

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2024-27

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

**Date of Introduction:** January 10, 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 \$134,615 in grant funding with no local match from the United States DOJ, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to pay for the purchase of locative tracking equipment, increasing the number of devices in use through the program from 20 to 220, to provide tracking devices to voluntary participants who suffer from dementia or developmental disabilities and are prone to wandering from safe environments. It designates the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office as the oversight department for the project.

**Background Information:** The Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance makes grant funds available through its Kevin and Avonte Program: Reducing Injury and Death of Missing Individuals with Dementia and Developmental Disabilities to pay for locative equipment to assist individuals who may wander away from caregivers. The program was named after two children with autism who drowned after wandering away from their caregivers, Kevin in Iowa in 2008 and Avonte in New York in 2014.

The City of Jacksonville was awarded a grant through the Kevin and Avonte Program on September 23, 2023, to increase its supply of locative devices in the City from 20 to 220, with the grant period running from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2026.

**Policy Impact Area:** Public health/safety for those with dementia and/or developmental disabilities

**Fiscal Impact:** This bill appropriates a \$134,615 DOJ grant with no City match.

**Analyst:** Webb