



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller
Director

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To: Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee

From: Tracy Matthews, Manager, Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Date: May 29, 2025

Re: Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program for FY2026 (Reconsideration)

Name of Person Presenting: Tracy Matthews

The purpose of the Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program is to provide resources to first responder agencies and non-profit organizations to fund first responder wellness training for agency employees; fund registration fees, lodging, and per diem for agency employees to attend first responder wellness conferences; fund support costs for therapy/ support dogs; fund the purchase of therapeutic wellness equipment; and provide funding for non-profit agencies to provide wellness training, resources, or direct services to first responders in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Executive Order 38 directed DCJS to award up to \$2,700,000.

Grant Application Review	
# Grants Submitted	3
# Grants Denied	0
# Grants Recommended	3

DCJS Recommendations	
Amount Requested	\$89,110
Amount Denied	\$0
Amount Reduced	\$7,746
Total Amount Recommended	\$81,364

The Criminal Justice Services Board previously approved seven (77) grant applications for \$1,588,597 in May 2025 out of available funding of \$2.7 million for FY2025. **DCJS is requesting that three (3) applications be reconsidered for approval.** Upon further communication and consideration into the requests for the mobile Guide Application (App) it was determined that this mobile application provides first responder wellness training which aligns with the goals of the funding opportunity. **Staff recommends funding the applications for the Department of Corrections and Lynchburg.**

Staff recommends an increase of \$10,500 to the previously approved award to the Town of Vinton, to support their request for the Guide App for their community. Other items from their original application to support physical training gear purchases are not being reconsidered.

In summary, DCJS Staff requests approval to fund three (3) grant applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025–6/30/2026), totaling \$81,364 using state funds allocated for this purpose.

OFRW -- Grants Committee Recommendations (Cover Report)

Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program Reconsideration (Originally Voted on at CSB on 5/8/2025)

29-May-2025

Application Number	Applicant	Organization Type	Requested			Recommended		
			DCJS Funds	Local	Total	DCJS Funds	Local	Total
550063	Department of Corrections	State Government	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
550230	Lynchburg, City	City Government	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
549929	Vinton, Town	Town Government	\$29,110.00	\$0.00	\$29,110.00	\$21,364.00	\$0.00	\$21,364.00
Grant Program Total:			\$89,110.00	\$0.00	\$89,110.00	\$81,364.00	\$0.00	\$81,364.00

OFRW -- Grants Committee Recommendations (Summary Report)

Office of First Responder Wellness Grant Program Reconsideration (Originally Voted on at CSB on 5/8/2025)

29-May-2025

Application Number	Applicant	Organization Type	Type of Application	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding	Application Criteria	Grant Project Description
550063	Department of Corrections	State Government	New	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	Meets Criteria	To better support the well-being of its correctional officers, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is proposing a targeted initiative to provide enhanced wellness resources designed to address the mental and emotional health challenges faced by these frontline public safety professionals. If approved, this project will pilot the GUIDE mobile application, a specialized wellness resource developed specifically for first responders, including correctional officers.
550230	Lynchburg, City	City Government	New	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	Meets Criteria	The Lynchburg Police Department (LPD) is seeking funding to acquire Guide, a web-based and mobile application designed to provide on-demand peer support and mental health resources for all department personnel.
549929	Vinton, Town	Town Government	New	\$29,110.00	\$21,364.00	Meets criteria at reduced level	As a law enforcement agency, we have an inherent responsibility to strengthen our operational footprint by utilizing the awarded funds to establish and strengthen our first responder's wellness program to promote the physical and mental well-being of our law enforcement officers. Through this grant, we aim to equip officers with the skills and tools in fitness, nutrition, and mental health to ensure they remain physically fit and mentally resilient. This grant will allow us to build a Wellness Committee that will be committed to helping officers manage their stress and overall well-being. Officers equipped with wellness skills will experience enhanced physical and mental health, leading to increased job satisfaction and performance.