



MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners' Court
From: Betsy Thomas, Grants Administration Manager
Court Date: February 3, 2025
RE: Sheriff's Department/ Marine Division
FY 2026 Criminal Justice Grant Program - Application

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications for projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system. Funding may be used to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice purposes.

SUMMARY

This grant submission is for travel/training and equipment for the Sheriff's Department /Marine Division to elevate staff to current requirements and safety gear.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Grant Amount	\$149,030.40
County Match	<u>\$0.00</u>
Project Total	\$149,030.40

RECOMMENDATIONS

Professional Services requests the Court to consider approval to submit the FY 2026 Criminal Justice grant application to the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office – Criminal Justice Division and authorize the County Judge to sign supporting resolution.

ATTACHEMENTS FOR WET SIGNATURE

☐ FY 2026 CJAG Application Resolution

Agency Name: Galveston County

Grant/App: 5336601 **Start Date:** 10/1/2025 **End Date:** 9/30/2026

Project Title: Galveston County Law Enforcement Underwater Crime Scene Investigations

Status: Application Pending Submission

Eligibility Information

Your organization's Texas Payee/Taxpayer ID Number:

746000908

Application Eligibility Certify:

Created on:1/2/2025 5:16:20 PM By: Betsy Thomas

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Galveston County

Project Title: Galveston County Law Enforcement Underwater Crime Scene Investigations

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Sheriff's Department

Address Line 1: 722 Moody

Address Line 2: 2nd Floor

City/State/Zip: Galveston Texas 77550-2317

Start Date: 10/1/2025

End Date: 9/30/2026

Regional Council of Governments (COG) within the Project's Impact Area: Houston-Galveston Area Council

Headquarter County: Galveston

Counties within Project's Impact Area: Galveston

Grant Officials:

Authorized Official

Name: Mark Henry

Email: mark.henry@co.galveston.tx.us

Address 1: 722 Moody

Address 1:

City: Galveston, Texas 77550

Phone: 409-766-2244 Other Phone: 409-765-2639
Fax: 409-766-4582
Title: The Honorable
Salutation: Judge
Position: County Judge

Financial Official

Name: Randall Rice
Email: Randall.Rice@galvestoncountytexas.gov
Address 1: 722 Moody Avenue 4th Floor
Address 1:
City: Galveston, Texas 77550
Phone: 409-770-5301 Other Phone: 469-534-5988
Fax: 409-765-3252
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Mr.
Position: County Auditor

Project Director

Name: Mary Pitts
Email: mary.pitts@galvestoncountytexas.gov
Address 1: 722 Moody Ave, 3rd Floor
Address 1:
City: Galveston, Texas 77550
Phone: 409-770-5207 Other Phone:
Fax:
Title: Ms.
Salutation: Ms.
Position: Grant Administrator

Grant Writer

Name: Clayton Pope
Email: clayton.pope@galvestoncountytexas.gov
Address 1: 601 54th St.
Address 1:
City: Galveston, Texas 77553
Phone: 409-766-2369 Other Phone:

Fax:
Title: Mr.
Salutation: Captain
Position: Captain

Grant Vendor Information

Organization Type: County
Organization Option: applying to provide services to all others
Applicant Agency's State Payee Identification Number (e.g., Federal Employer's Identification (FEI) Number or Vendor ID): 746000908
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): DRP9KU1PVJN4

Narrative Information

Introduction

The purpose of this funding is to support projects that promote public safety, reduce crime, and improve the criminal justice system.

Certifications

In addition to the requirements found in existing statute, regulation, and the funding announcement, this program requires applicant organizations to certify compliance with the following:

Constitutional Compliance

Applicant assures that it will not engage in any activity that violates Constitutional law including profiling based upon race.

Information Systems

Applicant assures that any new criminal justice information systems will comply with data sharing standards for the Global Justice XML Data Model and the National Information Exchange Model.

Bulletproof Vests

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body armor with grant funds, that it has adopted a mandatory wear policy and that all vests purchased have been tested and found to comply with the latest applicable National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ballistic or stab standards. Additionally, vests purchased must be American-made.

Cybersecurity Training Requirement

Local units of governments must comply with the Cybersecurity Training requirements described in Section 772.012 and Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code. Local governments determined to not follow the cybersecurity requirements required by Section 2054.5191 of the Texas Government Code are ineligible for OOG grant funds until the second anniversary of the date the local government is determined ineligible. Government entities must annually certify their compliance with the training requirements using the [Cybersecurity Training Certification for State and Local Government](#). A copy of the Training Certification must be uploaded to your eGrants application. For more information or to access available training programs, visit the [Texas Department of Information Resources Statewide Cybersecurity Awareness Training](#) page.

Criminal History Reporting

Entities receiving funds from PSO must be located in a county that has an average of 90% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as directed in the *Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 66*. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Counties applying for grant awards from the Office of the Governor must commit that the county will report at least 90% of convictions within five business days to the Criminal Justice Information System at the Department of Public Safety.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Eligible applicants operating a law enforcement agency must be current on reporting complete UCR data and the Texas specific reporting mandated by 411.042 TGC, to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for inclusion in the annual Crime in Texas (CIT) publication. To be considered eligible for funding, applicants must have submitted a full twelve months of accurate data to DPS for the most recent calendar year by the deadline(s) established by DPS. Due to the importance of timely reporting, applicants are required to submit complete and accurate UCR data, as well as the Texas-mandated reporting, on a no less than monthly basis and respond promptly to requests from DPS related to the data submitted.

