

March 9, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Finance & Housing Committee  
**From:** Edin Sisic, Analyst, Greg Doss, Supervising Analyst  
**Subject:** Council Bill 120527 – 2023 Grant Acceptance & Appropriation Ordinance

---

On March 15, 2023, the Finance & Housing Committee will discuss and may vote on Council Bill (CB) 120527, which would provide authority for select City departments to accept and appropriate the expenditure of specified grant revenues from non-City sources.

This memo summarizes CB 120527 and describes next steps in the budget adjustment process for 2023.

**CB 120527 Background and Summary**

In prior years, the appropriation of grants was authorized via a supplemental appropriations ordinance, while grants were accepted through a separate, grant acceptance ordinance. This year, Council Central Staff, in partnership with the Law Department and City Budget Office, created a standalone grant acceptance and appropriation ordinance to improve grant legislation processes. Streamlining acceptance and appropriation of grants will provide a number of benefits, including:

- Reduce a backlog of awarded but not yet accepted and appropriated grants, thus reducing project and operational interruptions as a result of grant appropriation delays.
- Improve timing issues, as grant awards don't always follow the supplemental budget processes.
- Enhance visibility and transparency of the City's grant legislation processes for the Council and the public, among other improvements.

CB 120527 is the first comprehensive grant acceptance and appropriation legislation transmitted by the Executive in 2023, authorizing City departments to accept and appropriate the expenditure of \$30.2 million from external funding sources. Table 1 below shows, by department, the total award and appropriation amount from each grant source.

*Table 1. CB 120527: Grant Acceptances and Appropriations by Department and Grant Source:*

<b>Department</b>	<b>Grant Source</b>	<b>Amount (\$ millions)</b>
Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)	Bloomberg Philanthropies	\$0.50
Office of Housing (OH)	Department of Energy	\$1.05

Human Services Department (HSD)	Department of Commerce	\$0.58
Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Department of Homeland Security - FEMA Region 10	\$1.50
	Washington State Military Department - Emergency Management Division	\$0.44
Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)	Federal Highway Administration – multiple grants	\$17.27
Seattle Fire Department (SFD)	Department of Homeland Security	\$1.15
	Dept of Homeland Security/FEMA – two grants	\$1.84
	King County Office of Emergency Management	\$0.33
Seattle Police Department (SPD)	Department of Homeland Security – two grants	\$1.81
	Washington Traffic Safety Commission	\$0.03
Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)	King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks	\$1.00
	King County Flood Control District	\$0.56
	WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)	\$2.14
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$30.19</b>

Approximately 57 percent of the total amount in Table 1 is funding from the Federal Highway Administration for various SDOT programs, as itemized in *Table 2* below.

*Table 2. SDOT Federal Highway Administration Grants by Program*

<b>Program &amp; Grant Summary</b>	<b>Amount (\$ millions)</b>
2022 Local Bridge Program Selections grant program for the bridge painting maintenance of the Jose Rizal bridge	\$3.15
million from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant program to support Transportation Demand Management and Wayfinding improvements	\$3.82
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for the Georgetown to Downtown protected bike lane	\$2.40
Bridge Investment Program for the 4 <sup>th</sup> /Argo Bridge replacement planning study	\$2.37
Highway Safety Improvement Program to fund Vision Zero pedestrian-crossing design	\$1.33
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act to fund the Harrison St Transit Corridor CIP project	\$4.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17.27</b>

Other noteworthy grant backed items include:

