



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Council Session

Item G-14

#2017-187 – Approving Application for the 2017 Cops Hiring Grant

Staff Contact: Robert Falldorf, Police Chief

Council Agenda Memo

From: Robert Falldorf, Police Chief
Meeting: June 27th, 2017
Subject: COP Hiring Grant Application
Presenter(s): Robert Falldorf, Police Chief

Background

The U.S. Department of Justice has opened applications for 2017 COPs Hiring grants that if awarded could be used to assist in paying for the costs of up to four new Police Officer positions. The Police Department just recently received City Administration approval to move forward with completing this grant application. The grant application isn't available to attach to this memo at this time as we are currently working on it. Deadline for the grant application is July 10, 2017. The complete application will be on file at the Police Department after completion. The Police Department is seeking permission to submit the application. The application does not commit the City until such time as the City would accept an award if granted.

Discussion

The U.S. Department of Justice has opened applications for COPs Hiring Grants that if awarded could be used to assist in paying for the costs of up to four new Police Officer positions. The grant funding will support paying for the salaries and benefits of a new hire Police Officer for three years up to \$125,000 per officer. This would include salary, social security, pension, and health care benefits. It does not include overtime or uniforms and equipment.

The City would be responsible for a match of at least twenty five percent of the grant award which we would pay for the rest of the officers' salaries and benefits. The grant would require the City to maintain any officers hired under the grant for a minimum of one year after the grant ended. Grant funds are limited and there is no assurance that the City would receive an award.

The 2012 ICMA Public Safety Study identified the need to increase the Police Department strength by ten sworn officer positions. The Police Department developed an implementation plan that identified hiring five new officer positions in the 2012/2013 fiscal year and five additional new officers in the 2013/2014 fiscal year, which was done.

Due to recent budget constraints it has been necessary to freeze three police officer positions over the last two fiscal years through attrition as officers have resigned or retired. There is the potential that one additional police officer position could be frozen in July, 2017. The Police Department would like to maintain our sworn officer strength as identified through the ICMA Study to continue successful application of Strategic Policing and continue to address a rising violent crime issue within the community. This would mean replacing the four frozen police officer positions.

The Police Department has prepared a grant application seeking grant funding for up to four new hire officers to further enhance our strategic policing initiative. The Department is seeking Council approval to submit the grant application. The application does not commit the City to hiring any officers until such time as the City would accept an award.

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 submission of the 2017 COP Hiring Grant for up to four new Police Officer positions in the Police Department.

Sample Motion

Move to approve the submission of the 2017 COP Hiring Grant for up to four new Police Officer positions in the Police Department.

RESOLUTION 2017-187

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Justice has opened applications for 2017 COPS Hiring grant funding that the Police Department is eligible to apply for; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Hiring grant would assist in paying for the salary and benefits of four new Police Officers if so awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, to approve the submission of the Police Department 2017 COPS Hiring grant application for four new hire Police Officer positions in the Police Department.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, June 27, 2017.

Jeremy L. Jensen, Mayor

Attest:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☒ _____
June 23, 2017	☒ City Attorney