Entities That Collect Sexual Assault/Sex Offense Evidence or Investigate/Prosecute Sexual Assault or Other Sex Offenses

In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 420.034, any facility or entity that collects evidence for sexual assault or other sex offenses or investigates or prosecutes a sexual assault or other sex offense for which evidence has been collected, must participate in the statewide electronic tracking system developed and implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Visit [DPS's Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking Program](#) website for more information or to set up an account to begin participating. Additionally, per Section 420.042 "A law enforcement agency that receives evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense...shall submit that evidence to a public accredited crime laboratory for analysis no later than the 30th day after the date on which that evidence was received." A law enforcement agency in possession of a significant number of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (SAEK) where the 30-day window has passed may be considered noncompliant.

DNA Testing of Evidentiary Materials

When funds are used for DNA testing of evidentiary materials, any resulting eligible DNA profiles must be uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) by a government DNA lab with access to CODIS.

Interoperable Communications

Funds to support emergency communications activities must ensure compliance with the FY 2018 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants; adherence to the technical standards set forth in the FCC Waiver Order, or any succeeding FCC orders, rules, or regulations pertaining to broadband operations in the 700 MHz public safety band; and are fully coordinated with the full-time [Statewide Interoperability Coordinator \(SWIC\)](#) for Texas.

Twelve-Step Programs

Grant funds may not be used to support or directly fund programs such as the Twelve Step Program which courts have ruled are inherently religious. PSO grant funds cannot be used to support these programs, conduct meetings, or purchase related materials.

Program Income

Applicant agrees to comply with all federal and state rules and regulations for program income and agrees to report all program income that is generated as a result of the project's activities. Applicant agrees to report program income through a formal grant adjustment and to secure PSO approval prior to use of the program income. Applicant agrees to use program income for allowable costs and agrees to expend program income immediately after PSO's approval of a grant adjustment and prior to requesting reimbursement of funds.

Deduction Method - Program income shall be deducted from total allowable costs to determine the net allowable costs. Program income shall be used for current costs unless PSO authorizes otherwise. Program income which the grantee did not anticipate at the time of the award shall be used to reduce the PSO award and grantee match rather than to increase the funds committed to the project.

Asset Seizures and Forfeitures - Program income from asset seizures and forfeitures is considered earned when the property has been adjudicated to the benefit of the plaintiff (e.g., law enforcement entity).

National Instant Background Check System (NICS)

Entities receiving funds under this solicitation that are to generate or upgrade court dispositions or other records that are relevant to National Instant Background Check System (NICS) determinations must have a system in place to ensure that all such NICS-relevant dispositions or records that are generated or upgraded are made available in timely fashion to state repositories/databases that are accessed by NICS.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)

Applicant assures that if it plans to purchase body-worn cameras with grant funds, that it has adopted adequate policies and procedures related to BWC equipment usage, data storage and access, privacy considerations and training. The certification form related to BWC policies and procedures can be found [here](#).

Compliance with State and Federal Laws, Programs and Procedures

Local units of government, including cities, counties and other general purpose political subdivisions, as appropriate, and institutions of higher education that operate a law enforcement agency, must comply with all aspects of the programs and procedures utilized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to: (1) notify DHS of all information requested by DHS related to illegal aliens in Agency's custody; and (2) detain such illegal aliens in accordance with requests by DHS. Additionally, counties and municipalities may NOT have in effect, purport to have in effect, or make themselves subject to or bound by, any law, rule, policy, or practice (written or unwritten) that would: (1) require or authorize the public disclosure of federal law enforcement information in order to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection fugitives from justice or aliens illegally in the United States; or (2) impede federal officers from exercising authority under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), § 1226(c), § 1231(a), § 1357(a), § 1366(1), or § 1366(3). Lastly, eligible applicants must comply with all provisions, policies, and penalties found in Chapter 752, Subchapter C of the Texas Government Code.

Each local unit of government, and institution of higher education that operates a law enforcement agency, must download, complete and then upload into eGrants the [CEO/Law Enforcement Certifications and Assurances Form](#) certifying compliance with federal and state immigration enforcement requirements. This Form is required for each application submitted to PSO and is active until August 31, 2026 or the end of the grant period, whichever is later.

Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEO Plan)

If awarded, applicant agrees to comply with the Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEO) requirements per 28 C.F.R. § 42 Subpart E. Agencies may use the EEO Utilization Report Builder to assist with preparing Verification Forms and, if required, Utilization Reports.

Civil Rights Liaison

A civil rights liaison who will serve as the grantee's civil rights point of contact and who will be responsible for ensuring that the grantee meets all applicable civil rights requirements must be designated. The designee will act as the grantee's liaison in civil rights matters with PSO and with the federal Office of Justice Programs.

Enter the Name of the Civil Rights Liaison:

Rebecca Gilliam

Enter the Address for the Civil Rights Liaison:

722 Moody Avenue, 3rd Floor, Human Resources, Galveston, Texas 77550

Enter the Phone Number for the Civil Rights Liaison [(999) 999-9999 x9999]:

409-770-5346

Overall Certification

Each applicant agency must certify to the specific requirements detailed above as well as to comply with all requirements within the PSO Funding Announcement, the *Guide to Grants*, the *Grantee Conditions and Responsibilities*, any authorizing or applicable state and federal statutes and regulations to be eligible for this program.

X I certify to all of the application content & requirements.

Project Abstract:

Public Safety Dive Teams are underwater crime scene experts. They use specialized equipment, have highly specialized training, and use specialized search techniques in order to locate, retrieve, collect, report and maintain chain of custody of evidence which leads or aids in criminal prosecution. Public Safety Divers work in low to zero visibility water, which is majority of the time contaminated with either biological or chemical substances and precautions must be taken to keep the diver safe. Without the specialized equipment or specialized training Public Safety Divers could not do their job efficiently or effectively.

Problem Statement:

The Galveston County Sheriff's Office Dive Team has been neglected for close to a decade. The full-face masks used on every dive operation is designed to keep the contaminated water out of the diver's eyes, nose and mouth. The full-face mask also houses an underwater communication system which allows the diver to communicate to another diver and/or to other members of the Team on the topside. Currently the full-face masks the Sheriff's Office owns are over 15 years old; purchased in 2009, and to utilize the full-face mask specialized industry approved training must be completed and the diver certified in its use. After 3 years of requesting training, finally 4 divers out of 9 were approved to receive the training back in 2023. Another key piece of specialized equipment used by Public Safety Divers is a dry suit. A specialized dry suit with a chemical coating to keep off the biological and chemicals that pollute our waterways. The dry suit fully encapsulates the driver so the only thing exposed

are the face and hands. Once the full-face mask is donned and gloves, the diver is now fully protected from the biological and chemical hazards of the water. The typical life span of a dry suit is 3 to 5 years, the Sheriff's Office currently has dry suits in the 7 to 8-year-old range. The last dry suit purchase made the Sheriff's Office was in 2018, we purchased 2 dry suits. Also, a dry suit needs to fit the diver properly to avoid accidents and injuries to the diver. An ill fitted dry suit can lead to serious injuries and even death. Currently the Sheriff's Office has 4 dry suits and 1 cannot be used due to a broken neck seal that must be sent back to the manufacturer for repair. Also, before a diver can be deployed in a dry suit, more specialized training must be conducted, as is the industry standard and the diver must be certified to wear a dry suit underwater. The specialized training a Public Safety Diver must go through is the industry standard. The diver must first be Open Water certified. This teaches the basic skills of SCUBA diving along with an online learning course. The next phase of training is an Advanced Open Water diving certification which builds on the skills of the Open Water class, but adds in a deep dive to 100 feet, a night or low visibility dive and an underwater navigation are the 3 industry standard dives along with 3 additional elective dives and an online learning course. The Rescue Diver certification is a very important skill, asset and certification to possess. It builds upon the OW and AOW certifications, building confidence in oneself and in skills possessed. A rescue certified diver is capable of managing risks and effectively handling limited in-water problems and diving emergencies. Rescue divers learn how to assist and transport divers, how to perform surface rescues and rescues from depth involving both boat and shore-based skin and SCUBA divers. CPR, first-aid and oxygen administration are required to complete the Rescue Diver certification course. The Diver First-Aid (DFA) course covers CPR; both one- and two-person, basic first-aid techniques commonly encountered while diving, rescue breathing techniques, AED administration and oxygen delivery to injured divers. First aid for diving injuries is different than regular first aid due to the possibility and exposure of nitrogen bubbles in the blood and water in the lungs. There is also an online learning course before doing a hands-on exercise in the water. The diver must be recertified every 2 years as is the industry standard. The last CPR/AED and O2 certification class the Sheriff's Office Dive Team attended in 2022, the Team members had to pay for on their own. The diver will also need to be full-face mask and dry suit certified, as mentioned earlier. Each one has its own online course and in the water drills before certification is complete. The Public Safety Diver course introduces the fundamental skills required by Public Safety Divers during underwater searches, rescues and recovery operations. The PSD course builds the confidence of the diver in utilizing search patterns in zero visibility water and having the confidence to trust the search pattern along with the top-side personnel who is controlling the search pattern. The PSD course teaches rope or line signals, should underwater communications fail, how to collect evidence underwater and maintain evidentiary chain of custody. The PSD course also teaches various other techniques in body recoveries, vehicle recoveries, underwater metal detecting and so much more. There is also an online learning course before conducting any in the water exercises. Currently the Sheriff's Office has 9 divers and 3 are PSD certified. The 3 PSD certified divers had to pay for the certification themselves.

