

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: Mark McNeal, Fire Chief

DATE: April 20, 2026

SUBJECT: **Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the Texas Office of the Governor, Homeland Security Grant Program eGrant Number 5951601, Urban Area Security Initiative Federal Fiscal Year 2026 – Regular Projects – City Of Lewisville Security Camera Upgrades, and Designating the Fire Chief or His Designee to Accept, Reject, Alter, or Terminate the Grant, if Awarded.**

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is to support state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the Nation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States. The HSGP provides funding to implement investments that build, sustain, and deliver the 31 core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient Nation. The development, sustainment, and delivery of these core capabilities requires a coordinated effort across all levels of government, organizations, and the whole community.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) supports programs that address the unique multidiscipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density Urban Areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. Urban areas must employ regional approaches to overall preparedness and are encouraged to adopt regional response structures whenever appropriate.

ANALYSIS

Authorization is requested to submit a grant application to the Texas Office of the Governor's Homeland Security Grants Division under the Urban Area Security Initiative. The City of Lewisville is seeking funding in an amount of not more than \$160,000, depending on the availability of federal funds, to upgrade and expand video surveillance camera coverage at City Hall, Wayne Ferguson Plaza, Lewisville Grand Theater, and surrounding areas. This grant has been reviewed by the City's internal grant review committee, and it does not require a local funding match.

These locations serve as central gathering points for our community and host numerous city-sponsored special events throughout the year, including St. Paddy's Texas Style, ColorPalooza, Red, White and Lewisville, Western Days, and the Holiday Stroll. Due to their accessibility, visibility, and the large number of people they attract, these areas align with characteristics commonly associated with soft targets—locations that may be more susceptible to intentional acts of violence, including terrorism, because they are open to the public and lack extensive physical security measures.

A key component of this request is the critical need to enhance situational awareness across these high-traffic areas. Situational awareness, having a real-time understanding of what is happening in and around our public spaces, is essential for preventing, detecting, and responding to potential threats.

Upgrading and expanding our video surveillance system would significantly improve real-time awareness by providing clearer, more reliable views of crowded areas and surrounding infrastructure. This enhanced visibility allows staff and law enforcement to quickly identify unusual or suspicious behavior, monitor crowd movement during events, and respond more effectively to emergencies. In a rapidly evolving situation, having immediate access to accurate visual information can directly impact response times and decision-making, ultimately helping to protect lives and property.

Investing in new and updated video surveillance systems at City Hall, the Plaza, the Grand Theatre, and surrounding areas will significantly strengthen our ability to deter, detect, and respond to suspicious activity while enhancing coordination with law enforcement and homeland security partners. This project directly addresses the protection of soft targets/crowded places national priority area, and reinforces the City's commitment to public safety, preparedness, and the protection of crowded places.

CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

That City Council approve the resolution as set forth in the caption above.