- \$500,000 of a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to FAS for the digital transformation project managed through a partnership between FAS and CBO-Office of Innovation and Performance. The project is still in the scoping phase; these funds will be used for digital transformation purchases that could include but are not limited to: a new software or IT solution that digitizes key aspects of the procurement or contract management process (e.g., a new online portal for vendor registration, implementation of a digital survey tool to complete vendor performance evaluations); integration of contracting data across disparate IT systems; or digitization of RFP or contracting documents. The other half of this \$1 million grant was appropriated in the 2022 Mid-Year Supplemental Budget Ordinance ([ORD 126641](#)) .
- \$1.5 million from the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 to OEM to support creation of Puget Sound Resilience Hubs in coordination with eight Puget Sound Counties.
- \$1.1 million from the Department of Energy to OH for the decarbonization of multifamily affordable housing.
- \$1.8 million from the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency – FEMA Region 10 to SFD to purchase two particulate hoods for each SFD firefighter and provides Fire Dynamics Boot Camp Training. The period of Performance is from September 22, 2022 to September 21, 2024. There is a 10 percent cash match of \$181,561 required for this project.
- \$3.4 million from three grants awarded to SPU to provide funding for the construction of the Royal Arch Reach Habitat Restoration Project, a component of the Cedar River Habitat Conservation Program Downstream Habitat Program.
- 1.8 million from the Department of Homeland security grant to SPD. See further detail on SPD expenditures below and a full list of expenditures in Attachment 1: (FY2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant, Seattle Police Department).

These and all other grants that would be accepted and appropriated in the bill are described in Attachment A to the summary and fiscal note submitted by the Executive.

#### **Department of Homeland Security Grant for SPD:**

The Department of Homeland Security administers the UASI grant funds awarded to the City to support the Seattle region in its efforts to build, sustain, and deliver the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

CB 120527 would accept and appropriate \$1.72 million to SPD which includes \$140,000 for the Office of Emergency Management and pass-through grant funding and equipment for regional UASI jurisdictions; and

SPD would use its 2023 UASI grant award on program maintenance and administration, including continued funding for a regional Grant Manager, as well as ongoing support of 5.5 FTE analysts at the regional Fusion Center. SPD would also make new purchases that include (1) \$124,000 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) kits for regional partners; and (2) \$398,000 for a rescue vehicle system (armored “BearCat” transport vehicle). More information on the grant selection process and the specific projects can be found in Attachment 1: FY2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant, Seattle Police Department.

The new BearCat would replace a 20-year-old armored vehicle (one of two such SPD vehicles) that is for region-wide use in high-threat situations (active shooters, barricaded suspects, terrorist attacks, etc.). SPD staff have also indicated that “it is common for one to be in for maintenance of some kind, limiting our capability to one and relying on mutual aid if required.”

The department has characterized the BearCat as a “strictly defensive vehicle that grants safe access to injured victims in [an] unsecured area via multiple vehicle exits, allowing them to be moved to safety and treated.” SPD staff report that these vehicles have been used many times in active shooter incidents in Seattle and have saved officer lives. Over the past four years, the department has deployed a BearCat an average of 113 times a year.

SPD asserts that two armored vehicles are necessary to: (1) provide two bullet-proof protection points for a building that must be surrounded on all sides; and (2) allow multiple vehicles to be deployed simultaneously if necessary. For example, one BearCat might be deployed at a stadium sporting event while another is available for regional emergencies. The department used a BearCat vehicle during protest events, including the 2020 Black Lives Matter demonstrations but SPD has indicated that they would not deploy a BearCat to future demonstrations as part of the standard/usual staffing of protest events. However, a BearCat might be deployed to a demonstration if SPD had a credible indication of violence that might involve weapons.

If the Council does not want SPD to purchase the BearCat, CB 120527 could be amended to add a proviso that restricts the purchase with the appropriated funding. If a proviso is imposed, the funds will be distributed to another UASI project/jurisdiction. SPD has indicated that the \$398,000 would likely be spread amongst several smaller law enforcement projects in other jurisdictions across the region. If the funding is reallocated to a non-law enforcement project (e.g., an SFD project), then the Council may need to amend the adopted budget through a future supplemental budget ordinance to transfer the spending authority from SPD to SFD.

### **Next Steps**

If the committee votes to make a recommendation on CB 120527 at the March 15, 2023, Finance & Housing Committee meeting, the legislation will be considered for final action at the March 21, 2023, City Council meeting.

Future 2023 budget adjustments will include mid-year and year-end comprehensive supplemental adjustments and grant acceptance and appropriation bills, and any other stand-alone supplemental bills necessary to address unforeseen circumstances, consistent with [RCW 35.32A.060](#).

**Attachments**

1. FY2022 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant, Seattle Police Department

cc: Esther Handy, Director  
Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director