



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 20, 2004

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 2004-05 COPS/SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDS

DATE: AUGUST 25, 2004

FROM: POLICE/DEPARTMENT FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: JIM WATSON, FIELD OPERATIONS CAPTAIN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JIM WATSON 754-4879

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the recommendation for the allocation of 2004-2005 Citizen's Options for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (COPS/SLESF).

Description	Amount
2003 LLEBG Matching Funds	\$ 2,848
Police Sergeant/Field Operations 2005-2006 Budget	157,000
Digital Recorders	27,366
Push Bumpers	7,350
Workstations – Report Writing	5,500
Computers – Report Writing	6,000
K9 Kennels	4,800

BACKGROUND:

Since the passage of Assembly Bill (AB3229) Citizen's Option for Public Safety in 1996-97 Fiscal Year, the City of Costa Mesa has participated in the program. The program was designed to provide State funds to local agencies for the purpose of addressing current, front line law enforcement needs, in accordance with written requests submitted by the Chief of Police. Over the past (7) fiscal years, the City of Costa Mesa has received \$1,560,409 in total allocations that has enabled the Police Department to acquire needed personnel, equipment, and technology.

ANALYSIS:

In Fiscal Year 2002-2003, the Citizens' Option for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund changed its format to require a General Description of Planned Expenditures before appropriating funds to the recipient agencies. Having no knowledge as to the amount of funds to be allocated to the City of Costa Mesa, planned expenditures have been set at \$166,000 which is comparable to the amount received last year. In the event the fund allocation is less than what is anticipated, expenditures will be made on a prioritized basis as determined by the Chief of Police. This year the Police

Department has a surplus of approximately \$57,250 from the 2003/04 allocation for a total of \$223,250.

The Police Department staff has considered various options for the use of these funds and has evaluated alternatives in conjunction with short-term and long-term needs of the Department. This evaluation primarily focused on four (4) areas: (1) personnel; (2) facilities; (3) capital equipment; and (4) City Council Community Objectives. In addition, this review was conducted with regard to two (2) specific conditions of the grant: (1) front line law enforcement use and (2) funds cannot supplant and/or replace existing equipment or programs. Based upon that evaluation, the Police Department submits these recommendations to the City Council for consideration and approval. The Police Sergeant allocation for 2004-05 Fiscal Year was approved May 5, 2003 by the City Council and has been included in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 budget.

2004 LLEBG Matching Funds

Over the past six (6) Fiscal Years, the COPS/SLESF allocation has provided the matching funds for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG) in the amount of \$57,450. Because the objectives of both LLEBG and the COPS/SLESF programs are to provide assistance for law enforcement needs, it is acceptable to utilize COPS funds to provide the matching funds requirement in the LLEBG Program. The City has been awarded \$25,634 for the 2004 LLEBG Program, which requires a total of \$2,848 in matching funds. It is recommended that the City continue to provide matching funds for the 2004 LLEBG Program.

Police Sergeant/Field Operations 2005-2006 Budget

Since 1998, a portion of the COPS/SLESF Funds has been allocated for an additional Police Sergeant position. This position was required to provide additional field supervision to meet the factors of performance expectation, liability potential, and proximity supervision to subordinates. Therefore, to continue this supervision requirement, it is recommended that the Police Sergeant position initially funded in the 1998-1999 Fiscal Year, again be funded in the 2005-2006 Budget in the amount of \$156,000.

This amount includes the full salary and benefits compensation package. The continued funding of personnel is in compliance with the legislative intent of the SLESF funding which is to expend these funds for additional personnel and/or overtime.

Digital Recorder Equipment

Field officers use audio recorders to capture unbiased conversations during citizen contacts. These recorders provide accurate accounting of conversations, protect the officer and the City of Costa Mesa against malicious litigation, and are maintained in an electronic format that can be retrieved for court purposes or act as an aid in recalling an incident. In 2003-2004, the Police Department used LLEBG Funds to purchase digital recorders for each field patrol officer. It is recommended that Detective Bureau personnel, Community Service Specialists and the Crime Scene Investigation Unit personnel be supplied with digital recorders at a cost of \$27,366 as they, too, deal with the public on a daily basis.

Push Bumpers

Traffic control and interacting with highway traffic is an everyday event for our Police Department. With ever increasing traffic congestion and the growing potential for traffic collisions, police officers must have the necessary tools to deal with these concerns. Several years ago, the police patrol vehicle fleet was equipped with forward "Push Bars". These devices allowed officers to move disabled vehicles from the roadway in the event of breakdowns and collisions, thus reducing unnecessary traffic congestion. The previous push bars were an older design that did not comply with the deployment of airbags in the event of a frontal impact. Current push bar design allows for proper airbag deployment and ease of installation with no permanent front bumper fascia damage. The Police Department could better serve the community by having push bars on all 45 black and white patrol vehicles. The cost to purchase the 45 push bumpers, including tax, installation and shipping, would be \$7,350.

Report Writing Workstations

In March 2004, a Report Writing Committee was established to review the report writing process within the Police Department. The Report Writing Committee made recommendations to alleviate the backlog of reports, expedite the process of taking information in the field and obtaining approval for submission of reports in order to get field patrol officers back in the field as quickly as possible. One of the recommendations was the reconfiguration of the report writing area to accommodate four additional computers for Field Operations and two in the Traffic Safety Bureau. It is recommended that the report writing area be reconfigured to expedite the report writing process at an approximate cost of \$5,500.

Report Writing Computers

The cost of additional computers for the above report writing workstations is \$6,000.

K-9 Kennels for K-9 Units

The Police Department's K-9 units are equipped with kennels that were purchased in 1987. The equipment is outdated, unreliable, difficult to clean and oversized. We are requesting two new modern kennels for our K-9 units. These kennel systems are complete with cage, door-pop system and temperature control system that monitors the heat within the vehicle. The temperature control system informs the Handler of any problems that could cause the dog to die due to extreme heat conditions via a paging system, as well as rolling down windows, activating a fan and turning on the car horn and lights. The kennels are equipped with a "Bail Out" feature with an activation range of 1,000 feet. This would allow the K-9 Handler to press a single button to allow the dog to be deployed remotely during an emergency situation. The ability to deploy the dog from the vehicle remotely allows the K-9 Handler to maintain visual observation on threats and call the dog for assistance. The feature could save the Handler's life as well as the lives of others. It is recommended that the Police Department purchase two new K-9 kennels at a total cost of \$4,790.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Not required on this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The City of Costa Mesa received \$166,094 in COPS/SLESF funding for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. The funding for this year's program is unknown at this time pending allocations of the State's budget. Any funds received will be placed in the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Not required on this item.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon the criteria outlined in the Citizen's Option for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund, it is recommended that the 2004-2005 allocation of funds be used for the purposes presented.

JOHN HENSLEY
Chief of Police

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance

DISTRIBUTION: City Manager
 City Clerk
 Finance Director

ATTACHMENTS:

2004-05 COPS/SLESF FUND | 090204 | 1400