Grant Funding for Interoperable Communications

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Program Types

Grants that Fund Communications Projects

- **Federal Programs**
  - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)
  - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

- **State Programs**
  - Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI)

Homeland Security Grant Program

SHSP and UASI

FY2025 SHSP and UASI Funding (HSGP NOFO)

Program	FY2025	FY2024	Amount Increase	Percentage Increase
SHSP	$ 26,066,797.00	$16,389,406.00	$ 9,677,391.00	59%
Austin UASI	$ 3,753,183.00	$ 1,346,340.00	$ 2,406,843.00	179%
DFWA UASI	$ 16,798,290.00	$14,941,233.00	$ 1,857,057.00	12%
Houston UASI	$ 26,233,082.00	$21,748,776.00	$ 4,484,306.00	21%
San Antonio UASI	$ 6,627,754.00	$ 3,410,728.00	$ 3,217,026.00	94%
Total	$ 79,479,106.00	$57,836,483.00	$21,642,623.00	37%

Spending Requirements

SHSP and UASI

National Priority Areas and UASI Funding

- **30%** of allocated funding must go to 5 National Priority Areas (NPAs)
  - Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places
  - Supporting Homeland Security Task Forces and Fusion Centers
  - Enhancing Cybersecurity (Not Accepting Application)
  - Enhancing Election Security (NPA, 3%)
  - Supporting Border Crisis Response and Enforcement (NPA, 10%)

Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA)

- **35%** of funding must be allocated to support Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities.
- Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) are expenditures intended to build capabilities and meet resource requirements of law enforcement and supporting agencies in order to fulfill their unique and central role in preventing and protecting against acts of terrorism.

SHSP and UASI Investment Areas

- Combating Domestic Violent Extremism (NPA)
- Community Preparedness & Resilience (NPA)
- Emergency Operations Center Technology
- Enhancing Cybersecurity (NPA, Not Accepting Apps)
- Enhancing Election Security (NPA, 3%)
- Intelligence & Information Sharing (NPA)
- Interoperable Emergency Communications
- Planning – Homeland Security
- Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places (NPA)
- Support of First Responder Capabilities

FY2024 SHSP Investments
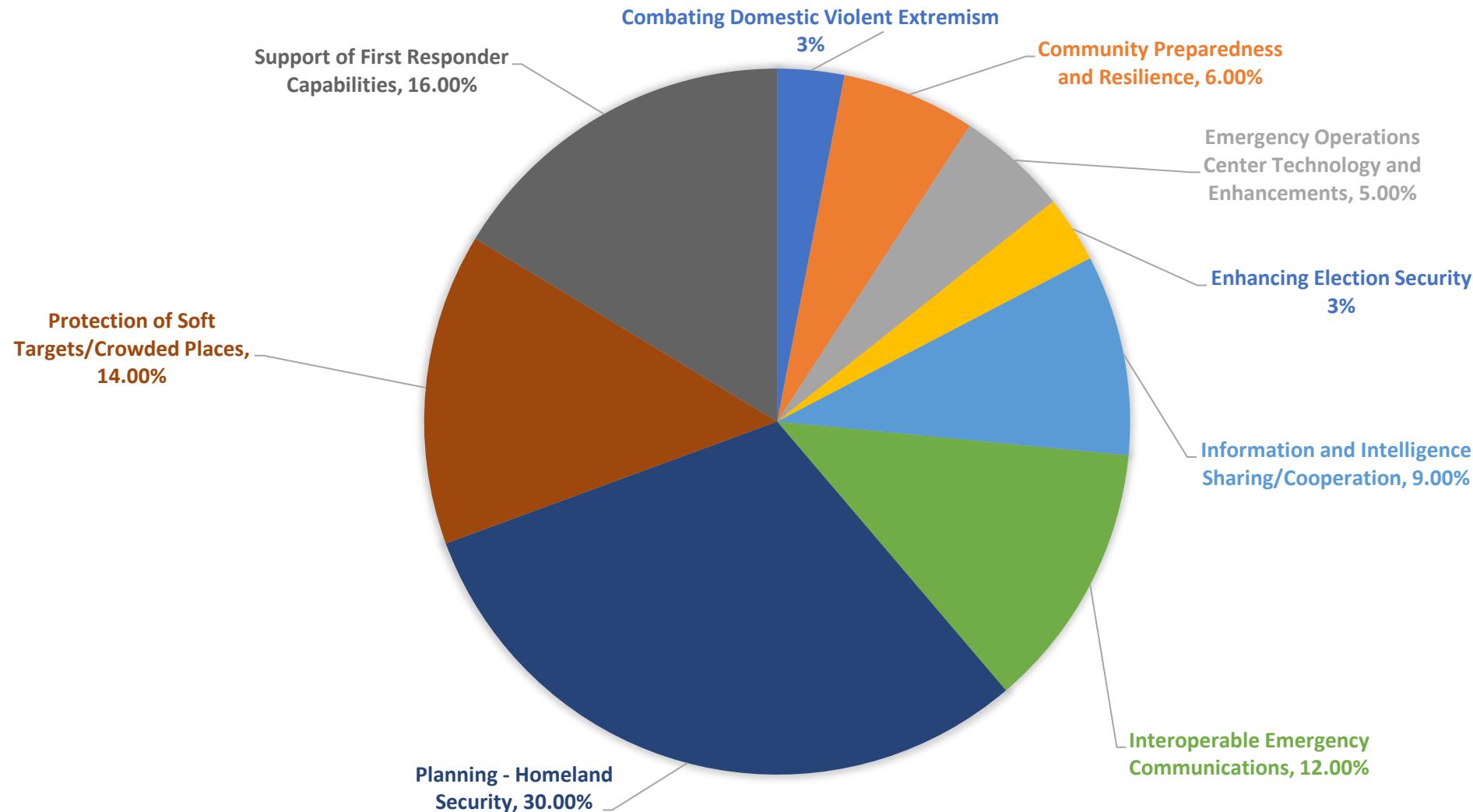
FY2024 SHSP Investments