Supporting Data:

Galveston County is almost 50% water. It borders with the Gulf of Mexico, various creeks, bayous, lakes, ponds, retention

ponds and any other body of water within the County and having a specialized team capable of entering the water safely, to retrieve evidence from the bottom of the water only aids in the criminal prosecution. The Dive Team has even been requested by other Counties (Brazoria and Harris), other Law Enforcement Agencies (Galveston PD, League City PD, Dickinson PD, Hitchcock PD, Texas City PD, La Marque PD, Santa Fe PD, Lake Jackson PD, TDCJ, Texas Rangers; just to name a few agencies) and even some Federal taskings (DEA, FBI, NASA, Coast Guard and US Army) to locate, collect and retrieve evidence in the water. The Dive Team has been to another State to locate, collect and retrieve evidence. In order to retrieve the evidence from the bottom, divers must go through specialized training; as mentioned earlier and utilize specialized equipment to keep the diver safe from the biological and chemical hazards found in the waterways. The diver must have the confidence, and the certification to perform his/her job safely, efficiently and effectively. Currently the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Dive Team is ill-equipped as the full-face masks are over 15 years old, dry suits that are past their expected life span and the Team lacks the required industry standard certifications to deploy divers into the water. For the past decade, except for two instances, members of the Dive Team have paid for their own certifications.

Project Approach & Activities:

First priorities will be to purchase new dry suits that fit the diver. Then purchase new full-face masks to update the antiquated 15-year-old masks and underwater communications currently being used. After the specialized equipment has been purchased Team members will then be certified, industry standard, in the use of the equipment. Team members must be certified in this specialized equipment before proceeding to the next certification level and ultimately becoming Public Safety Divers. Every team member will go through the top-side support specialist (TSS) course which is designed to teach either a diver or a non-diving team member their vital role on a public safety dive team. The TSS plays a vital role in the diver's well-being, effectiveness and the success of the mission. The TSS is a key member of the team, and this course teaches them how to be successful at their job. The TSS will learn search and recovery dive planning, organization, procedures, techniques and how to deal with potential problems. How to interview witnesses, how to document the dive operation and most importantly how to keep the entire team safe. Then introduce the divers to this highly specialized course, the Underwater Criminal Investigator (UCI) course. The UCI is foundation course. It is designed to give the diver the knowledge, skills, confidence, and abilities to succeed and survive as a true professional Underwater Criminal Investigator. After UCI, The Master UCI Course builds off the basic UCI course and is focused on advanced techniques specialized for Law Enforcement Diving Specialists. The Master UCI Course expounds upon underwater body recovery techniques, underwater vehicle search and recovery techniques and underwater evidence recovery techniques but at an advanced level. After completing the course, the diver will be certified and specialized in Body Recovery Specialist, Vehicle Recovery Specialist, Evidence Recovery Specialist, CSI Metal Detector Specialist and will be a Master Underwater Criminal Investigator. The plan is to send several divers to the Public Safety Diver Commander Course which is designed to prepare the person in charge of the dive team the legal, responsibility and ethics of being in charge of a dive team. It prepares the Team Commander for team organization, team member selection, team activities and team performance. The Commander is also responsible for record keeping, not just in training but also in equipment maintenance. The course also covers risk management, diver safety, dive mission, managing a dive team, conducting dive briefings and debriefings, managing a dive medical emergency, risk/liability reduction, dive operation case review, search pattern set-up and

a lot more. Another piece of highly specialized equipment will be an Underwater ROV, specifically the SARbot (Search and Rescue robot) is a surface powered easy-to-operate, robotic system which is optimized for underwater search and recovery operations in low-visibility conditions. The underwater ROV would also be another great asset or tool utilized by the dive team. A robot does not get tired, it does not get sick, it does not get cold and it does not require air to stay underwater. The use of the robot would minimize the exposure of the diver to the contaminated water. Granted, the diver will still have to go in and recover the evidence, document it, collect it, and maintain the chain of custody. The robot would just be the tool utilized to locate the evidence; situation dependent. As pointed out, the dive team is in dire need of some specialized training and equipment. This specialized training will not only make the team better but also lower the Agency's liability. This specialized training will boost the confidence of the team members, making them more successful, increasing their efficacy and making us an even more of a valuable asset to not only this Agency, but other agencies within and around Galveston County but also to the citizens of Galveston County.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The history of the Dive Team started just prior to 1992 with just two "off-duty" Deputies who were SCUBA certified. In 1996, the Dive Team became more official and was made up of "full-time" deputies and the Sheriff's Office purchased dry suits for the divers. In 1998 the Dive Team moved under the direction and guidance of the Marine Division and the Marine Division Commander. In 2000, the Dive Team made a substantial change, and a purchase was made for full-face masks and switched to the Life Guard Systems (LGS) certification. In 2001 another purchase was made for underwater communications with buddy phones for the full-face masks and a top side communication unit. In 2003 the Sheriff's Office completed a transition to all Agency owned dive gear. In 2004 the dive team made another transition from regular SCUBA gear to a surface supply system with bail-outs. In 2007 new dry suits were purchased along with some more surface supply items to augment what was previously purchased. Since I have taken over as the Lead in 2018, we have transitioned back to regular SCUBA and no longer rely on the LGS certification. I have also gone out on my own and became a certified Dive Master and even obtained a SCUBA Dive Instructor, PSD Instructor and a DFA Pro (Diving First Aid for Professionals) Instructor. No other major purchases have been made aside from two dry suits in 2018, three regulator sets in 2021, one additional regulator set in 2023 and a tank fill whip in 2024. After three years of continuously applying for training, I was finally able to get four divers full-face mask certified in 2023. As you can see from the history of the dive team, we have gone without the necessary and required training certifications and equipment for years. Two team members have even gone out on their own and paid for some of the specialized training required. The required basic training certifications are for specialized equipment used on almost every dive operation. Having certified divers; certified, confident, and qualified in the use of specialized equipment minimizes the Agency's liability, and not to mention it is also the industry standard. Either way, we still manage to show up when called out, not just for our Agency, but also for surrounding Agencies and surrounding Counties, as well as some Federal Agencies have requested our assistance. The Dive Team has even been to another state, Louisiana, for an operation. The Dive Team averages twelve callouts a year, and we currently train once a month. Being a Public Safety Diver is a very small niche within Law Enforcement and this type of specialization is not for everyone.

