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TCSO to use \$121K grant on crime-trend software, warrants group to target violent offenders

Software will help deputies map out crime trends.

By COREY JONES World Staff Writer Jun 24, 2016

The Tulsa County Sheriff's Office is the recipient of a \$121,000 grant, which officials on Thursday said will underwrite advanced software to predict crime trends through mapping.

The grant also allows the Sheriff's Office to use several deputies in an overtime capacity to create a warrants group that will target violent offenders in high-crime areas for one year.

Sheriff Vic Regalado made the announcement during a news conference in which the top executive of the software's maker spoke to the benefits of program. Doug Wood, president and CEO of Texas-based Crime Tech Solutions, said it offers intelligence-based crime-fighting technology to jurisdictions that don't have the budgets of places like New York or Los Angeles.

Wood said the program can pull from a variety of databases to generate information quickly through analysis of geo-spatial, temporal and crime-specific data. For example, he said, the software will identify the hotspots for a type of crime that continuously occurs over time in an area, as well as reveal when there is a drop from that high norm.

"It allows you to — while there's temporary reduction — assign and allocate resources so that you catch these bad guys as they come back performing those crimes," Wood said. "To me, that ability to kind of predict what's going to happen based on historical, known data — that's one of the one of the most powerful and compelling pieces of the software."

The Sheriff's Office in May applied for the Oklahoma Attorney General Safe Oklahoma Grant, and was ultimately chosen to receive \$121,432 of the \$130,000 the agency requested.

Regalado said seven deputies will work overtime during two-eight hour shifts per week for a year under the grant. He said he'll begin as soon as possible choosing the team to get them on the street, but implementation of the crime-mapping software will take time.

The software itself is a one-time expenditure, he said, adding that the Sheriff's Office also will explore its applications in the Tulsa Jail.

"I think all of it's pretty cutting-edge," Regalado said. "It's going to give us information and data that will enable us to use our resources much more efficiently out on the street.

"We can see where the hotspots are in terms of violent crime, serious crime, burglaries, time of day — all of those things that we can direct our resources there as opposed to other places where they aren't as effective as they could be."

Staff Writer Corey Jones

Corey is a general assignment reporter who specializes in coverage of man-made earthquakes, criminal justice and dabbles in enterprise projects. He excels at annoying the city editor. Phone: 918-581-8359