AGENDA ITEM 9.E.

RE: Approval of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Protective Services

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the Board for the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Protective Services

BACKGROUND: According to Texas labor market projections, employment of police and sheriff's patrol officers and of first-line supervisors of police and detectives is projected to grow by 9% from 2024 to 2034, roughly double the national rate, with approximately 5,400 and 450 annual job openings, respectively. As the nation's largest inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border, Laredo has a sustained need for qualified personnel in law enforcement, customs enforcement, transportation security, criminal investigations, and border security. The approval of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Protective Services at Laredo College will provide graduates of the Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement and related protective services programs a pathway to a baccalaureate degree, along with the leadership, investigative, legal, and administrative competencies needed for advancement in local, state, and federal law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. The program is projected to launch in Fall 2027 with an initial cohort of 20 students.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS: Laredo College has the financial base and stability to support the development of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Protective Services. The operation and management of the program will fall under the Protective Services Department of the Workforce Education Division. The budget is included within the general budget for the College. The projected implementation and continuity cost of the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree is approximately $240,000. This accounts for two fulltime faculty and one academic coordinator. Equipment purchases for the program will be acquired through the general operating budget and supplemented by Carl Perkins Grant.

CONTACT PERSONS:
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