Investment Area	Funded Amounts	# of Projects	% of SHSP
Combating Domestic Violent Extremism	$ 491,682.18	4	3%
Community Preparedness and Resilience	$ 1,019,084.62	8	6%
Emergency Operations Center Technology and Enhancements	$ 333,506.48	5	2%
Enhancing Election Security	$ 491,682.18	5	3%
Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation	$ 1,481,285.98	14	9%
Interoperable Emergency Communications	$ 2,006,304.61	24	12%
Planning - Homeland Security	$ 4,948,516.00	28	30%
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places	$ 2,238,758.32	27	14%
Support of First Responder Capabilities	$ 2,559,115.33	38	16%

FY2024 UASI Investments
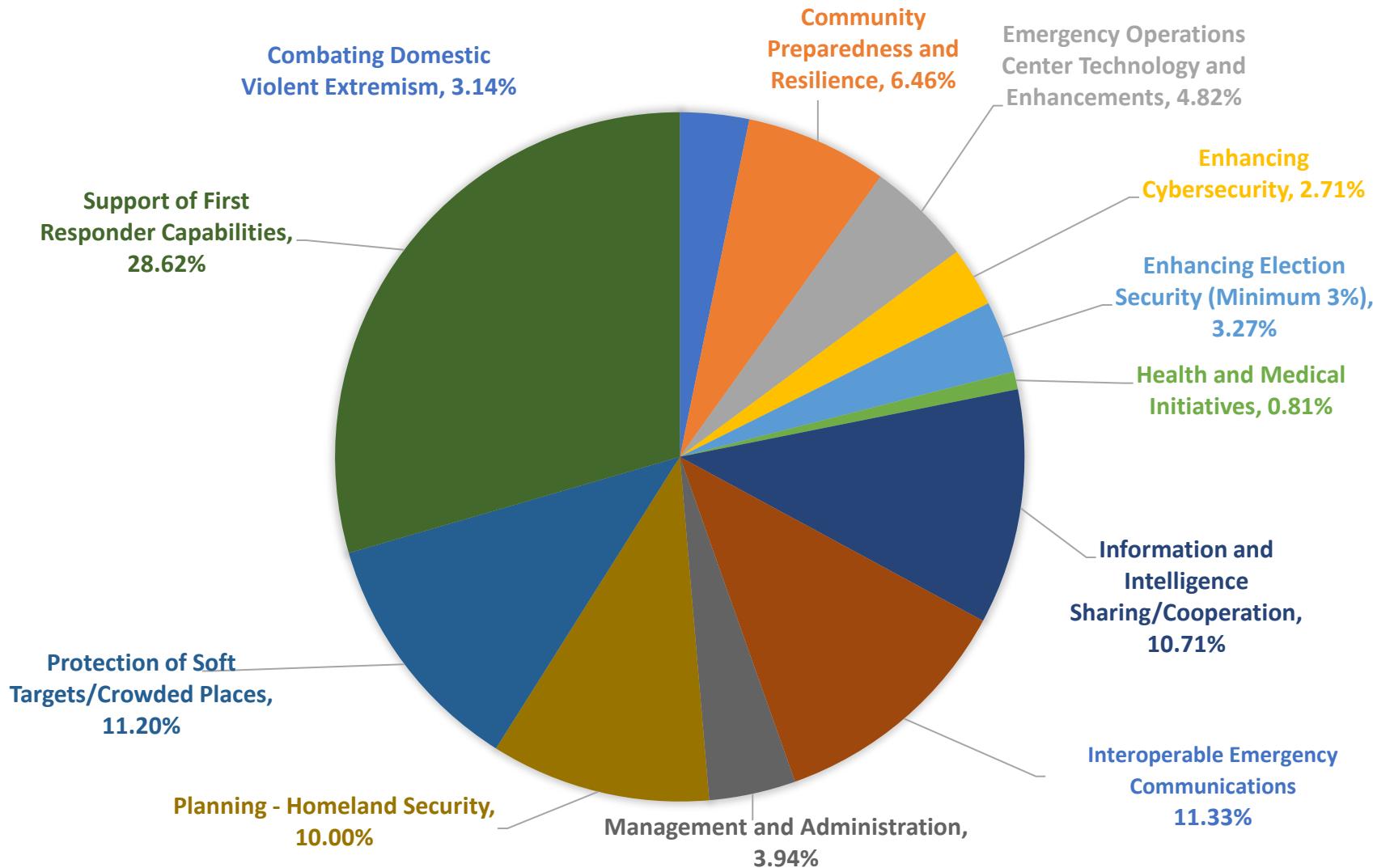
FY2024 UASI Investments

Investment Area	Funded Amounts	# of Projects	% of SHSP
Combating Domestic Violent Extremism	$ 1,300,257.40	8	3%
Community Preparedness and Resilience	$ 2,676,321.03	13	6%
Emergency Operations Center Technology and Enhancements	$ 1,996,715.55	12	5%
Enhancing Cybersecurity	$ 1,122,344.24	4	3%
Enhancing Election Security	$ 1,354,416.86	10	3%
Health and Medical Initiatives	$ 335,950.00	2	1%
Information and Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation	$ 4,437,634.28	11	11%
Interoperable Emergency Communications	$ 4,696,980.49	7	11%
Management and Administration	$ 1,634,718.55	12	4%
Planning - Homeland Security	$ 4,146,120.56	13	10%
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places	$ 4,641,286.36	19	11%
Support of First Responder Capabilities	$ 11,860,919.37	43	29%

Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure Grant (SERI)

- 16 Awards totaling $23.1 M in FY 2025

- Offered every other year to increase available funding

- PSO will offer the funding again in Jan 2026.

- PSO expects to make at least $20 M for projects.

- Infrastructure only, no subscriber units

Application Timeline

Application Timeline

- <u>PSO Plan Year (PY) 2027</u>
    - December 15, 2025 (Target opening date for SHSP & others)
    - February 12, 2026 (Texas eGrants Application Deadline)
    - August 01, 2026 (Target date for completion of reviews/revisions)
    - October 01, 2026 (Earliest grant performance period start date)
    - TBD (Release of awards dependent on receipt of Federal Award)

- Funding for grant programs is dependent upon federal and state appropriations

- Other grant opportunities open in January and close in March; some at other times during the year

- Active Funding Opportunities: [Funding Opportunities | eGrants](#)
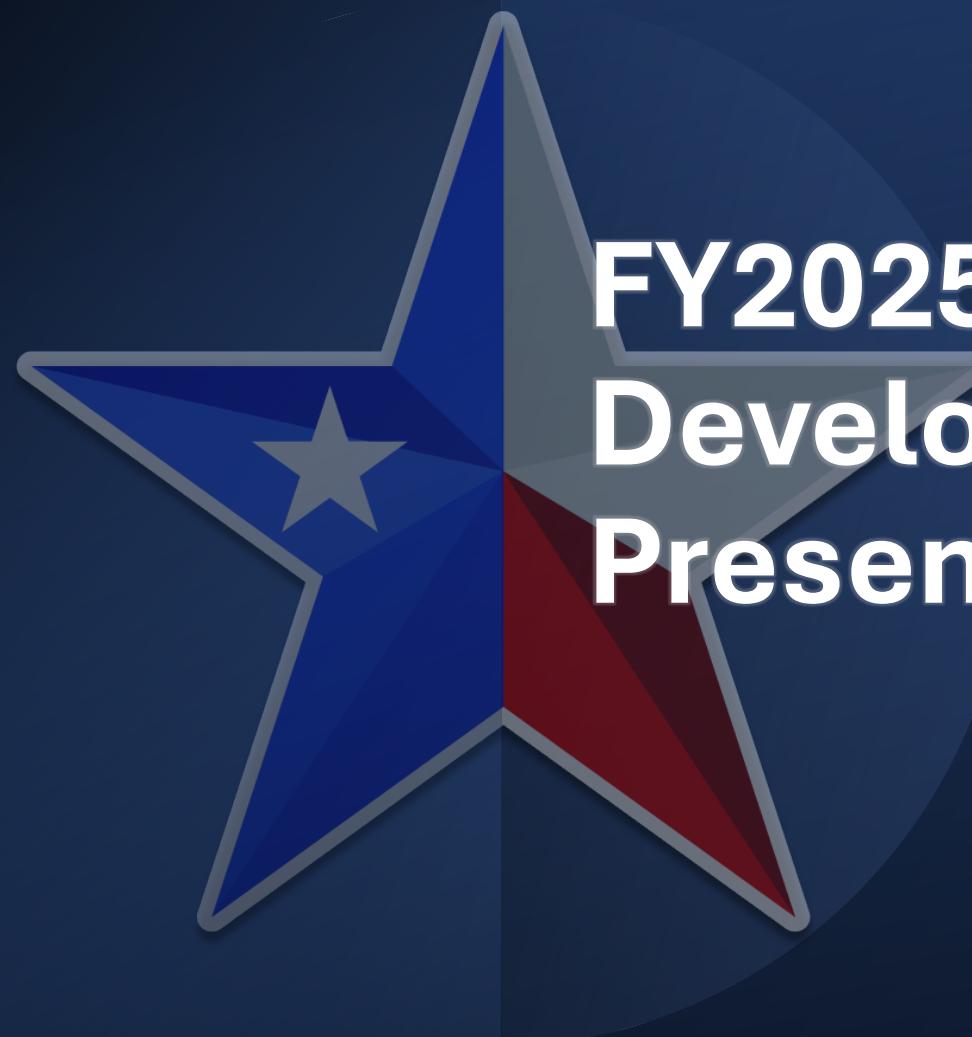
FY2025 Application Development Workshop Presentation

FY2025 Application Development Workshop Presentation

- Contains Programmatic Information specific to the State Homeland Security Grant Program

- Tab by Tab instructions and real examples

- Budget examples applicable to all programs

Available at : [State Homeland Security Grant Program (FY2025) - Application Development Workshop](#)

Narrative Tab

Project Narrative

Project Summary
Briefly summarize the project, including proposed activities and intended impact.

This application requests funding to obtain crucial equipment and supplies for the Texas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) SWAT team, including body armor, ballistic helmets, and night vision goggles. This project will align with LETPA activities by enhancing the SWAT team's core capability of interdiction and disruption which will allow the team to better carry out one of the team's mission which is to protect lives and property during counterterrorism operations.
Furthermore, these upgrades will support the SWAT team's transition from a NIMS Type IV to a Type III designation.

Problem Statement
Provide a detailed account of the issues, threats or hazards that your project will target. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific page references to the regional or state *Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)*, as applicable.

Texas County is home to an airport, a rail-loading terminal, several oil-well head equipment manufacturers, a chemical plant, and 41 schools with over 36,000 students. These industries and facilities are potential targets for terror related CBRNE and/or active shooter attacks as outlined in the Regional THIRA (pg 42).

Existing Capability Levels
Describe the existing capability levels, including resources that are currently in place to support this project prior to the use of grant funds.

The Texas County Sheriff's Department operates a Type 4 SWAT team consisting of 25 full-time officers. While the team is equipped with standard tactical gear, it lacks advanced detection systems.

Capability Gaps
Describe the capability gaps which will be addressed by the project. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific page references to the regional or statewide State Preparedness Report (SPR).

In order to effectively address terrorism challenges, the SWAT team need access to critical equipment and training to counter threats. The gaps in law enforcement special response teams' capabilities are identified in the Lone Star Council of Governments SPR (pg. 8).

Impact Statement
Describe the project objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps.

Once implemented, this project will strengthen essential law enforcement capabilities, significantly improving safety for Texas County residents. This boost in capabilities will strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to threats, safeguarding the County and potentially aiding the region if outside assistance is needed.

Homeland Security Priority Action
Identify the Texas Homeland Security Priority Action most closely aligned with this project. Each Priority Action is linked with an *Objective from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan (HSSP)*. List the Priority Action by number and text (e.g. *1.2.3 Expand and enhance the network of human sources that can provide detailed and relevant information on known or suspected terrorist and criminal enterprises.*)

4.2.4 Make investments in personnel, training, and equipment to build new response team capabilities where possible, based on assessments of needs.

Target Group
Identify the target group and population expected to benefit from this project.

The 25 members of the Texas County Sheriff's office SWAT team will be the primary beneficiaries of these funds. Additionally, it will enhance safety for residents and travelers in both Texas County and the broader Lone Star region.

Long-Term Approach
Describe how the applicant agency will sustain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal or state funds. If sustainment is dependent upon federal or state grants, describe the ongoing need for future grants, as applicable.

Texas County will pay for maintaining current SWAT equipment and plans to seek additional local funding to improve the SWAT team in the future. However, budget constraints might lead to request grant funding for further enhancements.

Project Narrative
The project narrative is where the applicant provides information regarding what is being requested and why it is needed. The project Narrative is broken into 8 section that ask specific questions. Although there are instructions for each section, simply put, each section is asking the following questions.

1. Project Summary - What are you requesting this grant to fund?

2. Problem Statement - Why is this project necessary to address acts of terrorism and where is that referenced?

3. Existing Capability Levels - What capabilities do you currently have in place to address the "Threat"? In other words, what capabilities do we currently have?

4. Capability Gaps - What Capability Gap will this project address and what and where is this Gap identified in the Regional SPR?

5. Impact - Once completed, what will be the impact in relation to terrorism?

6. Homeland Security Priority Action - Which priority action from the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan does this project align with most closely?

7. Target Group – Which group, team, agency or department will have their capabilities enhanced upon the completion of the project?

8. Long-Term Approach - How will the activities being funded be sustained once grant funding ends?

Response Teams - LETPA

Project Type: *SWAT Equipment*
LETPA: *Yes*
Investment Area: *Support of First Responder Capabilities*
Core Capability: Interdiction and Disruption

Project Summary
- *This application requests funding to obtain crucial equipment and supplies for the Texas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) SWAT team, including body armor, ballistic helmets, and night vision goggles. This project will align with LETPA activities by enhancing the SWAT team's core capability of interdiction and disruption which will allow the team to better carry out one of the team's mission which is to protect lives and property during counterterrorism operations. Furthermore, these upgrades will support the SWAT team's transition from a NIMS Type IV to a Type III designation.*

Problem Statement
- *Texas County is home to an airport, a rail-loading terminal, several oil-well head equipment manufacturers, a chemical plant, and 41 schools with over 36,000 students. These industries and facilities are potential targets for terror related CBRNE and/or active shooter attacks as outlined in the Regional THIRA (pg. 42).*

Existing Capability Levels
- *The Texas County Sheriff's Department operates a Type 4 SWAT team consisting of 25 full-time officers. While the team is equipped with standard tactical gear, it lacks advanced night vision equipment and rifle resistant body armor.*

Capability Gaps
- *The Lone Star COG regional Stakeholder Preparedness Review identifies planning gaps across all homeland security mission areas. A summary of these gaps is detailed in the planning core capability section of the SPR: In order to effectively address terrorism challenges, the SWAT team need access to critical equipment and training to counter threats. The gaps in law enforcement special response teams' capabilities are identified in the Lone Star Council of Governments SPR (pg. 8).*

Impact Statement
- *Once implemented, this project will strengthen essential law enforcement capabilities, significantly improving safety for Texas County residents. This boost in capabilities will strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to threats, safeguarding the County and potentially aiding the region if outside assistance is needed.*

Homeland Security Priority Action
- *4.2.4 Make investments in personnel, training, and equipment to build new response team capabilities where possible, based on assessments of needs.*

