

CITY OF BUCKEYE
Regular Council Meeting
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/21/25	AGENDA ITEM: 4.M. FIN - US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services - FY25 Safer Outcomes: Enhancing De-Escalation and Crisis Response Training for Law Enforcement Grant Application
DATE PREPARED: 10/16/25	DISTRICT NO.: All
STAFF LIAISON: Rob Roach, Grant Program Manager, rroach@buckeyeaz.gov, (623) 349-6165	
DEPARTMENT: Financial Services	AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Consent Agenda Items / New Business

ACTION/MOTION: (This language identifies the formal motion to be made by the Council)
Council to take action to ratify and approve the submission of a \$269,166 Grant Application for the acquisition of a new virtual reality training system and a full-time employee to support the Buckeye Police Department's Training Division; and authorize and direct the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to carry out the purpose and intent of said Grant Application.

SUMMARY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Grant Application in the amount of \$269,166 is for the purpose of acquiring a new Virtual Reality training system that includes additional de-escalation use-of-force tools such as a Bola Wrap, pepper spray, rifle and Glock handgun--better reflecting real-world scenarios and enhancing de-escalation outcomes. The system can also be used for dispatcher training. Funding is also sought for a civilian training position focused on crisis response. If awarded, the items funded will enhance and support the BPD's goal of community and officer safety through de-escalation and non-violent conflict resolution.

BENEFITS:

The virtual training simulator will provide BPD officers and personnel with immersive, real-life scenarios that strengthen their ability to effectively respond to individuals experiencing mental health, behavioral, or suicidal crises. By simulating diverse, evolving situations that adapt to officers' actions, the training enhances decision-making, communication, and de-escalation skills, ultimately reducing the likelihood of force being used. This tool will benefit not only all sworn officers but also dispatchers, code enforcement staff, victim advocates, and other civilian personnel who frequently interact with the public. With the addition of a certified De-escalation and Crisis Response Training Coordinator, training will extend beyond law enforcement to include local schools, churches, and community organizations fostering a more compassionate, prepared, and collaborative response to those in crisis. Together, these efforts will improve officer readiness, strengthen community trust, and ensure safer outcomes for vulnerable individuals.

FUTURE ACTION:

If the Grant is awarded, the Grant Award Agreement will be presented to Council for acceptance and approval. The BPD will implement the virtual training simulator to provide realistic crisis intervention scenarios for all sworn personnel and expand training to civilian staff, dispatchers, and eventually community partners. It will also fund 24 months of salary and benefits for the civilian training position and, once the grant funds have been expended, the position may be eliminated, absorbed in the BPD's General Fund, or the Grants Team may identify other sources of funding to support the position.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Federal grant portion is \$269,166, with \$0 match from the City of Buckeye. The total project cost is \$269,166. The de-escalation equipment will most likely require minimal maintenance costs in future years. The grant will fund salary and benefits for the civilian training position for 24 months, and once the grant funds have been expended, the position may be eliminated, absorbed in the BPD's General Fund, or the Grants Team may identify other sources of funding to support the position.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTAL COST:

It is expected that all costs will be covered by the grant in the current fiscal year. Buckeye estimates that the Virtual Reality training system and the civilian training position will cost \$269,166. However, if it costs more than \$269,166, Buckeye will fund the excess from its General Fund budget.

BUDGETED:

Yes

FISCAL YEAR:

2026-2028

FUND/DEPARTMENT:

35732121-523012/Police

Items related to a project or facility location must include an attached vicinity map for Council Review.

ATTACHMENTS:

[CAR Recap Summary_Safer Outcomes Enhancing De-escalation_ Application - FINAL.docx](#)

[Budget Narrative.docx](#)

[Proposal Abstract.docx](#)

[JustGrants Questions.docx](#)