THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 10, 2026

Subject: Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Integration Initiative grant

Staff Resource(s): Jackie Stepp - APD Interim Police Chief
Douglas Oeser - APD Director of Data Accountability & Crime Analysis

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to apply for the Bureau of Justice Fiscal Year 2025 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Integration Initiative grant and authorize the City Manager to sign all of the appropriate application documents.

Background:

- The City of Asheville has the opportunity to apply for a United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant, in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), to implement a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) that strengthens APD's use of gun intelligence to reduce firearm violence.
- This BJA expects grant awards up to $700,000 for a new CGIC over 36 months, with the application due March 30, 2026.
- Asheville had 12 firearm-related homicides in the past two years (2024: 9, 2025: 3) and 206 firearm assaults or discharge-into-property incidents. The CGIC model is designed to reduce violent gun crime by accelerating and improving investigations.
- APD already uses NIBIN and eTrace, and this grant would expand those capabilities into a fully integrated CGIC that supports coordinated investigative and prosecutorial action.
- The goal is to cut ballistic lead turnaround to 24 to 48 hours, reducing weeks to hours by making Forensics a NIBIN site and expanding RTIC support.
- Success will be measured by outputs such as NIBIN entries and leads, firearms test-fired, eTrace submissions, and arrests and convictions tied to CGIC intelligence, as well as personnel, technology, and training added.
- This grant allows personnel expenses to be funded. Although no decisions have been made about adding staff, the funding could support personnel assigned to enhance the activities of the Realtime Intelligence Center and strengthen investigative follow-up.
- APD staff will continue to engage with the community to share information about the implementation of program enhancements made possible by these grant funds.
- Routine updates, such as the APD quarterly reports, will continue to be provided to community members, informing them of the impact of the APD team's efforts.
- The grant does not require local matching funds.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- None. Funding for this grant is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Council Goal(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):

- None due to the application deadline of March 30, 2026

Pro(s):

- Ensures the ability to better protect the safety of the residents of Asheville and Buncombe County.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- None, there is no cost match for this grant opportunity.
- If awarded, a budget amendment will be brought to Council for approval.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution to apply for the BJA FY25 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Integration Initiative grant and authorize the City Manager to sign all of the appropriate application documents.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 26-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE BJA FY25 LOCAL LEW ENFORCEMENT CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER INTEGRATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-17.1 to apply for grants from the Federal Government and their agencies, and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants, for constructing, expanding, maintaining, and operating any project or facility, or performing any function, which the City may be authorized by law to perform; and

WHEREAS, The City of Asheville has the opportunity to apply for a DOJ BJA grant, in partnership with ATF, to implement a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) that strengthens APD's use of gun intelligence to reduce firearm violence; and

WHEREAS, the BJA expects awards up to $700,000 for a new CGIC over 36 months, with the application due March 30, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for grant funding with the U.S. Department of Justice for a United States Department of Justice (DOJ), BJA FY25 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Grant;.

Read, approved and adopted this the 10th day of March, 2026.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney