



Legislation Text

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TITLE

Request to Apply for US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2025 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program Grant

BRIEF OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced the FY25 Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Policy and Implementation Program application funding period. This program supports the implementation or expansion of body-worn camera programs for law enforcement agencies.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office intends to submit an application under this program to purchase 294 body cameras, including all necessary software, licenses, and warranties. The estimated cost for the first year is \$2,473,757, with ongoing annual costs of \$921,320 each year thereafter. The total cost for implementing a BWC program is estimated at \$10,765,637 for the first 10 years.

Federal funds awarded through this grant require a 50 percent non-federal match and are capped at \$2,000 per BWC, offering a potential grant award of \$588,000 over the 3-year grant period.

As part of the application process, the Board Chairman is required to sign the attached Certification to participate in the grant program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If awarded the grant, the Sheriff's Office is requesting the Board of County Commissioners provide the required match amount and any additional funding not covered by the grant, as it was not budgeted for Fiscal Year 2026.

The total for the first three years is \$4,316,397, the total potential grant award over the three years is \$588,000, leaving a balance of \$3,728,397 to be funded by the County. It is unknown how much the County would need to provide each year, as that is dependent on the grant award.

Due to the timing, reserves would be the most likely funding source. Another potential funding source would be excess fees from FY 25 to be returned by the Sheriff estimated at \$800,000.

LEGAL NOTE

The Board is authorized to act on this matter pursuant to Chapter 125, Florida Statutes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve application for the U.S. Department of Justice FY25 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program and authorize the Chairman's signature on the required Certification form. Additionally, it is recommended that the Board provide the required match

amount plus any additional funding not covered by the grant.