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SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

September 3, 2025

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St.
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Acceptance of CREST Grant

Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and accompanying memorandum requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to accept \$1,000,000.00 as part of the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) Program. The proposed resolution allocates this funding within the Erie County Sheriff's Office Capital Project A.24059 (Fund 410, Funds Center 115) -- Sheriff's Office Helicopter Purchase.

Representatives of the Erie County Sheriff's Office will be made available to answer any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

John C. Garcia
Sheriff of Erie County

Attachments

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Sheriff's Office
Re: Acceptance of CREST Grant
Date: September 3, 2025

Summary of Recommended Action

This resolution authorizes the County Executive and Sheriff to enter into an agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to accept \$1,000,000.00 as part of the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) Program. The resolution further allocates this funding within the Erie County Sheriff's Office Capital Project A.24059 (Fund 410, Funds Center 115) – Sheriff's Office Helicopter Purchase. The Erie County Sheriff's Office continues to aggressively seek grant funding opportunities for this project to lessen the burden on Erie County taxpayers. Approval of this item also provides authorization for the County Executive and Sheriff to enter into any future agreements with state or federal agencies to accept such funding for this project.

Fiscal Implications of Proposal

Allocation of this CREST funding within the Erie County Sheriff's Office Capital Project A.24059 (Fund 410, Funds Center 115) – Sheriff's Office Helicopter Purchase will result in a revised budget of \$8,464,904.00 for the project. \$1,000,000.00 was approved by this Honorable Body in the 2024 Capital Budget. On February 1, 2024, this Honorable Body approved a transfer of an additional \$464,904.00 for this project (24COMM. 3E-17). On March 13, 2025, this Honorable Body approved the 2025 Consolidated Bond Resolution, which included a bonded component of \$5,500,000.00 for this project (25COMM. 4E-20). Additionally, the Erie County Sheriff's Office anticipates receiving a trade-in value of approximately \$500,000.00 for the current helicopter.

Reasons for Recommendation

While it has been a valuable asset to the Erie County Sheriff's Office and its law enforcement partners across the region, the current Air 1 is an aging helicopter. Due to its advanced age, it requires frequent service. For the Erie County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit to remain operational for the maximum amount of time, new aircraft is required. The Erie County Sheriff's Office plans to purchase two (2) Airbus H-125 helicopters for \$7,709,980.00. The CREST funding is critical to ensure that sufficient funds are available for this purchase and the associated upfit.

Consequences of Negative Action

The Erie County Sheriff's Office would forfeit \$1,000,000.00 in CREST funding to be used toward the purchase of aircraft for the Aviation Unit.

Steps Following Approval of Measure

Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the County Attorney and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Re: Acceptance of CREST Grant

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Erie County Sheriff's Office to provide quality public safety services to our community by promoting a safe environment through police and citizen interaction with an emphasis on integrity, fairness and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit is a regional asset, conducting law enforcement operations from the air and assisting law enforcement agencies across Western New York; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office is pursuing the purchase and upfit of two (2) Airbus H-125 helicopters for its Aviation Unit; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature previously approved \$1,464,904.00 for this capital project; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has also approved the 2025 Consolidated Bond Resolution, which included a bonded component of \$5,500,000.00 for this project; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office anticipates receiving a trade in value of approximately \$500,000.00 for the current Air 1 helicopter; and

WHEREAS, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) has awarded the Erie County Sheriff's Office \$1,000,000.00 as part of the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology (CREST) Program; and

WHEREAS, the CREST funding is to be allocated toward the "purchase of emergency helicopter and equipment"; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office continues to aggressively pursue grant funding to be used for this capital project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Erie County Executive and Sheriff enter into contract with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) of to accept \$1,000,000.00 in Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and

Technology Program (CREST) grant funding to be included in the existing Sheriff's Office (Fund 410, Funds Center 115) Capital Project A.24059 – Sheriff's Office Helicopter Purchase as follows:

Project A.24059
Sheriff's Office Helicopter Purchase
Fund 410, Funds Center 115

REVENUES	BUDGET	CHANGE	REVISED BUDGET
409040 State Aid – Capital Grant	0	1,000,000	1,000,000
475000 General Obligation Bond Proceeds	5,500,000	0	5,500,000
479100 Other Contributions	500,000	0	500,000
486000 Interfund Revenue Subsidy	<u>1,464,904</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,464,904</u>
	<u>7,464,904</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>8,464,904</u>
APPROPRIATIONS			
Capital Project Expense	<u>7,464,904</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>8,464,904</u>
TOTAL	<u>7,464,904</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>8,464,904</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given for the Erie County Executive and Sheriff to enter into contract with and accept additional funds from any other State or Federal agencies related to the Helicopter Purchase project and modify Capital Project A.24059 accordingly; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Erie County Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the County Attorney and the Erie County Sheriff's Office.

FISCAL IMPACT: As Indicated