

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 4-7-20 ITEM NO. cd 22

Public Comment

April 7, 2020, Board of Supervisors Agenda

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Steve Diamond, Democratic Candidate for County Supervisor, District 4

Date: April 6, 2020

Re: April 7 Consent Calendar item 22 - HIDTA Grant to the Sheriff's Department

Your fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers demands that you separate the HIDTA grant from the Consent Calendar and consider it on its costs and merits.

In reviewing Mr. Huckelberry's March 9 memo to Sheriff Napier and Chief Deputy Gwaltney's March 11 response, there's an obvious disconnect between the two. Mr. Huckelberry believed that 100% of the grant was for overtime and asked about indirect costs associated with that. Chief Deputy Gwaltney replied that overtime was a small portion of the grant, and that even a portion of that would be incurred regardless of the grant. This leaves unanswered the question of what indirect costs would be incurred from the regular time portion of the grant, which amounts to \$723,450.00.

The ERE column on the spreadsheet couldn't possibly include pension liability. It seems to be barely enough to cover the usual expenses: FICA, FUTA, SUTA, workers' comp, health insurance, other insurance, etc. So that's one question needing an answer: Does the included ERE really cover all current employee-related expenses?

But the bigger question is the pension liability. How much is incurred based on the \$723,450.00 in regular pay? In other words, how much does accepting this grant actually cost the taxpayers of Pima County? As we discovered about the Operation Stonegarden grant last year, these federal grants to the Sheriff's Department are emphatically not "free money."

I urge you to separate the HIDTA grant from the Consent Calendar, discuss its costs, and continue the item until you can obtain answers from Sheriff Napier and from County staff.

Thank you.

PER 0670M01G7PC0 KCFR

