

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** March 27, 2017
SUBJECT: Consider Resolution No. 2017-015, approving application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Governor's Office 2017 Criminal Justice Programs Competitive Grant #33514-01, for a tactical robot.
PRESENTER: Mike Young, Assistant Chief of Police

SUMMARY:

The Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Governor's Office has notified the Police Department that grant funds have been allocated to assist in funding law enforcement programs in the Council of Government's North Central Region under the 2017 CJD Criminal Justice Programs Competitive Grant #33514-01. If awarded, the Police Department plans to use the funds to purchase a tactical surveillance robot for the department's SWAT team to use during their operations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A remote operated tactical surveillance robot will be purchased with the requested grant funds and controlled by operators of the North Richland Hills Police Department's SWAT team. The system is made up of a remote controlled low profile robot along with customized features including a pan tilt/zoom camera, high angle stabilizers, command terminal, remote operated radio control, carrying case and spare battery pack. The system also includes a DVR system to record the incidents in which the robot is deployed. The selected remote operated tactical robot will be used in place of officers to enter potentially hazardous situations to gather information and intelligence which can then be used by incident commanders to make quick, sound decisions on what actions to perform. These situations will range from armed suspects, barricaded subjects, hostage incidents, narcotics investigation surveillances and high risk warrant services. Currently, the only robots available are large cumbersome bomb robots operated by the fire department's hazmat team. Not only are they large and cumbersome, but take a great deal of time to deploy at a scene with little surveillance capabilities.



The total of the grant request is \$59,590. There is no match requirement for this grant request through the Texas Governor's Office. The grant funds are passed through the Criminal Justice Division and will be dispersed on a competitive basis throughout the NCTCOG's 16-county region.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 2017-015