



Minutes - Final

Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:15 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call: Chair Affa, Zucal, Mota

[15-7605](#)

Bill 32

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Forty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$46,766) from the Department of Justice for 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant to the City of Allentown Police Department to utilize the funding evidence workflow management system and portable weighing scales. A portion of this funding is appropriated as a pass through to Lehigh County.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 32 - Police JAG Grant Appropriation](#)
[Ordinance #16123.pdf](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated Chief Roca.

Chief Charles Roca stated good evening Councilman Zucal. He stated that AC Gress will be providing updates.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that he did not see him.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated good evening everyone. He stated that this is an annual grant and is actually an allocation that they get annually from the Department of Justice. When they allocate this funding for the city of Allentown and to the county of Lehigh. They essentially split it with the county of Lehigh District Attorney's office. He stated that the amount was \$46,766 this year. It was greatly reduced from previous years. He stated that \$21,290 for APD as Mike read for portable weigh scales for commercial vehicle inspections and for workflow software for our office assigned to evidence in the property and \$25,476 is for Lehigh County District Attorney's office to have new laptops for their EDAs.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if there were any questions and asked Ms. Affa if she had any questions.

Ms. Candida Affa stated no, she doesn't.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if there were any questions from the dais or from the community.

A motion was made by Candida Affa, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be forwarded to full Council.

Yes: 2 - Candida Affa and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7606](#)

Bill 34

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$132,800.00) from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant to the City of Allentown Police Department. These funds will be utilized for reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of case management software, mobile devices, program analysis, unit apparel and additional Community Intervention Specialist.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 34 - PCCD Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16125.pdf](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated Assistant Chief Gress, it is your turn again.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that this a PCCD Grant. It was a competitive grant that they applied for a little while ago. They were awarded \$132,800 over a two year period. The idea behind this is to add a Crisis Prevention Specialist to our department and expand our current program into our Co - Responder Program where crisis intervention specialists will be riding with the police and self responding to calls that require mental health assistance. Not only they would pay for a Crisis Intervention Specialists, but also pays for where there is software, where there is hardware, mobile devices, even uniforms and analysis of the program as to how it is going. The idea behind it of course is that they would report back quarterly to PCCD because it is based on their framework. They put out this framework publication every quarter on what they would like to see. This is based on their framework. He stated that what they would do then, they will show at the very end of this grant how successful it was and would what is called an impact report and then they will apply for additional funding to be there to continue to fund the program.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated ok, very good. He asked Ms. Affa if she had any questions.

Ms. Candida Affa stated no, she doesn't.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if there were any questions on the dais.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Mr. Zucal and stated just two questions. She asked if this was the grant where the ideal situation would have been more money and therefore would have hired three folks so that each platoon would have a CIS person.

Chief Charles Roca stated no. This is for the grant that they got from the PCCD which is going to look at our Co - Responder Program that they talked about. He stated at prior meetings as well.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked what was the result and stated there was a result of the larger grant. She stated maybe that was a DOJ grant that was going to pay for more CIS people. She asked if they just not get that or.

Chief Charles Roca stated that was going to be a joint effort between the county and the city that didn't go through.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that they funding was pulled back on that.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated that was one of the funding cuts with the new administration.

Chief Charles Roca stated not the new administration. It occurred prior. It was dealing with the ARPA money from previously.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated and then the second thing is so with the Co - Responder Program, they had budgeted to do an evaluation. She asked if they did an RFP yet or are they going to.

Chief Charles Roca stated as this program shows, they will look to do an RFP for the future once they get this off the ground.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach asked what do you mean. He stated when they get this program started, they have Cedar Crest College conducting some analysis for them for the implementation of this and as they get the result, as Chief Gress reported, they are going to look at furthering this program. At that point, they can put an RFP for an additional study.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach stated oh, ok. She stated that she just remembers a conversation and the Co - Responder Committee, one of the recommendations is that Cedar Crest would work with another organization with experience in evaluating a Co - Responder Program and in that time, it seemed to be good. She stated that they even met with

privately about that. She stated that they are not doing that.

Chief Charles Roca stated that he would say initially, Cedar Crest is the organization that they are going to go to and would submit to her that Cedar Crest can do a very thorough evaluation on a Co - Responder Model.

Ms. Ce Ce Gerlach thanked Chief Roca.

Chief Charles Roca stated you're welcome.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked if there were any other questions from the dais or any from the community.

A motion was made by Candida Affa, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be forwarded to full Council.

Yes: 2 - Candida Affa and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-7607](#)

Bill 35

Amending the 2025 General Fund Budget to provide for a supplemental appropriation of Eighty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$85,900.00) from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Grant to the City of Allentown Police Department. These funds will be utilized for reimbursement of expenses for the purchase of portable breath testing devices, impaired driving simulator kit, trailer and training for officers.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 35 - Police PCCD Grant](#)
[Ordinance #16126.pdf](#)

Mr. Ed Zucal stated Mr. Gress.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that this is another PDDC Grant, but it is based on the medical marijuana tax revenue that comes into the state. He stated that they distribute that accordingly to agencies that request it. He stated that this grant is a two year grant for \$85,900 they were awarded. It was for three parts. It is for the enforcement, education, and training. The enforcement is for 50. They put in 50 portable breathe tests (PBTs) for officers to utilize as needed. The education part of it is the really interesting part. They applied for an Impaired Drivers Simulator Kit and what it does it comes with a small vehicle, a trailer for one of our SUVs for our trucks to pull and what it does, it can be programmed for individuals in the community in our citizens academy if they ever needed to get behind the wheel of this small vehicle and they can program a computer to simulate DUI driving while under the influence or sleep deprivation or distraction with

cell phones or texting. He stated that they hope to be very successful with education. He stated then of course, training and stated that they applied for a training for one officer to go to Drug Recognition Expert Training. He stated that alone is \$12,000. He stated that they were awarded \$85,900 for that.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated a lot of good stuff there. He asked if there were any questions from the committee.

Ms. Candida Affa asked to be reminded again, this simulator is training this person gets behind the wheel of this car.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated yes, they would control the environment like a parking lot somewhere and they would take it out with cones and things like that.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that is interesting.

Assistant Chief James Gress stated that it is very neat.

Mr. Ed Zucal stated that it don't count for your electric bike, Candida.

Ms. Candida Affa stated oh, doesn't it. She stated that when she went through the Academy she went through the cones and flunked stating that she would flunk any of those tests. She stated that it is a good training tool.

Mr. Ed Zucal asked anybody else on the dais or anyone from the community.

A motion was made by Candida Affa, seconded by Ed Zucal, that this Bill be forwarded to full Council.

Yes: 2 - Candida Affa and Ed Zucal

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Adjournment: 6:23 PM