



# Monterey County

Item No.

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: BC 21-022

February 24, 2021

Introduced: 2/16/2021

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Budget Committee

- a. Ratify the submittal of a grant application by the Monterey County Public Defender to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the Indigent Defense Grant Program in the amount of \$637,000.00 for funding of Public Defender's Attorney and Case Management Enhancement project (ACME); and
- b. Authorizing the Public Defender or Assistant Public Defender to execute the Grant Agreement with BSCC, accepting an Indigent Defense Grant program award for a total grant amount of \$637,000.00, for developing and implementing an ACME project for the grant period February 15, 2021 through June 30, 2023; and
- c. Approve the delegation of authority to the Public Defender or Assistant Public Defender to act on the County's behalf to carry out and consummate all transactions contemplated during the grant period; and
- d. Approve an increase in appropriations and estimated revenues of \$637,000 for Public Defender Budget Unit 001-2270-PUB001-8169 in the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget (4/5ths vote required); and
- e. Authorizing the Auditor-Controller's Office to incorporate approved appropriation and estimated revenue modifications to the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget, and the County Administrative Office to reflect these approved changes in the FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget on June 2-3, 2021. (4/5ths vote required).

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Budget Committee support adopting a resolution to:

- a. Ratify the submittal of a grant application by the Monterey County Public Defender to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the Indigent Defense Grant Program in the amount of \$637,000.00 for funding of Public Defender's Attorney and Case Management Enhancement project (ACME); and
- b. Authorizing the Public Defender or Assistant Public Defender to execute the Grant Agreement with BSCC, accepting an Indigent Defense Grant program award for a total grant amount of \$637,000.00, for developing and implementing an ACME project for the grant period February 15, 2021 through June 30, 2023; and
- c. Approve the delegation of authority to the Public Defender or Assistant Public Defender to act on the County's behalf to carry out and consummate all transactions contemplated during the grant period; and
- d. Approve an increase in appropriations and estimated revenues of \$637,000 for Public Defender Budget Unit 001-2270-PUB001-8169 in the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget (4/5ths vote required); and
- e. Authorizing the Auditor-Controller's Office to incorporate approved appropriation and estimated

revenue modifications to the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget, and the County Administrative Office to reflect these approved changes in the FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget on June 2-3, 2021. (4/5ths vote required).

SUMMARY:

The Public Defender office is applying for an Indigent Defense Grant Program through the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) in the amount of \$637,000.00 to be funded for a period commencing on February 15, 2021 through June 30, 2023. The Board of State and Community Corrections requires formal authorization in order to consider the County's submission. Therefore, Board approval of the submission is requested.

DISCUSSION:

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is an independent statutory agency that provides leadership and technical assistance to the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems, expertise on Public Safety Realignment issues, a data and information clearinghouse, and provides assistance on a wide range of community corrections issues. The BSCC also administers public safety related to grant funding, including evidence-based practices to fight gangs, and works to address the over representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

The Budget Act of 2020 (Senate Bill 74) established the Indigent Defense Grant Program and appropriated \$10,000,000 in funding. Per the Budget Act, \$9,800,000 is available for grants to nineteen counties with a population of 550,000 residents or less. The Monterey County Public Defender is among one of the nineteen applicable counties who meet eligibility of this grant. The County's allocation is \$637,000.00.

Funds awarded under the Indigent Defense Grant Program will be utilized to address the Public Defender's Attorney and Case Management Enhancement (ACME) project. The ACME project will enhance attorney support for indigent client defense by adding a searchable database to our current paperless digital case management system, streamlining the amount of time the court and client wait for the delivery of paper documents that are stored in offsite locations, and automatically sending text messages to remind indigent clients of the time and place of their upcoming court dates.

The use of BSCC grant funds will result in a more efficient case management system that will benefit the court and our defense of indigent clients. Further outcomes will include attorneys allocating more of their time to ensure positive client outcomes by (1) reducing the time attorneys spend in digitizing and automating duties; and (2) reducing re-calendaring court dates caused by client non-appearances; (3) reducing the time attorneys spend in searching for testimony of recurring witnesses to the point of creating a searchable case database, having information quickly at hand will let attorneys efficiently determine the validity of prior conviction allegations, identify client eligibility for all types of post-conviction relief, and rapidly transfer case materials to subsequent counsel for appeal and writ matters; and (4) improving our method of measuring attorney workloads, thereby redistributing caseloads to achieve workload efficiencies.

In addition to the four goals and related outcomes listed above, the ACME project includes the purchase and installation of hardware and software and software training for attorneys. Our plan

includes an assistant Public Defender as project director, a designated financial officer, designated day-to-day project and fiscal contacts, and oversight provided by our Public Defender.

ACME project evaluation (local evaluation plan and logic model for process and outcome designs and methods; data collection tools, methods, and analysis; fidelity monitoring; and local evaluation report) will be conducted, through a Memorandum of Understanding by the County of Monterey Health Department evaluation team that conducted the County's BSCC Strengthening Law Enforcement grant and is currently conducting BSCC's Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program grant.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

County Counsel and the Auditor Controller have reviewed this Agreement as to legal form and fiscal provisions.

FINANCING:

The Public Defender's office is asking for support from the Budget Committee to increase appropriations by \$637,000 in the FY 2020-21 Adopted Budget. The grant amount of \$637,000 is awarded under the Indigent Defense Grant Program that requires no financial leveraging through other federal, state, or local funds or other social investments. There will be no impact on the Monterey County General Fund.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

This recommendation meets the Board's strategic initiatives by promoting an organization that practices efficient and effective resource management and by creating a safe environment for communities to thrive and grow while reducing violent crimes.

Mark a check to the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives

☐ Economic Development  
☒ Administration  
☐ Health & Human Services  
☐ Infrastructure  
☒ Public Safety

Prepared by: Becky Avila, Management Analyst, Ext. 3048

Approved by: Susan E. Chapman, Public Defender, Ext. 5806   
Susan Chapman (Feb 16, 2021 15:21 PST)

Attachments:

Board Report

Resolution

Indigent Defense Grant Program Application

