



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | **John Reilly** - Undersheriff

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



November 7, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subjects: **Ratification of the Sheriff's Office's Application to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), US Department of Justice for the BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program; Ratification of the Sheriff's Acceptance of Grant Funds from OJP in the Amount of \$384,886 for the BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program; Adoption of a Resolution Establishing a Fixed-Term Forensic Scientist I Position, Effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. (RECOMMENDATION # 4 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.)**

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Ratify the Sheriff's Office's application to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) for the BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. (Exhibit 1)
2. Ratify the Sheriff's acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$384,886 from the OJP for the BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, subject to the attached special conditions. (Exhibit 2)

3. Adopt the attached resolution establishing the following fixed-term Forensic Scientist I position in Unit 2544, Sheriff's Forensic Services, effective October 1, 2023 and expiring September 30, 2026:

Job Code	Description	Business Unit	Department	FTE	Comp Frequency	Annual Salary Range
01951	Forensic Scientist I	SHFVC	2544	1.0	Hourly	\$68,772.18-\$96,213.28

4. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to adjust the following appropriations and unanticipated revenue (recommendation requires 4/5ths vote):

FY23 BJA Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

Forensic Services Grant, unit 2500-2544

INCREASE	2500-2544 Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 383,056
INCREASE	2500-2544 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 383,056

Support Services, Unit 2500-2503

INCREASE	2500-2503 Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 1,830
INCREASE	2500-2503 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,830

Fiscal / Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	U.S. Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice (DOJ).
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on Other Departments:	No additional impact

Summary of Revenue/Total Costs	<u>FY 2023/24</u>	<u>FY 2024/25</u>
Revenue:	\$ 118,381	\$ 266,505
Costs:		
Direct Costs	\$ 118,381	\$ 266,505
Indirect – Department	\$ 0	\$ 0

Indirect County Cap	\$ 0	\$ 0
Net County Costs Including Indirect	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for Sheriff's Police Services - Division 2500				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 219,103,326	\$ 219,103,326	\$ 219,103,326	0
Revenue	\$ 117,414,194	\$ 117,414,194	\$ 117,414,194	0
Net Cost	\$ 101,689,132	\$ 101,689,132	\$ 101,689,132	0

Reason for Ratification:

We were unable to obtain your Board's approval of the Sheriff's application for the BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program and funding acceptance due to short application and acceptance timelines from OJP and the lengthy approval process. The County Executive Office was notified and gave approval to submit the application on May 5, 2023. The application was submitted prior to the deadline. The application is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Discussion:

FY23 BJA Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

The BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program is administered by the DOJ. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to reduce the number of items awaiting analysis to ultimately solve crimes and thereby help to increase public safety. The objective is to decrease the backlog and decrease the turnaround time for processing, recording, screening, and analyzing controlled substance evidence. The grant funds of \$384,886 will be used to hire a fixed term forensic scientist. The grant term is from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. No funding match is required of participating agencies. We request that your Board ratify the Sheriff's grant application and acceptance of the grant funds, subject to the attached special conditions (Exhibit 2), and adopt the attached resolution establishing a fixed-term Forensic Scientist I position

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in Unit 2544, Sheriff's Forensic Services, effective October 1, 2023 and expiring September 30, 2026.

The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Human Resources have reviewed this Board letter. Please contact Assistant Sheriff Victor Fazio at 805-494-8276, if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Fryhoff', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and 'F'.

James Fryhoff
Sheriff

Attachments:

Resolution

Exhibit 1 – Application for BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

Exhibit 2 – BJA FY23 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program Award Letter and Special Conditions