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Office of the Sheriff

Jesse Jahner, Sheriff

December 9th, 2023

Re: Strategy for dispersing the Back the Blue Grant Funds.

Commissioners
Commissioner Chair, Chad Peterson,

During the 2023 North Dakota Legislative Session, Back the Blue Grant funding was awarded to law enforcement agencies in North Dakota. The Cass County Sheriff's Office received a grant in the amount of \$249,806.00 to be used for recruitment and retention purposes. On November 20th The Cass County Commission accepted the funding for the grant. Since that time, I have had meetings with Cass County Administrator Robert Wilson, Assistant Administrator Tracy Peters, and my command staff to strategize on how to spend the funds strategically to aid us in both recruitment and retention efforts. House Bill 1307, section 1 on appropriations, provides guidance on how the funds can be dispersed. In addition, it also provides the timeframe for the expenditure, which began July 1st, 2023, and ends June 30th, 2025. The grant funding identifies new and current law enforcement and correctional officers as eligible to receive the funds. In total, that encompasses 159 Full-Time Employees and 27 Part-Time Rostered Employees at our agency. If divided amongst current eligible employees, each employee would receive approximately \$1,343.00. In deciding how to disperse the funds strategically we have decided to provide our employees with a bonus and to save some of the funds for advertising, printing informational flyers/materials, and traveling expenses to conduct recruiting efforts. Given this strategy, our Full-time Employees would receive a \$1,000.00 bonus, and Part-Time and Rostered Employees would receive a \$500.00 bonus. Those bonuses would total approximately \$173,000.00. That would leave roughly \$76,800 dollars for recruiting efforts.

Suggested motion.

Move to approve the retention and recruiting efforts as outlined above. Full-Time Employees are to receive \$1,000.00 bonus, and Part-Time and Roster Employees to receive a \$500.00 bonus. Those bonuses to accompany January's paycheck. The leftover funds would be used for recruiting efforts.

Respectfully,

Jesse Jahner
Cass County Sheriff

Cass County Sheriff
Law Enforcement Center
1612 23rd Avenue North
P.O. Box 488
 Fargo, North Dakota 58107-0488
Phone: 701-241-5800
Fax: 701-241-5806

Cass County Sheriff
Courthouse
211 9th Street South
P.O. Box 488
 Fargo, North Dakota 58107-0488
Phone: 701-241-5800
Fax: 701-241-5805

Cass County Jail
450 34th Street South
 Fargo, North Dakota 58103
Phone: 701-271-2900
Fax: 701-271-2967



AWARD ACCEPTANCE
Back the Blue Grant
Office of Attorney General

Back the Blue Award Acceptance

This funding has been appropriated by the 2023 ND Legislative Session and may be used for providing hiring and retention bonuses to new and current law enforcement and correctional officers and providing tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees.

Supplanting is not allowed. These funds should not be used to replace local funds that, in the absence of this grant, have been appropriated or made available for the purpose of this project. Instead, these funds should enhance the applicant's budgets and activities, and should increase the total funding available for this purpose.

Reporting required. All agencies accepting funds will be required to report to the Attorney General's office regarding the use and effectiveness of the funding.

Applicant Information

Agency: Cass County Sheriff's Office

Address: 211 9th St. S. Fargo, ND 58103
 Street Address City State Zip Code

Phone: 701-241-5800 Email: jahnerj@casscountynd.gov

Budget Plan

Award Amount: \$249,806 Please Explain how you plan to allocate the funds.

Retention bonuses, possible recruitment bonuses, and possible recruitment advertising.

Disclaimer and Signature

I certify that these funds will be spent no later than March 31,2025. Any unspent funds will need to be returned to the Attorney General.

Jesse Jahner
 Signature: _____

11-14-23
 Date: _____

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1307
(Representatives Roers Jones, Lefor, Mock, O'Brien, Pyle)
(Senators Meyer, Patten, J. Roers, K. Roers)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the attorney general for a back the blue grant program; and to provide for a report.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ATTORNEY GENERAL - BACK THE BLUE GRANT PROGRAM - ONE-TIME FUNDING - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$3,500,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the attorney general for the purpose of providing back the blue grants to assist local law enforcement agencies with workforce recruitment and retention, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The attorney general shall provide grants to each city and county law enforcement agency in the state based on the proportional number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by the city or county law enforcement agency compared to the total number of licensed peace officers and correctional officers employed by all city and county law enforcement agencies. Of the funding available under this program, a sum of at least \$750,000 must be granted to local law enforcement agencies employing ten or fewer employees working in a law enforcement capacity. Funding appropriated in this section may be used for providing hiring and retention bonuses to new and current law enforcement and correctional officers and providing tuition and fee payments on behalf of law enforcement trainees. This funding is considered a one-time funding item. Law enforcement agencies receiving funding under this section shall report to the attorney general regarding the use and effectiveness of the funding. The attorney general shall report to the sixty-ninth legislative assembly regarding the use and effectiveness of grant funds and the number of grants provided pursuant to this section.

Jahner, Jesse

From: Faul, Tayler Ann <tfaul@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:49 PM
To: Jahner, Jesse
Subject: Back the Blue Award
Attachments: Cass County - Back the Blue Award.pdf

Importance: High

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL

Hello,

We are pleased to let you know your Back the Blue award has been released for payment to your agency! You should see it come through in the next few days by ACH or in the mail. If your agency uses another department to manage deposits, please let them know you are expecting this money.

Attached is your Award Form with you award amounts and will need to be filled out, signed, and returned to me by **November 30, 2023**. I will send a progress report in the Spring to check-in with how the money was spent. If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you,

TaylerAnn Faul
Grant Manager
ND Office of Attorney General
701-328-5535