Performance Management:

Success will be measured by obtaining the required specialized equipment used on every dive operation and required specialized training for the remaining divers on the team, Public Safety Divers. The overall goals will be to obtain the required industry standard certifications in order. Before that can be accomplished the required specialized equipment must be obtained. Divers as they progress through the certifications will be issued certifications and cannot progress to the next certification without completing the current specialized training. Each specialized course also has an online learning component with a graded test that must also be passed before continuing on to the in-water portion of the specialized training. Divers can print out a successful completion certificate once the online learning component is completed and passed. Should a diver need remedial training, that can also be accomplished to obtain a successful pass rate. Every diver operation is also documented with an incident number or a supplemental case report and external dive reports are then attached to the report. The underwater ROV, when requested, will also be documented with an incident number and a specialized dive team equipment report.

Target Group :

Galveston PD Bayou Vista PD Tiki Island PD Texas A&M PD Texas City PD UTMB PD La Marque PD Santa Fe PD Dickinson PD League City PD Friendswood PD Texas Rangers / Department of Public Safety Coast Guard DEA FBI NASA US Marshals Service Harris County Brazoria County Chambers County Jefferson County Liberty County Any Law Enforcement Agency or Entity that requests assistance

Evidence-Based Practices:

The methods, approach and activities described above are the industry standard, not just nationally but internationally recognized standards as it pertains to Public Safety Diving. Public Safety Diving is a mix of recreational diving and commercial diving. Below is an excerpt from the NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors) 2025 Standards and Procedures as it pertains to Public Safety Diving certification course: NAUI is an internationally recognized SCUBA diving certifying agency. It is also used by the US military as a certifying agency as it pertains to military dive operations. " Policies Applying to All Public Safety Diver Training Courses OVERVIEW AND QUALIFICATIONS NAUI Public Safety Diver courses emphasize safety; knowledge; skill; abilities; and risk, incident, and resource management with practical applications. The course is also designed specifically to provide public safety divers with training, knowledge, and skills necessary to assist them during Public Safety Dive Operations and the activities commonly associated with them. Graduates of a NAUI Public safety diver courses are considered competent to participate in Public safety Diving activities, provided the activities engaged in and the areas dived approximate those of training. WHO MAY CONDUCT • Any active-status NAUI Instructor using NAUI support materials who: ? Has completed the NAUI Public Safety Diver Instructor application process and received Public Safety Diver Instructor designation to teach this course from the NAUI Training Department. Meets the requirements defined in individual courses PREREQUISITES • Age. 21 years of age by the water phase of the course. • Certification/Experience/Knowledge NAUI Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver or equivalent. NAUI Diving First Aid (DFA) or equivalent. ? The instructor is to ensure adequate student knowledge and capability before any open water training and shall use skill or other evaluations to do so. One open

water dive (which does not count toward the minimum number of dives required for the course) may be used as a screening and evaluation dive. This is not required when the student's diving proficiencies are well known to the instructor. • Dive Team Membership. Current member of a PSD dive team as shown by the applicant's name on the team's roster or a signed letter from an officer of the dive team. A diver who has applied or is applying to become a member of a PSD dive team but is not yet assigned to a team or one who is attending a fire/police academy or is a police/ fire department member may enroll in the course at the discretion of the instructor and the team or sponsoring agency. The instructor may accept other divers who meet the age and experience requirement into the NAUI PSD course following interview and evaluation. • Equipment. • The student or agency shall provide all required equipment; the student shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of their personal equipment. • The instructor shall ensure students' diving equipment will be sufficient and proper to complete all aspects of their training. Full-face masks (FFM) and dry suits are important pieces of personal protective equipment in most types of public safety diving. If appropriate to the course, PSD candidates who have and wish to use their own full face mask and/or dry suit during NAUI PSD training should be encouraged and will be allowed to do so (provided team policies do not require uniform equipment and the student's is other than the required standard), and: The student shows prior proof of training/certification for FFM and/or dry suits, or The student is concurrently enrolled in a NAUI full face mask and/or dry suit course while attending the PSD course. • Medical Approval. Verification of good physical condition as documented by a medical examination and unconditional approval for diving by a licensed physician within the preceding 12 months. In no event will medical approval be accepted wherein the physician signing the certificate is the student. POLICIES • Ratios. Standard ratios apply (see "Policies Applying to All Courses"). • Academics (estimated hours). 12 hours. • Practical Application. MINIMUM REQUIRED HOURS. 28 hours are estimated. This includes controlled water sessions, open water sessions, on-site discussions, and briefings and debriefings as necessary to prepare for or conclude any diving activity. MINIMUM REQUIRED DIVES. ? The minimum number of open water dives is five. → For this course, a "dive" is defined as breathing underwater in controlled or open water at any depth or length of time as required to complete the assigned tasks or skills. Dives are to include: → One in a limited visibility water (less than 10 feet/ 3 m visibility) or limited visibility simulated with a blacked-out mask → One using search patterns with a dive tender to locate a specific object underwater. → One "rescue" of another diver underwater. During training, each student shall rotate through, participate in, and demonstrate proficiency in various public safety diver incident command system positions during the course and serve at least one time during the course as: → Primary diver. → Safety diver. → 90% ready diver. → Dive group supervisor/DPIC. → Line tender. → Recorder/scribe. → Equipment/support technician. ? DEPTH. ? The maximum depth for an open water dive during this course is 40m (130 ft.). No dives are to require actual staged decompression. However, simulated staged decompression may be added to the ascent of a no required-stop dive. Any simulated decompression time spent deeper than 7.6m (25 ft.) must be included in the actual dive time. REQUIREMENTS – ACADEMIC • General. This includes classroom sessions, eLearning, and on-site discussions, briefings, debriefings, as necessary for or to conclude a dive's activity in confined or open water. • Introduction to Public Safety Diving. Topics include definition of Public Safety Diving, Incident Command System (ICS) including multi-agency operations, land communications, dive team roles, assignments and deployment of arriving team members or agencies. • Records and Record Keeping. Methods and procedures for record keeping including for; diving equipment used in PSD activities, on-scene records, audio recordings (recorded by departments), video and photographs, personnel on-scene roster, and any records that "may be" required in any legal action including for liability and Workers Compensation/OSHA. • Operations. "Standard Operating Procedures" vs. "Standard Operating Guidelines" and legal issues of each, managing family and media relations, and review of appropriate local regulations or standards. • Risk

