



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 2, 2008

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 2008-09 COPS/SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FUND

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2008

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: RON SMITH, SUPPORT SERVICES CAPTAIN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: JOCELYN SCHAMBER 714-754-5193

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve staff's recommendation to allocate the Citizen's Options for Public Safety/Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (COPS/SLESF) for fiscal year 2008-2009 to the Police Department's operating budget.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill (AB 3229) Citizen's Option for Public Safety was passed in 1996-1997 fiscal year to provide local government supplemental funds for front-line law enforcement services. The City of Costa Mesa has participated in the program since that time and has received over \$2.1 million from SLESF allocations. Through written requests from the chief of police, the funds have enabled the Police Department to acquire needed additional personnel, equipment, and technology.

AB 3229 also requires the recipient agency to conduct a public hearing regarding allocation of the SLESF fund.

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 of the City of Costa Mesa's expected funding allocation, planned expenditures have been set at \$220,680, which is a fair average based on previous years' awards. In the event the fund allocation is less than anticipated, expenditures will be made on a prioritized basis as determined by the chief of police.

Police Department staff considered various options for the use of these funds and evaluated alternatives in conjunction with short-term and long-term needs of the department. This evaluation primarily focused on three areas: personnel, equipment, and technology. In addition, this review was conducted with regard to two specific conditions of the grant: funds are for front-line law enforcement use and funds cannot supplant existing equipment or programs. Based on that evaluation, the Police Department submits these recommendations to the City Council for consideration and approval.

Police Sergeant/Field Operations

Since 1998, a portion of the COPS/SLESF fund 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. To continue this supervision requirement, staff recommends that the police sergeant position initially funded in the 1998-1999 fiscal year again be funded from the SLESF fund.

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.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Not required on this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The adopted budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 anticipated receiving approximately \$165,000 from the state for the SLESF fund plus \$4,800 in estimated investment earnings. Based on these estimates, \$220,680 has been appropriated to fund a police sergeant position, including overtime cost. The difference between the anticipated revenue and the appropriation is covered by available fund balance in the SLESF 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, staff recommends that the fiscal year 2008-2009 allocation of funds be used for the purposes presented.

CHRISTOPHER SHAWKEY
Chief of Police

RON SMITH
Support Services Captain

MARC R. PUCKETT
Director of Finance