Target Group
- *The 25 members of the Texas County Sheriff's office SWAT team will be the primary beneficiaries of these funds. Additionally, it will enhance safety for residents and travelers in both Texas County and the broader Lone Star region.*

Long-Term Approach
- *Texas County will pay for maintaining current SWAT equipment and plans to seek additional local funding to improve the SWAT team in the future. However, budget constraints might lead to request grant funding for further enhancements.*

Narrative Examples

Communications

Project Type: *Handheld and car mounted radios for Police Dept.*
LETPA: *No*
Investment Area: *Interoperable Emergency Communication*
Core Capability: *Operational Communications*

Project Summary

- *This project is requesting funds to purchase portable and mobile radios for the City of Masonville Police Department(MPD). These mobile radios will be installed in patrol vehicles and the portable radios will be issued to officers. By enhancing the MPDs operational communications core capability, It will enhance the MPD ability to carry out the response mission area when responding to acts of terrorism.*

Problem Statement

- *The City of Masonville's Police Department must ensure the safety of its residents and travelers. In emergencies, such as a terrorist attack, they might need to mobilize all officers and reservists but lack the funds for enough radios to support this surge. Lone Star Council of Governments THIRA identifies terrorism as a threat on page 8.*

Existing Capability Levels

- *The City of Masonville is currently at an interoperability level 4 with complete radio coverage throughout the city. MPD currently has enough radios to currently meet the needs of each of our shifts, but officers are forced to swap radios at each shift change. While this is adequate under normal conditions, it does not allow for a surge of resources during time of crisis.*

Capability Gaps

- *MPD currently has 45 Officers, 10 reservists and 12 vehicles. The Department only has 25 portable radios and 8 vehicles with mobile radios. This application is requesting 30 portable radios and 4 Mobile radios which will bolster the terrorism response mission area by addressing regional gaps in the Operational Communications Core Capability identified in the Lone Star Council of Governments SPR listed on page 8.*

Impact Statement

- *Upon completion of this project, the MPD will significantly improve its communication and coordination for large-scale operations, including those involving terrorism. This boost in capabilities will strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to threats, safeguarding the city and potentially aiding the region if outside assistance is needed.*

Homeland Security Priority Action

- *4.3.2 Ensure radio systems, equipment, owners, and users are in compliance with the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and Regional Interoperable Communications Plans.*

Target Group

- *The 55 officers and reservists of the Masonville Police Department will be the main beneficiaries of this project. Additionally, it will enhance safety for residents and travelers in both the City of Masonville and the broader Texas County area.*

Long-Term Approach

- *While the City would prefer to allocate extra funds to fully address our public safety communication needs, this isn't feasible at present. After purchasing these radios, the city can cover their routine maintenance costs but will likely seek additional grant funding in the future for upgrades or replacements.*

Narrative Examples

Eligibility | Profile | Narrative | Activities | Measures | Budget | Documents | Homeland.Security | Conditions.of.Funding | Submit.Application | Summary | Upload.Files | My.Home

Details | Source.of.Match | Budget.Summary

Budget / Details Tab: Equipment

Enter the Grantee-Defined Budget Line Item Description: ❓

Radio Solutions XLT 4500 P25 Portable radios. These radios will be used by the Masonville Fire Department to enhance interoperability when responding to acts of terrorism and other emergencies. 25 radio Kits (radio, holster, blet clip and charger) @ $2,500.00 per kit.

Enter the OOG Funds Amount: ❓

$62,500.00

Enter the Cash Match Amount: ❓

Enter the In Kind Match Amount: ❓

Enter the Generated Program Income (GPI) Amount (prior approval required): ❓

Add New Budget Item   **Cancel**

Equipment is tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the applicant agency, or $5,000. Items that are considered Controlled Assets (as identified by the Comptroller's Office) and radios, must also be listed under Equipment.

Line-Item Descriptions must include:
- Detailed equipment description to easily understand what the item is and its purpose
- Who the equipment is intended to support
- Make and Model of the Equipment
- Per Unit Cost

Unit:
- The quantity (number of units to be purchased with OOG and Matching Funds) must go in the Unit field of the line item.

Common Issues

- Line-item descriptions do not contain the per unit costs.
- The equipment cannot be tied back to the purpose of the project.