Management. – Public safety diver fatalities (case studies). – Risk vs. benefit analysis, including rescue vs. recovery. – Mechanics and misconceptions of drowning. – First aid for water emergencies. – Minimizing diving risks including air loss, diver-carried reserve air/redundant air supply. – Entanglement and entrapment. – Equipment failure. – Overhead environments. – Procedures for diving in contaminated environments. – Decontamination procedures. – Planning, special equipment and recognizing hazards. • Diving Environment. Procedures for diving in conditions a diver or team may encounter, including low visibility, black water, night operations, cold water, warm water, and current/moving water and swift water/hazardous environment recognition. • Health and Wellness. Medical evaluations for public safety divers, rehabilitation areas (RE-HAB), and psychological considerations in public safety diving (including PTSD). • Diving Activities. • In-water communications. • Underwater Search patterns, including tethered diving (tender duties and line signals), shore based (arc/sweep and parallel), diver based (circle, expanding square, U-pattern, jackstay), boat based (search pattern and boat safety). • Light salvage including rigging. • The importance of dive planning, the use of briefings and debriefings during team operations and crime scene considerations shall be included. • Crime scene preservation and evidence collection. • Familiarization with specialized or agency specific PSD equipment. • Continuing Education. Continuing education and skills maintenance, including additional NAUI PSD courses. The importance of team practice shall also be emphasized. REQUIREMENTS – SKILLS • Students are required to demonstrate diving skills in confined water before proceeding to open water activities. • All new PSD skills are to be introduced in a controlled water environment. • Students must be able to demonstrate the ability to perform diving skills when fully dressed out. • Diving skills may be performed using scuba or surface supply. ? Swimming Skills (confined water) - no equipment Swim underwater 23m (25 yards) on one breath; no dive or push-off. ? Swim 412m (450 yards) nonstop demonstrating at an intermediate level at least two strokes continually throughout the swim. ? Survival swim for 20 minutes. • Scuba Diving (controlled water) Students are to demonstrate the following basic dive skills before proceeding to open water: ? Proper buoyancy control. ? Rescue a diver simulating unconsciousness. Share air as both donor and receiver from an octopus regulator or other acceptable alternate air source (not buddy breathing). ? Perform any other skills the instructor(s) deems necessary for the course and conditions. • Scuba Diving (open water). ? Demonstrate competency in the following scuba skills: ? Proper communications. ? Appropriate Buoyancy control. ? Diving and performing tasks in limited visibility (visibility less than 3 m(10 ft.) or simulated). ? Light salvage. ? Underwater navigation. ? Tethered diving. ? Line signals (as tender and diver). ? Underwater search patterns. ? Underwater field sketching and measurements. ? Any additional skills re

Project Activities Information

Introduction

This section contains questions about your project. It is very important for applicants to review their funding announcement for guidance on how to fill out this section. Unless otherwise specified, answers should be about the EXPECTED activities to occur during the project period.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
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Law Enforcement	100.00	The Underwater Crime Scene Unit "Dive Team" is a specialized unit and the only one in Galveston County. Their activities include the recovery of all types of evidence from bodies of water. This includes but is not limited to bodies, weapons, and vehicles. This unit provides this unique service to several agencies in and around the Galveston County area. In addition to evidence recovery, the unit is capable of conducting vessel hull searches for large quantities of drugs and other contraband.
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CJD Purpose Areas

PERCENT DEDICATED	PURPOSE AREA	PURPOSE AREA DESCRIPTION
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Measures Information

Objective Output Measures

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Equipment or technology: Individuals/Operators equipped	12
General Law Enforcement or Public Safety: Arrests resulting from grant.	3

Targeted Investigation: Criminal cases resulting in arrest.	2
Targeted Investigation: Grant-funded investigations carried out by the unit/division	4
Training or professional development: Individuals provided	12
Training or professional development: Individuals received	12
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours provided	900
Training, professional development, or technical assistance: Hours received	900

Objective Outcome Measures

OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Output Measures

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Custom Outcome Measures

CUSTOM OUTCOME MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
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Resolution from Governing Body

Applications from nonprofit corporations, local units of governments, and other political subdivisions must include a [resolution](#) that contains the following:

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to the Public Safety Office (PSO) that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update the PSO should the official change during the grant period.); and
4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to PSO.

