RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-61

MEETING: February 10, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Cooke, District Attorney

RE: Approve Augmentation to the Victim Witness Assistance Program Grant and Budget Action

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve an Amendment in the Amount of $14,635 for the 2014 -2015 District Attorney’s Victim Witness Assistance Program (VW) Grant; Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Award Amendment; Allocate One 80% Permanent Part-Time Victim Witness Advocate to the Victim Witness Budget Effective March 1, 2015, (Monthly Salary = 80% of $2,318.46 - $2,818.52); Approve Budget Action Increasing Revenue and Appropriations in the Victim Witness Budget to Account for the Grant Amendment ($14,000).

This grant is administered through the State of California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Cal OES has allocated to the County of Mariposa an additional $14,635, increasing the Grant from $85,871 to a total project cost of $100,506.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program grant commences July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and provides the District Attorney’s Office with the ability to provide services to victims and witnesses of crime. This is the District Attorney’s Office 22nd year of funding through the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

Currently there is sufficient funding for two Extra-Help Victim Witness Advocates, however, there is only one Advocate assigned to the Victim Witness grant. For the past six months the Human Resources Department has had a continuous open recruitment for an additional Advocate but there has been a minimal amount of qualified applicants applying for the Extra-Help position.

With the increase of the grant award, the District Attorney’s Office is requesting one 80% Permanent Part-Time Victim Witness Advocate allocation to the Victim Witness Budget. By allocating this position it will not be necessary to hire Extra-Help and this should greatly enhance our Victim Witness Services Program. Cal OES has been informed of the proposed reallocation and they have agreed with the proposed changes.

In addition to the position, the additional funding will also provide funding for replacement laptops and a wireless projector.
BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has approved other grant augmentations submitted by the District Attorney’s Office.

The District Attorney’s Office previously had an 80% Victim Witness Advocate which was reallocated to Extra-Help when funding was decreased in approximately 2011. Funding has been gradually increasing over the past year.

The District Attorney’s Victim Witness Program is fully funded by State and Federal funds with no assistance from the General Fund.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If the Board chooses to not approve the augmentation it could have a negative impact on the District Attorney’s Victim Witness Programs and their ability to provide assistance to victims and witnesses of crime within Mariposa County and could jeopardize the grant program receiving additional funds when available in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Revenue and appropriations will be increased in the Victim Witness budget to recognize the additional grant funding. No additional General Funds will be used.

ATTACHMENTS:
Grant Award Amendment (PDF)
Victim Witness Budget Action (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson
Mary Hodson, Interim CAO 2/5/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier
# Budget Action Form

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**Transfer Between Funds**

**Action Requested:** (Check all that apply)

- Budget appropriation by Board of Supervisors (4/5ths Vote Required): Amending the total amount available in the county budget, or in any one fund of the budget, or transferring appropriation from Contingencies

- Transfer by Board of Supervisors (3/5ths Vote Required): Moving existing appropriations from one budget to another, or between categories within a budget unit.

**Justification:**

To approve augmentation funding within the DA Victim Witness budget (VW) Grant Program FY 14-15

**Department Signature:**

**Approved by REs NO.**

**Date:** 22-Jan-15

**Auditor's Use Only BA #**

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*Budget Action Form Revised Jan 15*