Eligibility | Profile | Narrative | Activities | Measures | Budget | Documents | Homeland.Security | Conditions.of.Funding | Submit.Application | Summary | Upload.Files | My.Home

Details | Source.of.Match | Budget.Summary

Budget / Details Tab: Equipment

Explosive Ordinance Disposal Team X-Ray System

Budget Code: *02EX-01-XRAP X-Ray Equipment, Portable or Transportable*

Clearview 7500 x-ray unit for the City of Masonville's EOD team. This equipment will allow the team x-ray items of interest during screening, searches, and responses in the Entertainment District and across the city and region in order to quickly identify and mitigate terrorist threats. Two units at $25,000.00 per unit.

SWAT Team Night Vision Goggles

Budget Code: *03OE-02-TILA Optics, Thermal Imaging and/or Light Amplification*

9 pairs Nighthawk 8000 helmet mounted night vision goggles to be utilized by the Texas County SWAT team members. 9 @ $3550.00 Each
Repeaters

Emergency Operations Center Computers

Budget Code: *04HW-01-INHW Hardware, Computer, Integrated*

Laptop computer with docking station, keyboard and mouse for use in the Texas County Emergency Operations center to enhance operational coordination during terror events. 25 Zell 8200 Laptop computer bundle which includes Laptop computer with docking station, keyboard and mouse @ $2,500 per unit.

Surveillance System for Critical Infrastructure

Budget Code: *14SW-01-VIDA Systems, Video Assessment, Security*

Video Camera Surveillance system for the City of Masonville drinking water facility. This system will be purchased as a package which includes 25 IP cameras, one network video recorder and associated cables and connectors. One complete Surveillance Direct model 3250 packaged system at $25,000.00

Homeland Security Tab

Milestones

List 3 to 5 milestones of this project, and then list the intended completion date for each milestone.

Milestones should occur throughout the project.

Enter dates as MM-DD-YYYY

Milestone	Completion Date	Edit	Delete
Complete procurement and select vendor.	11-30-2024	🖉	Delete
Submit EHP documentation for review by FEMA.	12-31-2024	🖉	Delete
Submit all training approval forms.	01-31-2025	🖉	Delete
Receive and complete all required installation of grant funded equipment.	05-31-2025	🖉	Delete
Complete all grant funded training classes	08-31-2025	🖉	Delete

Create New Milestone

Milestone Examples:
- Complete procurement and select vendor.
- Submit EHP documentation for review by FEMA.
- Submit all training approval forms.
- Receive and complete all required installation of grant funded equipment.
- Complete all grant funded training classes.
- Submit SWIC review forms for approval.
- Issue purchase order and order equipment.
- Submit Small Unmanned Aircraft System Waiver request to FEMA.
- Identify all personnel requiring training and determine class availability and travel.

The Homeland Security tab will request the following:

Milestones
Milestones represent significant points of progress along a project's critical path. Starting from the project's initiation, milestones track major deliverables and goals that lead to the successful completion of the project by its end date.

Milestone Guidelines:
- The first milestone should have a completion date do more than 90 days from the grant start date.
- Milestones must be related to crucial activities such as equipment procurement, training events, or internal processes that impact grant performance and are necessary for project completion. Applicants must exclude events like the acceptance of the grant award or the closure of the project in eGrants.
- Each milestone should be listed in chronological order.
- Applicants must provide at least three and no more than five milestones for their project.
- Milestones are vital for both the sub-grantee and the PSO, aiding in the assessment of project progress following the grant award. The PSO uses milestone status to report progress to FEMA.

Helpful Links and Contact Information

HELPFUL LINKS

AEL Codes and code descriptions
https://www.fema.gov/authorized-equipment-list

Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations (2CFR) Part 200
http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl

eGrants User's Guide to Creating an Application
https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/uploads/egrants_files/eGrants_Guide_to_Creating_an_Application_12.2020.pdf

OOG – General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/uploads/egrants_files/FAQs_eGrants.pdf

Public Safety Office – General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
httpshttps://egrants.gov.texas.gov/uploads/egrants_files/PSO_General_FAQs_2022_Revised.pdfegrants.gov.texas.gov/updates.aspx

PSO Guide to Grants
https://egrants.gov.texas.gov/uploads/egrants_files/2024_Guide_to_Grants.pdf

FEMA Homeland Security Grant Program
https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/homeland-security

CONTACT US

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Special Equipment Waivers & Environmental Historic Preservation Specialist
Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI)
State Agency Projects

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eGrants Help Desk

(512) 463-1919 - eGrants@gov.texas.gov