Upon approval from your agency's governing body, upload the approved resolution to eGrants by clicking on the **Upload Files** sub-tab located in the **Summary** tab.

Contract Compliance

Will PSO grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

For applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, describe how you will monitor the activities of the sub-contractor(s) for compliance with the contract provisions (including equipment purchases), deliverables, and all applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines governing this project.

Enter a description for monitoring contract compliance:

Lobbying

For applicant agencies requesting grant funds in excess of \$100,000, have any federally appropriated funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ N/A

For applicant agencies that selected either **No** or **N/A** above, have any non-federal funds been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress in connection with this federal contract, loan, or cooperative agreement?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ N/A

Fiscal Year

Provide the begin and end date for the applicant agency's fiscal year (e.g., 09/01/20xx to 08/31/20xx).

Enter the Begin Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

10/1/2025

Enter the End Date [mm/dd/yyyy]:

9/30/2026

Sources of Financial Support

Each applicant must provide the amount of grant funds expended during the most recently completed fiscal year for the following sources:

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of Federal Grant Funds expended:

15229043

Enter the amount (in Whole Dollars \$) of State Grant Funds expended:

1708149

Single Audit

Applicants who expend less than \$1,000,000 in federal grant funding or less than \$1,000,000 in state grant funding are exempt from the Single Audit Act and cannot charge audit costs to a PSO grant. However, PSO may require a limited scope audit as

defined in 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Has the applicant agency expended federal grant funding of \$1,000,000 or more, or state grant funding of \$1,000,000 or more during the most recently completed fiscal year?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

Applicant agencies that selected **Yes** above, provide the date of your organization's last annual single audit, performed by an independent auditor in accordance with the State of Texas Single Audit Circular; or CFR Part 200, Subpart F - Audit Requirements.

Enter the date of your last annual single audit:

9/30/2024

Debarment

Each applicant agency will certify that it and its principals (as defined in 2 CFR Part 180.995):

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal Court, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; or
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in the above bullet; and have not within a three-year period preceding this application had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

Select the appropriate response:

- ☒ I Certify
☐ Unable to Certify

If you selected **Unable to Certify** above, please provide an explanation as to why the applicant agency cannot certify the statements.

FFATA Certification

Certification of Recipient Highly Compensated Officers

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires Prime Recipients (CJD) to report the names and total compensation of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) of each sub recipient organization for the most recently completed fiscal year preceding the year in which the grant is awarded if the subrecipient answers **YES** to the **FIRST** statement but **NO** to the **SECOND** statement listed below.

In the sub recipient's preceding completed fiscal year, did the sub recipient receive: (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements; AND (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenue from Federal contracts (and subcontracts), loans, grants (and subgrants) and cooperative agreements?

Select the appropriate response:

☐ Yes
☒ No

Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the senior executives through periodic reports filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or Section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

Select the appropriate response:

☒ Yes
☐ No

If you answered **YES** to the **FIRST** statement and **NO** to the **SECOND** statement, please provide the name and total compensation amount of each of the five most highly compensated officers (a.k.a. positions) within your agency for the current calendar year. If you answered NO to the first statement you are NOT required to provide the name and compensation

amounts. NOTE: "Total compensation" means the complete pay package of each of the sub recipient's compensated officers, including all forms of money, benefits, services, and in-kind payments (see SEC Regulations: 17 CCR 229.402).

Position 1 - Name:

Position 1 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 2 - Name:

Position 2 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 3 - Name:

Position 3 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 4 - Name:

Position 4 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Position 5 - Name:

Position 5 - Total Compensation (\$):

0

Fiscal Capability Information

Section 1: Organizational Information

*** FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS ONLY ***

Enter the following values in order to submit the application

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded: 0

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status: 01/01/1900

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS: 0

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State: 0

Enter the Year in which the Corporation was Founded:

Enter the Date that the IRS Letter Granted 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status:

Enter the Employer Identification Number Assigned by the IRS:

Enter the Charter Number assigned by the Texas Secretary of State:

Section 2: Accounting System

The grantee organization must incorporate an accounting system that will track direct and indirect costs for the organization (general ledger) as well as direct and indirect costs by project (project ledger). The grantee must establish a time and effort system to track personnel costs by project. This should be reported on an hourly basis, or in increments of an hour.

