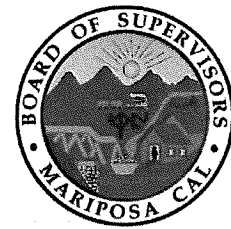




MARIPOSA COUNTY

District Attorney · 209 966 3626



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-548

MEETING: November 24, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Cooke, District Attorney

RE: Approve Amendment to Victim Witness Program Grant and Budget
Action

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve an Amendment in the Amount of \$17,574 for the 2015-2016 District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program (VW) Grant; Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Award Amendment; Increase the Allocation of the 0.80 Permanent Part-Time Victim Witness Advocate in the Victim Witness Budget to Full Time Effective December 1, 2015; Approve Budget Action Increasing Revenue and Appropriations in the Victim Witness Budget to Account for the Grant Amendment (\$17,574).

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 \$17,574, increasing the Grant from \$100,506 to a total project cost of \$118,080 to be dedicated to increasing staff to better provide direct services to victims and witnesses of crime.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program grant commences July 1, 2015 and runs through June 30, 2016, 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 23rd year of funding through the Victim Witness Assistance Program.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program has recently lost the Extra-Help Victim Witness Advocate and is in the process of recruitment. This augmentation will provide sufficient funding for an additional hours for an Extra-Help Victim Witness Advocate as well as increasing the allocation of the incumbent Victim Witness Advocate from a 0.80 Permanent Part-Time position to full time. Due to the time needed for the recruiting process the Department will be utilizing the emergency hire process to fill the Extra-Help Victim Witness Advocate to ensure that the grant funds are expended in the allotted grant period. The Victim Witness Program depends on this funding solely, with no assistance from the General Fund, and these grant funds must be expended in a timely manner so that the County will not be penalized financially or lose any future funding. The addition of more hours and extra staff will greatly enhance the ability of this office to reach out to many more victims and provide the services that they need.

It should be noted that employees filing these positions will be required to sign "Grant Funded Position" documentation acknowledging their understanding that if the grant funding becomes unavailable in part or in full, their position could be diminished in classification, salary and/or hours or eliminated in its entirety by action of the Board of Supervisors.

The budget action increases revenue and appropriations in the Victim Witness Budget to accommodate increasing the allocation of the Permanent Part-Time Victim Witness Advocate and to provide additional hours for an Extra-Help Victim Witness Advocate. Funding from Cal-OES has been gradually increasing over the past few years and is anticipated to continue in this manner. The Crime Victims Fund is being looked at as a very stable source of support for future victim services, so when budgets are augmented these funds need to be utilized during the budget year they are granted. This will allow the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program to continue to grow and provide support with no assistance from the General Fund.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

In the past the Board has approved other grant augmentations submitted by the District Attorney's Office that will ultimately enhance services provided to the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the Board chooses not to approve the augmentation it could have a negative impact on the District Attorney's Victim Witness Program and their ability to provide assistance to victims and witnesses of crime within Mariposa County. Furthermore it could jeopardize the grant program receiving additional funds when available in future years and monetary penalties assessed for funds not utilized within the grant period.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Revenue and appropriations will be increased by \$17,574 in the Victim Witness Budget. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:

DA budget action (PDF)

VW Grant Amendment - violence against women (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 11/18/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, John Carrier

EXCUSED: Kevin Cann

