CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Eamon Webb
Research Assistant
(904) 255-5140

117 West Duval Street
City Hall, Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202
FAX (904) 255-5229

Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-29

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Sheriff

Date of Introduction: January 9, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: F, NCSPHS

Date of Analysis: January 11, 2024

Type of Action: Appropriation of Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funds; designation of an oversight department

Bill Summary: This bill appropriates $249,953 in grant funds from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS") to fund the expansion of the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics ("ICAT") course, which includes the purchase of virtual reality ("VR") equipment to enhance training to officers and recruits. The project includes purchasing VR equipment; providing the VR-enhanced ICAT training to officers and recruits; collecting project-related data and information; and reviewing the number of incidents using force annually. It designates JSO as the oversight department for the project.

Background Information: The Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics ("ICAT") course is a course designed to help police officers learn crisis intervention and problem-solving skills, specifically focused on situations involving persons who are unarmed, armed with weapons other than firearms, or experiencing mental health crises. Several recent studies have shown that agencies adopting ICAT have demonstrated significant reductions in force-related incidents.

JSO plans to integrate VR equipment into the current ICAT course in order to narrow the knowledge gap between new and veteran officers. The utilization of VR will clarify standard operating procedures for officers of varying degrees of experience and should ultimately increase positive public safety outcomes for officers and citizens.

Policy Impact Area: Law enforcement training; public safety

Fiscal Impact: This bill appropriates a $249,953 DOJ grant with no City match.

Analyst: Webb