



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

THRU: Mariano Augello, Chief of Police

DATE: January 2, 2025

RE: Consideration of submitting an application for law enforcement technology to the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking Grant Program for Fiscal Year 24/25 (\$50,000).

SUMMARY:

The Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking serves as the Direct Support Organization (DSO) to the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking (Council). At the direction of the Council, the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking is issuing a grant solicitation to support law enforcement agency efforts in fighting human trafficking. Human trafficking is a complex problem impacting all communities in Florida. The purpose of this funding is to support innovative solutions within law enforcement agencies to disrupt criminal networks, bring perpetrators to justice, and support victims of human trafficking. Grant applications are due by January 17, 2025.

The Palm Bay Police Department is seeking \$50,000 in grant funding to acquire a Crime-Lite AUTO Full Kit, a specialized forensic tool designed for crime scene processing and evidence identification, to enhance our capabilities in investigating human trafficking-related cases. This equipment will allow us to identify and preserve evidence critical to these cases more effectively, increasing the likelihood of successful prosecutions while supporting victim advocacy. The Palm Bay Police Department serves a jurisdiction located near major human trafficking corridors, including Interstate 95, with proximity to international airports in Orlando and Miami. These geographic factors make our area vulnerable to trafficking activities. While human trafficking cases are not frequent in our jurisdiction, the cases we encounter are often exceptional in nature.

Currently, the Palm Bay Police Department does not have any specialized resources dedicated to human trafficking investigations. Investigators rely on standard-issue equipment, which limits our ability to identify, collect, and analyze key evidence. Budgetary constraints have prevented the acquisition of advanced technological tools needed for these critical investigations.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

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REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Police

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the city is awarded this grant the fiscal impact will be a revenue of \$50,000 and will be recorded through a budget amendment at that time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve submitting an application for the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking Grant Program FY 24-25.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Grant application