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May 25, 2012

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Grant Programs Directorate (GPD), Preparedness Grants Division (PGD), Program Office FY 2009 Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) Operations Order Approval for the State of Texas, Operations Order:

Op Order Name: FY 2009 OPSG TX HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Op Order Number: 09-MCAMCA-09-002 V.0
Op Order Dates: 9/1/2009 To: 9/30/2010
Op Order Total: \$1,388,322.00

To Operation Stonegarden Program Coordinators,

Please be advised that, based on the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management's Operation Stonegarden Grant Program guidelines and special conditions associated with this grant program, the above described Operations Order has been approved. Purchases from the FY2009 OPSG program to include operational overtime/fringe benefits, mileage, per diem and fuel expenses, have been received, reviewed and approved by this program office. The Order has been cleared under the Environmental and Historic Preservation Program (EHP) guidelines as being categorically excluded from further EHP review and is approved by the GPD/PGD Program Office. For additional information on EHP please follow the resource links below.

IB 345: <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/info345.pdf>

Final PEA: https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/gpd_final_pea_2010.pdf

Final FONSI: <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/bulletins/fonsi.pdf>

As expressed in grant guidance, construction, construction type activities, lethal or less than lethal forces, including but not limited to: weapons, guns, ammo, stun guns, and tasers are prohibited/non-allowable. Prohibited items/activities will not be reimbursed by DHS/FEMA. Failure to comply could jeopardize current and future grant reimbursement and funding consideration.

Per the PRICE ACT, the State is reminded not to exceed 50% of the total fiscal year OPSG grant award for personnel costs (including overtime and fringe benefits). A request to exceed the 50% salary cap must be submitted on official letterhead to FEMA GPD and CBP/BP prior to incurring the additional costs.

Note: Per FEMA/Customs Border Protection (CBP)/Border Patrol (BP) programmatic guidance and oversight for aircraft, watercraft, vehicles and purchases of single equipment items and/or equipment systems greater than \$100,000; grantees are not authorized to purchase any of the above listed until:

1. A separate, signed request on letterhead for a waiver to purchase said equipment has been submitted and approved by FEMA GPD and CBP/BP. The waiver should detail the need, operational relevance and how the equipment will enhance law enforcement efforts to increase border security for the requesting agency.
2. And/or a signed "justification letter" on letterhead for vehicle(s) and/or equipment/system(s) over \$100,000 has been submitted and approved by FEMA GPD and CBP/BP. The justification should detail how this equipment will enhance law enforcement efforts to increase border security for the requesting agency.
3. All waivers and justifications will be subject to review and final approval by FEMA GPD and CBP/BP. The State Administrative Agency will be notified of such approval or denial via email by the FEMA Program Analyst.
4. Failure to provide comprehensive waivers and justifications in a timely manner could delay the approval process and/or jeopardize current and future grant reimbursements and funding consideration.

It is mandatory that all participating agencies (especially County and Tribal stakeholders) closely monitor, review and track expenditures of OPSG funds under individual Operations Orders issued. Under no circumstances is it allowable to estimate, obligate, and/or encumber beyond the actual grant award.

The spirit and intent of the Operation Stonegarden program is to build and strengthen coordination between State, local and Tribal law enforcement agencies, in conjunction with lead operational oversight provided by U.S. Customs Border Protection Border Patrol and Sector Headquarters. All Operations should be border centric and intelligence driven, with the goal of reducing or eliminating threat, risk and vulnerability along our Nation's borders.

If you have any question, please feel free to contact your Program Analyst at:

Aimee Clancy

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