

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: E

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Helene Zentner, Field Representative, helene.zentner@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program Funding
Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval of the Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Prevention grant awards as recommended by the ORT Scoring Panel (Attachment E-1). If the proposed list of award recommendations is approved, seven (7) sheriff's departments and 31 police departments are eligible to receive \$242,250,000 to help address the serious problems across the state related to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft. ORT has been an issue of growing concern that the Governor and Legislature have been working to address. A list of proposals recommended for funding is provided in Attachment E-2 and corresponding proposal summaries are provided in Attachment E-3.

Background

The State Budget Act of 2022 (Senate Bill 154, Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022) established the ORT Prevention Grant Program (Attachment E-4). Grant funding is available to California city police departments, sheriff departments, and probation departments to support local law enforcement agencies in preventing and responding to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft. Senate Bill 154 states, in part:

- The amount appropriated in this item shall be for competitive grants for city police, county sheriffs' departments, and probation departments. These law enforcement agencies may apply individually or on behalf of a group of entities that includes other law enforcement agencies or non-law-enforcement entities, including, but not limited to, community-based organizations or prosecutors' offices.
- Grant funds shall be used to support local law enforcement agencies in preventing and responding to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft. Permissible uses of grant funds include, but are not limited to, purchase of technology or other equipment to help deter strategies for preventing or responding to crime.
- Grants shall be made on a competitive basis to localities that can demonstrate, using data, that organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft pose a significant problem in their jurisdictions.

The ORT Prevention Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on April 14, 2023, making \$242,250,000 available competitively to city police departments, county sheriff's departments, and county probation departments located in the State of California (Attachment E-5). This amount reflects three fiscal years of appropriations, at \$85 million per year, less BSCC administration costs. Applicants could apply for up to \$6,125,000 for Medium Scope projects or up to \$15,650,000 for Large Scope projects.

ORT Prevention proposals were due on July 7, 2023. The BSCC received 114 proposals requesting almost \$380 million in funding. After a technical review, 87 of the proposals met all submission criteria and were provided to the ORT Scoring Panel. Once all scores were submitted, BSCC staff generated a ranked list of all eligible proposals.

If the Board approves the funding recommendations listed in Attachment E-2, the full amount of \$242,250,000 would be allocated.

Recommendation/Action Needed

On behalf of the ORT Scoring Panel, staff recommends that the Board:

- Fully fund 11 Large Scope and 26 Medium Scope top ranked proposals totaling \$241,849,438 and one (1) partial award to the next ranked Medium Scope proposal in the amount of \$400,562 to distribute the full \$242,250,000 available for the purpose of preventing and responding to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, or cargo theft.
- Authorize staff to continue to make awards from the rank-ordered list if staff determine during the follow-up award-making process that an applicant recommended for funding is ineligible, if a grantee becomes ineligible during the grant cycle, or if the grant award is relinquished during the grant cycle.
- Dissolve the ORT Scoring Panel upon approval of the funding recommendations.

Attachments

- E-1: ORT Scoring Panel Roster
- E-2: List of Funding Recommendations
- E-3: Proposal Summaries
- E-4: Senate Bill 154
- E-5: ORT Prevention Request for Proposals