR 229.402).

Position 1 - Name:

Position 1 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 2 - Name:

Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 3 - Name:

Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 4 - Name:

Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 5 - Name:

Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

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