Is there a list of your organization's accounts identified by a specific number (i.e., a general ledger of accounts)?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does the accounting system include a project ledger to record expenditures for each Program by required budget cost categories?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is there a timekeeping system that allows for grant personnel to identify activity and requires signatures by the employee and his or her supervisor?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you answered 'No' to any question above in the Accounting System section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

Section 3: Financial Capability

Grant agencies should prepare annual financial statements. At a minimum, current internal balance sheet and income statements are required. A balance sheet is a statement of financial position for a grant agency disclosing assets, liabilities, and retained earnings at a given point in time. An income statement is a summary of revenue and expenses for a grant agency during a fiscal year.

Has the grant agency undergone an independent audit?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Does the organization prepare financial statements at least annually?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

According to the organization's most recent Audit or Balance Sheet, are the current total assets greater than the liabilities?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Financial Capability section, in the space provided below explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

Section 4: Budgetary Controls

Grant agencies should establish a system to track expenditures against budget and / or funded amounts.

Are there budgetary controls in effect (e.g., comparison of budget with actual expenditures on a monthly basis) to include drawing down grant funds in excess of:

a) Total funds authorized on the Statement of Grant Award?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

b) Total funds available for any budget category as stipulated on the Statement of Grant Award?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Budgetary Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

Section 5: Internal Controls

Grant agencies must safeguard cash receipts, disbursements, and ensure a segregation of duties exist. For example, one person should not have authorization to sign checks and make deposits.

Are accounting entries supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., purchase orders, vouchers, receipts, invoices)?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is there separation of responsibility in the receipt, payment, and recording of costs?

Select the appropriate response:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you selected 'No' to any question above under the Internal Controls section, in the space provided below please explain what action will be taken to ensure accountability.

Enter your explanation:

Budget Details Information

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	4 x AOW (Open Water) certification course, total cost \$1,672. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$1,672.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,672.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	4 x Rescue certification course. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$988.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$988.00	0

Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	11 x DFA Pro certification course, total cost \$2,717. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$2,717.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,717.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	5 x Dry suit certification course, total cost \$1,395. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$1,395.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,395.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	2 x FFM (Full Face Mask) certification course, total cost \$480. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$480.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	5 x PSD (Public Safety Diver) certification course, total cost \$6,000. Needed for all divers to progress to advanced.	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	0

Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	6 x UCI (Underwater Criminal Investigation) certification course, total cost \$5,370. Advanced level course for the unit.	\$5,370.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,370.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	6 x Master UCI certification course, total cost \$7,170. Advanced level training for the unit.	\$7,170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,170.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	4 x Public Safety Diver Commander training course, total cost \$3,580. Advanced level training for the unit.	\$3,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,580.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Registration Fees, Training, and/or Travel	10 x Top Side Support Specialist training course, total cost \$5,500. Advanced level	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	0

		training for the unit.						
Travel and Training	In-State Registrations Fees, Training, and/or Travel	SAR bot training course. Course would provide training for the entire unit for the SARbot (Search and Rescue robot).	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	0
Travel and Training	In-State Incidentals and/or Mileage	Hotel costs for investigators for advanced training courses.	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0
Equipment	Specialized Audio-Visual System and Accessories	4 x Guardian FFM masks with Buddy Phone Communications Package. Enable investigators to dive and communicate effectively with top side support.	\$5,991.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,991.40	4
Equipment	Night Vision Unit and Accessories	2x Custom Night Vision, turnkey package. This night vision equipment will allow	\$20,603.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,603.00	2

		investigators to navigate night time operations.						
Equipment	Crime Scene Equipment	Underwater ROV, specifically the SARbot (Search And Rescue robot) is a surface powered easy-to-operate, robotic system which is optimized for underwater search and recovery operations in low-visibility conditions.	\$61,994.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,994.00	1
Equipment	Crime Scene Equipment	6 x Argonaut PSD Flex Dry Suit. Allows investigators to dive in any conditions to conduct searches and recover evidence.	\$17,970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,970.00	6
Equipment	Crime Scene Equipment	3 x miscellaneous	\$2,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,600.00	3

		equipment to outfit investigators, boots, kneepads, hoods, liners, gloves.						
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Source of Match Information

Detail Source of Match/GPI:

DESCRIPTION	MATCH TYPE	AMOUNT
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Summary Source of Match/GPI:

Total Report	Cash Match	In Kind	GPI Federal Share	GPI State Share
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Summary Information

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
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Equipment	\$109,158.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$109,158.40
Travel and Training	\$39,872.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,872.00

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$149,030.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$149,030.40

Condition Of Fundings Information

Condition of Funding / Project Requirement	Date Created	Date Met	Hold Funds	Hold Line Item Funds
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County of Galveston Resolution

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Commissioners Court finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Galveston County, that the **Galveston County Law Enforcement Underwater Crime Scene Investigations Project** be operated for FY 2026 ; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Commissioners Court agrees to provide any applicable matching funds for said project as required by the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division's **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance - Criminal Justice Grant Program** application; and

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, The Galveston County Commissioners Court assures the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, the Galveston County Commissioners Court designates the Galveston County Judge as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Galveston County Commissioners Court approves submission of the grant application for the **Galveston County Law Enforcement Marine Division Improvement Project** to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and approved this 3rd day of February , 2025.


Mark Henry, Galveston County Judge

Dwight D. Sullivan, Galveston County Clerk

Grant Application Number: 5336601

By:  Deputy

Brandy Chapman

