



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 23-0863D, **Version:** 1

**Agenda Date:** 11/14/2023

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**Subject:**

Transportation Security Administration Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program.

**Recommended Action:**

Approval by the County Administrator of adding additional funding to existing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Law Enforcement Office (LEO) Reimbursement Program for the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE).

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) executes Other Transaction Agreements (OTA) with airports who have applied to the TSA's LEO reimbursement program, which was established to provide on-site and highly visible LEO presence at its security screening checkpoints.
- Each airport operator is required to establish an air transportation security program that provides a LEO presence that is adequate to ensure the safety of passengers.
- Each agreement is funded for a minimum of three years or a maximum of five years.
- The current agreement that PIE has with TSA began in March 2021, and is due to expire in 2026, unless the DHS requires new agreements to be negotiated. As the Federal Government incrementally funds the LEO Reimbursement Program, PIE will be sent an OTA with the next period of expected revenues.
- PIE has collected approximately \$459,000.00 so far. However, the Office of Management and Budget has notified PIE that in order to continue to collect into the future, the Board of County Commissioners needs to approve the future revenues.
- PIE suggests increasing the upper hard limit of this OTA to be \$1,000,000.00.
- This OTA is sufficiently budgeted at \$121,000.00 in the Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted Budget under the Airport Revenue and Operating Fund.

**Strategic Plan:**

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to create and enhance a safe, secure, and healthy community

**Summary:**

Approval of this item will enable PIE to continue to bill the TSA for partial costs of the LEOs to provide support to the passenger screening checkpoints.

**Background/Explanation:**

On November 19, 2001, the President and Congress established the TSA as a new Federal agency. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act was enacted, which provides authority of the TSA to order the deployment of law enforcement personnel at each airport security screening location to

ensure passenger safety and national security.

Currently, the maximum hourly rate for reimbursement is actual costs not-to-exceed \$20.00 per hour.

**Fiscal Impact:**

PIE collects an average of \$121,000.00 per fiscal year, but the total received is dependent on the hours that the checkpoint is open and what amount the LEO Program is funded by the Federal Government. The PID # is 003045B.

This OTA is sufficiently budgeted at \$121,000.00 in the FY24 Adopted Budget under the Airport Revenue and Operating Fund.

**Delegated Authority:**

Authority for the County Administrator to approve this increase is granted under Section 2-62 (a)(1).

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Thomas R. Jewsbury, Director, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport

**Partners:**

Department of Homeland Security - Transportation Security Agreement

**Attachments:**

Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) - 70T02021T6114N205