

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Jenifer L. Keach, Coroner
INITIATED BY



Louis C. Smit, Chief Deputy
Coroner
DRAFTED BY

Public Safety and Justice Committee
SUBMITTED BY

May 5, 2010
DATE DRAFTED

**AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has announced
- 2 a grant opportunity titled the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (2010); and,
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, the grant provides awards of up to \$175,000 to develop and operate innovative programs
- 5 that enhances and improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and coroner services to the
- 6 community; and,
- 7
- 8 **WHEREAS**, this is a competitive grant with no local match or cost-sharing requirement.
- 9
- 10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
- 11 assembled this _____ day of _____, 2010, does hereby approve and authorize the
- 12 submission of a grant application, via the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants
- 13 Program and the Chair of the Rock County Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to sign all
- 14 necessary documents on behalf of the County of Rock.

10-5A-047

Respectfully submitted,

Public Safety and Justice Committee

Ivan Collins
Ivan Collins, Chair

Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson, Vice Chair

Mary Beaver
Mary Beaver

Henry Brill
Henry Brill

Larry Wiedenfeld
Larry Wiedenfeld

LEGAL NOTE:

The authority to accept grant funds pursuant to sec. 59.52(19), Wis. Stats., necessarily implies the authority to make application for such funds.

Jerome A. Long
Jerome A. Long
Deputy Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended. However, if funds are awarded, a more detailed explanation of the use of funds would be needed.

Craig Knutson
Craig Knutson
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

This Resolution only authorizes the application for this grant. Thus, it has no fiscal impact in and by itself. If the application is successful, a separate resolution is required to accept the grant.

George Baltes
George Baltes
Internal Auditor

Executive Summary
Authorizing Submission of Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office Justice Programs has announced a grant opportunity titled Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Programs. The grant provides funding of up to \$175,000 to develop and operate innovative programs that enhance and improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and coroner services. Funds may be used for any of the following: Personnel; Computerization; Certain laboratory; Medicolegal equipment; Accreditation; Education, Training, and Certification; Facilities improvements; Certain administrative expenses; and/or to provide needed services to the community. The programs to be funded must be geared toward overall forensic and coroner functions and enhancements.

This is a competitive grant with no local match or cost-sharing requirement. The intent of the Coroner's Office is to obtain federal funding which will be used to off-set budget shortfalls for necessary and federally mandated equipment and items as outlined by the U.S Department of Justice "National Guidelines for Death Investigations" which was designed to implement and support programs to enhance forensic investigations and criminal justice outcomes as well as to provide training opportunities for coroner staff and law enforcement personnel as available (depending upon the amount of the award).

Executive Summary

Authorizing Submission of Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office Justice Programs has announced a grant opportunity titled Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. The grant provides funding of up to \$175,000 to develop and operate innovative programs that enhance and improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and coroner services. Funds may be used for any of the following: Personnel; Computerization; Certain laboratory equipment; Medicolegal equipment; Accreditation; Education, Training and Certification; Facilities improvements; Certain administrative expenses; and/or to Provide needed services to the community. The programs to be funded must be geared toward overall forensic science and coroner functions and/or enhancements.

Specifically, the coroner's office is seeking at least one (1) portable body cooler (two units depending on the amount of the grant award) for daily and mass fatality response use; one (1) body lift (used to lift decedents onto holding racks inside the portable cooler); at least one (1) "Stryker Power-Pro" gurney/cot to better move and transport decedents (allows for single and multi-person use and will help prevent potential employee injuries from using old and outdated transport cot(s); certain software for enhanced case management, data tracking/sharing; certain computer software (including but not limited to bar coding software [for better tracking of evidence, toxicology, decedents, and numerous other uses]; newer and updated computers and related equipment (such as a PowerPoint projector for presentations, case reviews, child death review panels); digital fingerprinting system that would work hand-in-hand with the bar coding system and will enhance/improve on decedent identification, and will decrease potential county liability issues; and, other forensic medicolegal equipment that is in need of updating in order to meet national standards.

This is a competitive grant with no local match or cost-sharing requirements. The intent of the Coroner's Office is to obtain federal funding which will be used to off-set budget shortfalls for necessary and federally mandated equipment and items as outlined by the U.S. Department of Justice "National Guidelines for Death Investigations" which was designed to implement and support programs that enhance forensic investigations and criminal justice outcomes as well as to provide training opportunities for coroner staff, law enforcement personnel, and related first responders as available (depending upon the amount of the award).