MEMORANDUM - City of Pasadena

Police Department

August 25, 2025

TO: Matthew Hawkesworth
Acting City Manager

FROM: William Grisafe
Police Commander

Thru: Gene Harris
Chief of Police

RE: August 25, 2025, City Council Agenda Report Modification

Summary of Issue

This memorandum provides additional details regarding agenda item #9 on the August 25, 2025, City Council meeting agenda. The description of the vehicle intended to be purchased by the Pasadena Police Department with Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds, is not a mobile command/incident response type of vehicle as described but rather a communications vehicle.

Background Information

As the administrator of UASI grant funds, the Pasadena Fire Department has submitted agenda item #9 for consideration at the August 25, 2025, City Council meeting. This item recommends the council recognize $320,185 of UASI funds to be allocated among the Pasadena Fire Department, Public Health Department and Police Department. The funds will support the purchase of specialized equipment and services for the different departments.

For the Police Department, the proposed allocation includes the purchase of a specialized mobile command/incident response vehicle. The agenda report describes this vehicle as a central hub for communication, coordination, and decision-making during emergencies or planned events and provide on-site command and control capabilities. Although this vehicle will be utilized in critical incidents, its primary function will be to provide crisis negotiators and mental health staff with vital, communication workspace rather than serving as a command-and-control vehicle.

The Crisis Negotiation Van is a small transit-style vehicle specifically designed to support crisis negotiators or mental health crisis interventionist during critical incidents. The van provides a quiet, controlled environment for staff so that they can focus on establishing dialogue with individuals in crisis. The van ensures uninterrupted communication thus creating the best possible conditions for building rapport, defusing tension, and working toward a peaceful resolution.

Recommendation

For distribution to Pasadena City Council members.