

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2023 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME (OVC) TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO AN ADDITIONAL PART-TIME PROJECT MANAGER POSITION, A VICTIM SERVICES APPLICATION AND ASSOCIATED OPERATING EXPENSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Special Revenue Fund to provide grant funding, if awarded, DOJ Office for Victims of Crime Technology Grant Program for expenses related to an additional Part-Time Project Manager position, a victim services application and associated operating expenses. Said Operating budget is hereby amended as follows:

Grants Special Revenue Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:

DOJ OVC Technology Grant	\$740,760
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EXPENDITURES:

Increase:

District Attorney:

Personal Services	\$26,000
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Operating Expenses	\$354,760
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Capital Expenses	<u>\$360,000</u>
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Total	\$740,760
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SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: District Attorney's Office Technology Grant for Victims of Crime

DATE: July 8, 2022

BUDGET INFORMATION:

REVENUES: \$740,760

EXPENSES:

ANNUAL: \$740,760 Grant

CAPITAL: \$0

OTHER: \$0

FUNDING SOURCE: Office for Victims of Crime

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: August 2, 2022

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- 1) Approve the District Attorney's application for and, if awarded, acceptance of the Office for Victims of Crime grant in the amount of \$740,760 to be used to:
 - Fund one temporary part-time project manager position as well as necessary supplies and equipment for the position;
 - Build a Victim Services Application;
 - Conduct a community needs assessment;
 - Conduct a community strengths survey of available services; and
 - Create a public awareness campaign surrounding the application.
- 2) Adopt the attached budget amendment ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and
- 3) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents.

HISTORY:

1. On April 4, 2022, the Office for Victims of Crime released the Fiscal Year 2022 Advancing the Use of Technology to Assist Victims of Crime request for proposals.

2. On May 2, 2022, the District Attorney's Office held a meeting with the Solicitor General's Office and local non-profits that provide services for victims of crime. Out of this meeting, it became clear that an application that would act as a hub for victim services would be beneficial to all organizations and to victims of crime. The group decided to pursue the grant opportunity.
3. On May 26, 2022, the District Attorney's Office submitted the grant package.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The Victims of Crime Act Guidelines, as outlined in 1997, include responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims, assisting primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization, assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system, and providing victims of crime with a measure of safety and security.
2. The Application for Victim Resources and Information (AVRI) will provide victims with a one-stop-shop to find resources that meet their needs, both within the justice system and outside of it. In addition, the application will allow victims to report a crime, update their contact information for use by their appointed victim advocate, guide them through the court process, and access services based on their unique individual needs.
3. A major barrier to successful victim services has been the ability for victims to find and utilize services. While resources may exist, they often go undiscovered by victims as currently there exists no central hub for victims to be able to view and access services. Research has indicated that victims who engage with victims' services feel more empowered, have better outcomes, and are less likely to be revictimized.
4. This grant requires no match.
5. This grant would last for 36 months, beginning in October of 2022, and there is no obligation by ACCGov to fund the program beyond the grant timeline.
6. These recommendations support the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:
 - Good Neighbors Goal, Strategy A: *Work to create and implement systems to identify, acknowledge, and address racism, trauma, harm, and violence in our community.*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a. Approve the District Attorney's application for and, if awarded, acceptance of the Office for Victims of Crime grant in the amount of \$740,760 to be used to:
 - Fund one temporary part-time project manager position as well as necessary supplies and equipment for the position;
 - Build a Victim Services Application;

- Conduct a community needs assessment;
- Conduct a community strengths survey of available services; and
- Create a public awareness campaign surrounding the application.

b. Adopt the attached budget amendment ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and

c. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all related documents.

2. Mayor and Commission deny acceptance of the District Attorney's application of the Office for Victims of Crime grant in the amount of \$740,760.

3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a b, & c

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Jenna Vaisvil

Jenna Vaisvil

Jenna Vaisvil

7/12/2022

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a b, & c

John H. Williford

Manager

July 14, 2022

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 – Budget Amendment Ordinance