



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

THRU: Mariano Augello, Chief of Police

DATE: December 19, 2024

RE: Consideration of utilizing General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance for a commercial grade evidence freezer and P25 compliant radios (\$163,177).

SUMMARY:

As part of the Police Department's ongoing requirement to meet public safety standards, there are two high-priority expenditures for FY25. The first priority is that the Crime Scene and Evidence Unit is required to meet FDLE standards for DNA evidence, as well as abide by F.S.S. 925.11 Post Sentencing DNA testing. In summary, it states that a person who has been found guilty and sentenced, and DNA was collected but not tested, can petition the court to order the testing. The evidence freezer storage currently has 303 items from cases between 2016 and this year. Due to prior budgetary constraints, the current evidence freezer is of restaurant-grade quality. It requires constant repairs due to the inability to function at the level required for evidence storage. This request is for an evidence lab-grade freezer designed for scientific and medical storage and will meet the requirements of FDLE and F.S.S.

The second priority is for the replacement of non-compliant P25 radios. The current emergency radio system (EDAC) for public safety services in the City of Palm Bay and Brevard County operates on an outdated (19-year-old system) that is being phased out nationwide with the transition to the P25 system. Brevard County agencies have decided to conform to P25 compliance allowing for enhanced connectivity, secured communications, and a modern system. Any agency that does not complete the transition to P25 before the tower transitions in their service area will be cut off from any further radio communications. An original estimation used during the FY25 budget process was for a mobile radio model that is in the process of being discontinued, therefor this request includes pricing for the current model is a 51.39% increase.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Police

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Upon council approval, funding in the amount of \$163,177 will be allocated from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund balance to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the Police budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the Police Departments request for funding \$163,177 from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund balance for the purchase of 12 pacset radios, 12 mobile radios and one evidence lab grade freezer.

ATTACHMENT:

None.