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El Paso County Agenda Item Details

Item Title: Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) / FY26 Grant-App No. 2283713 and Resolution / Yr 2025-2027

Submitted By: James Montoya, District Attorney

Department: District Attorney's Office

Department Phone Number: 915-273-3542

Subject: GRANT APPLICATION - Approve and authorize the District Attorney's Office to apply for the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grants Division, FY26 Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) Program, in the amount of \$4,866,903 from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027. No County match is required. Further, authorize the County Judge to sign the accompanying Resolution. (Contract No. 2025-0220)

Background: This project, an integral part of the Texas Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) will equip the 34th Judicial District Attorney's Office, composed of El Paso Hudspeth and Culberson Counties, (and one of 23 prosecutor offices comprising the BPU) with enhanced prosecution capabilities by providing the funding to hire additional prosecutors whose efforts will be focused and targeted to border crimes.

On a broader scale, the project also contains funding that will equip the entire Border Prosecution Unit project to meet the duties and responsibilities enumerated in the BPU enabling statute (Sec. 772.056, Texas Government Code) primarily by facilitating: (a) cross-training for both prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, with a primary focus on the numerous small local police and sheriffs' departments throughout the 54 counties in the BPU service area; (b) frequent meetings and coordination sessions among all BPU member jurisdictions, including the eight (8) district attorney offices housing Texas Anti-Gang Center BPU attorneys; and (c) joint intelligence briefings with Department of Public Safety regional command structure, including specifically the Criminal Investigations Division.

Fiscal Impact: Fiscal Impact Historical
N/A

Fiscal Impact Projected
FY26 \$4,866,903 with No County Match

Long Account Number: Amount:

Long Account Number: Amount: \$0.00

Budget or Unbudgeted Match:

Recommendation:

Approve and authorize the District Attorney's Office to apply for the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grants Division, FY26 Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) Program, in the amount of \$4,866,903, from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027. No County match is required. Further, authorize the County Judge to sign the accompanying Resolution. (Contract No. 2025-0220).

Prior Action:

Award contract# 2023-0148
9/1/2023

Strategic Plan:

Goal:

6. Advance Community Support Services

Objective:

Strategic Plan Information:

Approve and authorize the District Attorney's Office to apply for the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grants Division, FY26 Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) Program, in the amount of \$4,866,903 from September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2027. No County match is required. Further, authorize the County Judge to sign the accompanying Resolution. (Contract No. 2025-0220)

**Estimated Time Needed
For This Item:**



LV

BUDGET AND FISCAL POLICY DEPARTMENT
GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

FY25 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION APPROVAL FORM

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION	
Date:	February 26, 2025
Requesting Department/Division:	District Attorney's Office
Department/Division Contact:	Border Prosecution Unit
Anticipated Commissioners Court Meeting Grant Approval Date:	March 10, 2025
Who from your department/division will speak on the agenda item?	DA James Montoya
Please list accompanying grant documents requiring the County Judge's signature.	Resolution
GRANT OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION	
Grant Opportunity Title (as provided by Grantor):	FY26 Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) Program
Grantor Agency:	Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Homeland Security Grants Division
Type of Grant (State, Federal, Private, Local, Other):	State
Is this a continuation or a new grant?	Continuation
Is this grant for a new program?	No
CobbleStone Number for Most Recent Grant Award:	
Grant Due Date:	March 13, 2025
Grant Period: (start date to end date)	September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2027

<p>Grant Proposal Summary (one paragraph or less):</p>	<p>This project, an integral part of the Texas Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) will equip the 34th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, composed of El Paso, Culberson and Hudspeth Counties, (and one of 23 prosecutor offices comprising the BPU) with enhanced prosecution capabilities by providing the funding to hire additional prosecutors whose efforts will be focused and targeted to border crimes. On a broader scale, the project also contains funding that will equip the entire Border Prosecution Unit project to meet the duties and responsibilities enumerated in the BPU enabling statute (Sec. 772.056, Texas Government Code) primarily by facilitating: (a) cross-training for both prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, with a primary focus on the numerous small local police and sheriffs’ departments throughout the 54 counties in the BPU service area; (b) frequent meetings and coordination sessions among all BPU member jurisdictions, including the eight (8) district attorney offices housing Texas Anti-Gang Center BPU attorneys; and (c) joint intelligence briefings with Department of Public Safety regional command structure, including specifically the Criminal Investigations Division.</p>
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GRANT FINANCES

A. Grant Funding to be Requested:	\$4,866,903
B. Total Match Contribution (if applicable):	
<p>I. Cash Match Amount and Description (i.e. County employee salaries, anticipated operating expenses, third-party monetary donations, etc.):</p>	
<p>a. Match Source Account(s) (if applicable):</p>	<p>Please reach out to your assigned Grant Analyst to confirm match accounts if match is needed. Accounts (short and long) should be placed in this box.</p> <p>NOTE: Accounts must also be placed in the applicable Commissioners Court agenda item (Fiscal Impact section).</p>

b. What fiscal year(s) will County match funding be needed? Please indicate the fiscal years and the match needed per fiscal year.																																																													
II. In-kind Match Amount and Description (i.e. donated supplies/equipment, volunteer hours, donated professional services, etc.):																																																													
C. Anticipated Program Income (if applicable):																																																													
D. Total Project Amount (A + B + C):	\$4,866,903																																																												
FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT																																																													
1) What are the staffing requirements or needs for this grant? Please include salary and benefit amounts and anticipated salary and benefit increases for multi-year grants. Have Job Descriptions and Impact forms been created for personnel?																																																													
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2) Has this grant has been awarded in the past? If so, please provide the financial results of the most recently completed grant award cycle to include the award amount and the balance at the closing of the grant.																																																													
<p style="text-align: center;">FY24/25 grant award in the amount of \$3,103,399.87 is active and on track to spend all funding.</p>																																																													
3) What is the sustainability plan for this grant and the services being provided if this funding is significantly reduced or is not awarded in future?																																																													

The grants for the Border Prosecution Unit provide the sole source of funding to make possible a coordinated prosecution response, along with the critical support element provided by the BPU to law enforcement partners with the Department of Public Safety, the various federal enforcement agencies, and local law enforcement organizations. Without the grant funding, the BPU as it operates today would simply cease to exist.

PROGRAMMATIC ASSESSMENT

- 1) How is this grant and its purpose(s) aligned with the County strategic plan?
- 2) How will this grant benefit your department/division and the El Paso County community?

This grant is in alignment with Public Safety of the County strategic plan.

- 3) Please explain the capacity of your department/division to administer this grant and complete all programmatic reporting requirements during the grant period.

This grant has been awarded to the County District Attorney's Office for the past twelve years; there are regional attorneys who assist in the management of the grant and funds. The grant accountant and the grant department are very familiar with the grant.

- 4) Will this grant require the use of contractual services? *If so, please contact the Purchasing Department, upon award acceptance to ensure your department follows applicable procurement policies and procedures.*

This is a regional grant that will require contracts with consultants that have been working on this grant for several years. Contracts have already been created and are renewed on a yearly basis.