

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: November 13, 2018

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Nicholas Caristo, Acting Chief of Police

Re: Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) – Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Resolution No: 188-2018

Date: October 15, 2018

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Town Council approve Resolution No. 188-2018 authorizing the Town of Palm Beach to submit a grant application to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program in the amount of \$50,000 to be applied towards the purchase of a Virtra Training Simulator.

GENERAL INFORMATION

For months, police command staff has been evaluating the value and necessity of purchasing its own training simulator that would allow law enforcement officers the ability to train in an immersive training environment. The simulator delivers real-life law enforcement scenarios to provide training on de-escalation opportunities, critical decision making in use of force encounters, marksmanship, tactical skills, etc.

During the past few years, as a result of President Trump's election to office, the department has been involved in many demonstrations and protests that have included many hostile crowds as well as participating in preparations for numerous Presidential and dignitary visits. In addition, the nation has seen an increase in violence at schools and places of worship and random acts of violence and terrorism leading us to believe that an on-site training would be an invaluable asset to the department and the community.

In April of 2018, the Police Department became aware of a possible funding opportunity through the JAG Residual Funding Program. On May 3, 2018 a letter was drafted and submitted to Petrina Herring, Bureau Chief of FDLE's Office of Criminal Justice Grants inquiring about the possible funding opportunity (Attachment A).

On August 10th, the Police Department received notification via email that the Commission's Office had approved \$50,000 in JAG residual funds for the Palm Beach Police Department to be used towards the purchase of a firearms training simulator as requested.

This grant period starts on the first day that the police department submits the application and ends on June 30, 2019. Upon approval of the Town Council, police department staff will proceed with submitting said application to FDLE JAG program as instructed.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

Based on a quote from VirTra dated April 20, 2018 (Attachment B), it is estimated that the Virtra Training Simulator will have an overall cost of approximately \$210,000. The remaining balance after grant funding is expected to be covered with funds from police donations and a donation from the Palm Beach Police Foundation. Upon submission, approval and acceptance of the grant, FDLE will reimburse the Town \$50,000 once the VirTra Training Simulator system has been purchased.

PURCHASING REVIEW

The VirTra Training Simulator will be purchased following appropriate Purchasing Procedures as established by Town policy.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

The resolution has been approved by the Town Attorney as to form and legal sufficiency.

lsg

cc: Jane LeClainche, Director of Finance
Jay Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager
John Randolph, Town Attorney