THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- April 14, 2026

Subject

- Asheville Police Department (APD) Community Project Funding (CPF) Award

Staff Resource(s)

- Jackie Stepp - APD Interim Police Chief
- Elise Lewis - APD Financial Business Manager

Action Requested

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, accept, and sign all of the appropriate application and acceptance documents for the Community Project Funding (CPF) Award allocated to the City of Asheville as secured through Congressman Chuck Edward's Office and managed through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Justice Grants and to adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $1,141,256.00.

Background

- APD was contacted in April 2024 by a representative from Congressman Chuck Edwards' office regarding potential funding for FY25 appropriations.
- APD completed a questionnaire from Congressman Edwards' office requesting funding to help implement a Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC). This funding would be to procure equipment, software, and hardware to establish a Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC).
- Authorization from the City Manager's office to request funding was submitted on May 22, 2024.
- The FY25 Appropriations request was not signed into law due to a year-long continuing resolution and had to be resubmitted by Congressman Edwards for FY26.
- APD was notified in February 2026 that $1,141,256.00 in funding had been secured in the FY26 Appropriations Bill.
- Congressman Edwards' Office is waiting on formal implementation guidance from the committees and the Department of Justice. Once ready to move forward, the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs will publish the award conditions, allowable uses, compliance requirements, and onboarding steps.

- Even though the CPF is part of an appropriations law and not a typical competitive grant, most agencies require a formal application and acceptance process before funds are obligated. Once formal guidance on this is released, the procedural steps for recipients will begin, and APD will follow DOJ processes to receive funding.
- A city-owned Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) will serve as a centralized hub for technology-driven intelligence gathering, analysis, and investigative support. By providing personnel with the ability to collect, analyze, and disseminate real-time information to responding officers, the RTIC will enhance situational awareness and support timely, informed, and effective responses. This capability prioritizes the safety of officers, residents, and the broader community.
- The RTIC will strengthen the operational effectiveness of the Asheville Police Department by improving coordination, increasing efficiency, and supporting evidence-based policing strategies. Establishing an RTIC represents a strategic investment in public safety and demonstrates the City's commitment to proactively addressing emerging challenges, leveraging modern technology, and enhancing service to the Asheville community.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Not applicable; funding for this grant is provided by the DOJ Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Justice Grants.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s):

- Public Safety Committee March 26, 2026. The Public Safety Committee approved moving this forward to City Council on March 26, 2026, with a 2-0 vote.

Pro(s)

- Ensures the ability to better protect the safety of the residents of Asheville by establishing an RTIC, which represents a strategic investment in public safety and demonstrates the City's commitment to proactively addressing emerging challenges, leveraging modern technology, and enhancing service to the Asheville community.

Con(s)

- None

Fiscal Impact

- No local match is required for this grant.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, accept, and sign all of the appropriate application and acceptance documents for the Community Project Funding (CPF) Award allocated to the City of Asheville as secured through Congressman Chuck Edward's Office and managed through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Justice Grants and to adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $1,141,256.00.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for, accept, and sign all of the appropriate application and acceptance documents for the Community Project Funding (CPF) Award allocated to the City of Asheville as secured through Congressman Chuck Edward's Office and managed through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Justice Grants and to adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $1,141,256.00.

Whereas, the City has the authority pursuant to N.C.S.G. 160A-17 to apply for and receive grants from the Federal Government and to enter into contracts with said grants; and

Whereas, with prior authorization from the City Manager's Office, APD completed a questionnaire provided by Congressman Chuck Edwards' office requesting DOJ grant funding to assist in procuring equipment, software, and hardware to establish a Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC); and

Whereas, APD was notified in February 2026 that funding of $1,141,256.00 had been secured in the FY26 Appropriations Bill; and

Whereas, even though the CPF is part of an appropriations law and not a typical competitive grant, most agencies require a formal application and acceptance process before funds are obligated. Once formal guidance on this is released, the procedural steps for recipients will begin, and APD will follow DOJ processes to receive funding;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized apply for, accept, and sign all of the appropriate application and acceptance documents for the Community Project Funding (CPF) Award allocated to the City of Asheville as secured through Congressman Chuck Edward's Office and managed through the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Justice Grants and to adopt a budget amendment in the City's Special Revenue Fund in the amount of $1,141,256.00.

Read, approved and adopted this the 14th day of April, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk

City of Asheville Budget Amendment Ordinance Number ____

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Asheville.

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $1,141,256.00 to accept a federal grant funding Asheville Police Department Real-Time Intelligence Center as follows:

Special Revenue Fund

Revenues:

Item	Amount
Federal Grants	$1,141,256.00

Expenditures:

Item	Amount
Materials	$673,653.85
Contracted Services	$467,602.15

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 14th day of April, 2026.

_____
Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

_____
Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk