



January 13, 2020

To: Members of the Board of Directors
From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Agreement with the Transportation Security Administration

Overview

Since 2011, the Transportation Security Administration has provided funds to support the operation of three canine teams assigned to the Orange County Transportation Authority's Transit Police Services under the National Explosives Detection Canine Teams Program. Board of Directors' approval is requested to continue to receive these funds through December 2024.

Recommendation

Approve the Other Transaction Agreement between the Orange County Transportation Authority and the Transportation Security Administration for participation in the National Explosives Detection Canine Teams Program, allowing the Orange County Transportation Authority to receive up to \$757,500 over a period of five years to support the three Transportation Security Administration-certified explosives detection canine teams assigned to the Orange County Transportation Authority Transit Police Services.

Background

Within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is the primary federal agency responsible for security of the nation's transportation system. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, TSA has implemented a multilayered system of security composed of people, processes, and technology to protect the nation's transportation systems. One of TSA's key security layers is the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program (NEDCTP), which is currently composed of over 800 explosives detection canine teams whose mission is to deter and detect the introduction of explosive devices into the nation's transportation systems.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, appropriated approximately \$126.3 million to the program for federal fiscal year 2014. On July 21, 2011, the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD), in partnership with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), submitted a request to participate in the NEDCTP. On July 11, 2012, OCTA entered into a five-year agreement with the TSA to support three canine explosives detection teams. Each team is made up of a TSA-trained canine and certified law enforcement handler. The NEDCTP agreement with the TSA authorized up to \$120,500 annually, a maximum of \$40,166 annually for each canine team, and \$602,500 over five-years. Through December 2014, OCTA was reimbursed approximately \$479,000 through the NEDCTP.

Discussion

The OCSD provides Transit Police Services (TPS) to OCTA under a multi-year agreement. For approximately ten years, OCTA assigned one canine unit consisting of a deputy certified as a bomb technician with an explosives detection canine to TPS. In 2011, two additional units were obtained through DHS once TSA-certified explosives detection canine teams and the existing OCTA TPS team received the training needed to acquire the same TSA certification. Funding is available through TSA under NEDCTP to agencies with three or more TSA-certified teams to offset the costs. For many years, John Wayne Airport has received these funds for canine teams deployed by OCSD, and knowing that they were available, OCSD requested that TSA fund the OCTA TPS teams.

In October 2014, TSA revised the OTA document, increasing the amount available for each canine team from \$40,166 per year to \$50,500 per year, and requested that OCTA sign the new agreement before December 31, 2014. Through August 2019, OCTA has received \$1,196,980.08 from TSA under this program.

Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends approval of the Other Transaction Agreement from the Transportation Security Administration, which replaces the current agreement, to provide up to \$757,500 for a period of five years effective January 1, 2020, for participation in the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program.

Attachment

None.

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