



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

THRU: Mariano Augello, Chief of Police

DATE: April 3, 2025

RE: Consideration of submitting an application for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice.

SUMMARY:

On February 25, 2025, the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Florida announced the notice of availability for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding from the U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of the VOCA grant is to support the availability of services to victims of crimes through a reimbursement program. Services are defined as those efforts that respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assist victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization, assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system, and provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security. Eligibility to apply for VOCA funds is limited to victim assistance programs administered by state or local government agencies or not-for-profit corporations registered in Florida. For over 20 years, the Palm Bay Police Department has been a recipient of VOCA funding for the Victim Service Unit.

For the 2025-2026 grant application the Police Department is eligible to apply for a continuation grant through a condensed application process with up to \$65,259 to cover salary, taxes, and retirement costs for two Victim Advocates (each position covered at 50% VOCA funding). This request also includes \$10,000 in operating expenses for the program. Under the new application process, the Police Department will be able to apply for a budget modification during the 2025-2026 cycle to re-allocate additional funding to salaries and training needs for the program as well as request additional funding that may be needed due to positional changes. The funding cycle for this VOCA grant funding is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. This year's funding cycle opened February 28, 2025, and closed on March 17, 2025, which did not provide enough time for staff to review the application and submit a legislative memo requesting Council authorization to apply. In an effort to avoid missing the opportunity, staff submitted an application on behalf of the City and are requesting retroactive approval from City Council to move forward with this grant.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:

Police.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated fiscal impact is a potential revenue of up to \$65,259. This impact will not occur until Fiscal Year 2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to retroactively approve the submission of an application for the Victims of Crime Act grant for 2025-2026 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract agreement if awarded and any subsequent amendments without a fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2025-2026 Notice of Availability
2. 2025-2026 VOCA Application Form