



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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

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

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Authorization for the Sheriff to Accept \$594,616 in Federal Funds From the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program; Ratification of the Sheriff's Signature on the Agreement for the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant and the Operation Stonegarden Grant FY 2023 Grant Assurances with the County of San Diego, Which Administers the Funds. (Recommendation #3 Requires 4/5ths Vote).**

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Authorize the Sheriff to accept \$594,616 in U.S. Department of Homeland Security funds from the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant Program passed through from the County of San Diego Sheriff's Department.
2. Ratify the Sheriff's signature on the attached Memorandum of Agreement for the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant (attached as Exhibit 1 hereto) and the Operation Stonegarden FY 2023 Grant Assurances (attached as Exhibit 2 hereto) to receive funds for the Sheriff's Office's participation in the joint operations task force.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the accounting transactions necessary to establish appropriations and unanticipated revenue as follows within the Division 2500 - Sheriff's Police Services, Unit 2529 - Major Crimes, and Unit 2545 - Aviation Unit (Requires 4/5ths vote):

Major Crime Investigations, Unit 2500-2529

INCREASE 2500-2529	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 567,762
INCREASE 2500-2529	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 373,559
INCREASE 2500-2529	Services and Supplies	\$ 99,587
INCREASE 2500-2529	Equipment	\$ 94,616

Aviation Unit, Unit 2500-2545

INCREASE 2500-2545	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 26,854
INCREASE 2500-2545	Services and Supplies	\$ 26,854

Fiscal Mandates/Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on other Departments:	No additional impact
Source of Funding:	U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Bureau of Customs and Border Protection), via the California Governor's office of Emergency Services passed-through from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:	<u>FY2024/25</u>	<u>FY2025/26</u>
Revenue:	\$ 382,000	\$ 212,616
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 382,000	\$ 212,616
Indirect-Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect-CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 382,000	\$ 212,616
Net Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

FY 2024-25 Budget Projections for Sheriff's Police Services - Division 2500

	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$210,247,042	\$210,247,042	\$210,247,042	\$ - 0 -
Revenue	\$106,629,748	\$106,629,748	\$106,629,748	\$ - 0 -
Net Cost	\$103,617,294	\$103,617,294	\$103,617,294	\$ - 0 -

Reason for Ratification

The 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant Agreement and Grant Assurances were previously signed by the Sheriff due to required signature deadlines that did not provide sufficient time for the Sheriff's Office to take these items to your Board. The prior signatures mean that ratification is now required.

Discussion:

In December of 2013, the Sheriff's Special Services Division was contacted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Border Protection) and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and asked to assist in a regional joint operations task force.

Ventura County's location in relation to the southern border and our remote beaches makes the county a prime location for maritime drug smuggling. Drug trafficking organizations are also using our marinas and ports to launch pleasure crafts to smuggle illegal drugs into Ventura County or to support panga boats that are out at sea by supplying fuel or provisions so they can advance their smuggling missions into the United States. Each year, the Sheriff's Office recovers several abandoned panga boats along Ventura County shorelines after their contraband has been offloaded.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement for the Fiscal Year 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant ("Agreement")(Exhibit 1), the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, using funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Border Protection), will reimburse the Ventura County Sheriff's Office up to \$594,616 during the term of the Agreement for overtime, patrol boat maintenance, patrol boat fuel, helicopter flight costs, and equipment associated with this joint operations task force.

The Sheriff's Office conducts both high visibility and covert criminal interdiction operations in support of this joint operations task force. These operations include the deployment of a Sheriff's helicopter and Sheriff's patrol boat. The overtime, patrol boat maintenance, patrol boat fuel, and helicopter flight funds will be used for these operations.

The Sheriff's Office has identified a need for four Motorola APX portable radios to be utilized by the Sheriff's patrol boat crew during Operation Stonegarden operations which a portion of the equipment funds will be used to purchase. Our currently issued Motorola HT1250 hand-held portable radio is limited in range and capabilities, especially near the coastlines along Ventura County. These radios often fail to work properly and have difficulty broadcasting along the rugged coastline and high cliff areas that comprise a large portion of the known panga landing areas in Ventura County. The Sheriff's Office currently utilizes the Motorola APX radios for ground units during operations and we have

found they are consistently able to transmit from locations along the Ventura County coastline where the HT1250 does not transmit effectively.

In addition to the Motorola APX radios, the Sheriff's Office is seeking to purchase one VIKEN HBI-120 handheld x-ray imager to be used during Operation Stonegarden interdiction operations. Each year, the Sheriff's Office carries out over 100 Operation Stonegarden criminal interdiction operations, resulting in hundreds of vehicle stops. Our deputies perform thorough contraband searches based on probable cause, but these searches are frequently limited to areas visible to the naked eye. The use of a handheld x-ray imager will enable our deputies to locate and seize narcotics, money, weapons, and other contraband concealed in hidden compartments within vehicles and boats that are otherwise undetectable and/or inaccessible.

Strategic Plan:

Acceptance of funds from the 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant is in line with the County of Ventura Strategic Plan since those funds will be used to maintain or increase the existing high performing public safety services provided by the Sheriff's Office which allows us to remain one of the safest counties in the nation. The acceptance of these grant funds also promotes fiscal responsibility by adding federal grant funds to the budget allowing the Sheriff's Office to better detect and deter unlawful drug smuggling which benefits all residents, businesses, and visitors of Ventura County. Acceptance of funds provided by the 2023 Operation Stonegarden Grant will make Ventura County a safer place for everyone.

The term of this Agreement runs retroactively from April 23, 2024 through February 28, 2026. The manager of this grant, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, requested the submission of the signed agreement (Exhibit 1) and related documents by July 19, 2024. Thus, the Sheriff signed the agreement prior to obtaining Board approval. We ask that your Board ratify the Sheriff's signature on the agreement (Exhibit 1) and grant assurances (Exhibit 2) and accept these funds.

The offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Commander Jeff Miller at (805) 383-8784.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jim Fryhoff', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jim Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff

Attachment(s):

Exhibit 1- Memorandum of Agreement for the Fiscal Year 2023
Operation Stonegarden Grant

Exhibit 2- Operation Stonegarden FY 2023 Grant Assu