



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Council Session

Item G-12

**#2016-135 - Approving the Continuation of the Three (3) Year
VOCA Grant #2015-VA-0224 for the Police Department**

Staff Contact: Steve Lamken - Police Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Police Department
Meeting: June 14, 2016
Subject: Continuation of the 2015 VOCA Grant #2015-VA-0224
Presenter(s): Steven Lamken, Police Chief

Background

The Police Department received a Victims Of Crime Act, VOCA, Federal grant in 2015 which is good for fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018. The VOCA grant funds support the Police Department Victim/Witness Unit. The VOCA grant requires a 20% match from the City. The grant application requires a yearly grant continuation which must be submitted by June 20, 2016.

The Police Department was awarded a three year VOCA grant requesting \$118,093 in 2015/2016, \$134,035 in 2016/2017, and \$134,714 in 2017/2018. The grant funding requires the City to pay employee costs of \$14,408 in 2015/2016, \$19,438 in 2016/2017 and \$20,117 in 2017/2018. The grant request provided for the hiring of a Victim Advocate for the Unit.

This action is to obtain Council approval for the continuation of the awarded grant.

Discussion

Historically the Police Department Unit has had one position, a Victim/Witness Coordinator who provides victim/witness services. The previous grant applications were based upon the limited funding available for VOCA grants. The Nebraska Crime Commission acknowledged that the workload of the Department Victim/Witness Unit was large and a second position was justified.

The Police Department submitted a three year grant application in July 2015 that would add an additional position, a Victim Advocate, to the Victim/Witness Unit. As stated earlier, 20% of the employee salary and benefits must be paid by the City. The remaining match for the grant will be in-kind with office space, equipment, administration and clerical support.

Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Recommendation

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the continuation of the three year Victims Of Crime Act grant #2015-VA0224 awarded to the Police Department by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the continuation of the 2015-2018 Victims Of Crime Act grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the Victim/Witness Unit.

RESOLUTION 2016-135

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Justice has significantly increased funding for Victims Of Crime Act, VOCA, grants and instituted a three year grant award process; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Island Police Department has a Victim/Witness Unit that serves as a valuable resource to victims of crime in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has received VOCA grant funding in past years to support the Victim/Witness Unit; and

WHEREAS, the VOCA grant application must be submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission in July; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department must have Council approval to submit a Continuation of the previous approved VOCA grant application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the Continuation of the Police Department 2015 – 2018, three year Victims of Crime Act grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice to fund the Victim/Witness Unit.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 14, 2016.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
June 10, 2016	☒ City Attorney