

## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager    **DATE:** March 27, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Consider Resolution No. 2017-016, approving application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Governor's Office 2017 Criminal Justice Programs Competitive Grant #32657-01, for narcotics detection devices.  
**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 #32657-01. If awarded, the Police Department plans to use the funds to purchase two enhanced hand held drug identification devices which utilize Raman Spectroscopy Technology to identify unknown substances. The devices will be utilized during field investigations by the police department's patrol division and special investigative unit to rapidly identify unknown substances.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The portable hand-held Raman spectroscopy narcotic detection devices are a modern alternative to the current Sirchie chemical test. The devices utilize scientifically proven and accepted Raman spectroscopy to analyze and identify drugs, precursors and common diluents used in the manufacture of illegal narcotics. These devices work by using a small class IIIB infrared laser to rapidly identify unknown substances in solid, liquid, gel, paste and powdered form. This laser has the ability to penetrate most outer packaging material illicit narcotics are contained within. By removing the need to open the packaging, officers are less likely to be exposed to unknown chemicals or a substance which highly increases officer safety during narcotics investigations. The narcotic detection devices instantly display the substance based on a known substance library, which includes over 450 elements, bath salts (new synthetic drugs with changing chemical makeup), and narcotic substrates. The Raman spectroscopy library is also continually updated as attempts to change illegal chemical compositions or elements occur to avoid law enforcement detection. The deployment plan would provide one device to the Uniformed Services Division and one to the Special Investigations Unit which handles most narcotic investigations and subsequent cases.



The total of the grant request is \$46,200. 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. 2017-016.