

Monday, March 22, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members of
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of
March 28, 2006

REQUEST TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE EQUIPMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council:

1. Appropriate \$21,825 from the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) program to purchase an additional twenty (20) TASER electronic control devices.
2. Appropriate \$20,000 from the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) program to purchase additional network attached storage for the existing jail and station video surveillance system
3. Appropriate \$25,000 from the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) program to purchase network attached storage for the vehicle-mounted digital video surveillance devices to be installed in all patrol vehicles during the 2006/2007 budget year.
4. Appropriate \$6,000 from the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) program to purchase the first of twelve (12) vehicle-mounted digital video surveillance systems for the patrol car fleet.

BACKGROUND:

COPS funds are received from the State each year. The funds must be used for law enforcement purposes and are to supplement, not supplant existing funding. The items listed above clearly meet this requirement.

Item one concerns TASER electronic control devices. The TASER is an electronic control device intended to be used as a non-lethal means of controlling violent and potentially violent subjects without harm to themselves or others. Other police agencies currently using the TASER device have experienced a dramatic decrease in injuries to suspects and officers resulting from physical altercations. If we experience a similar reduction in injuries to suspects we may also see a decrease in claims against the city. With regard to injuries to officers, we currently have six officers off duty due to injuries. The majority of the officers injured in the line of duty in the last two years were injured in physical altercations. We would hope to see a decrease in the number injured of officers and the associated expense as a direct result of the deployment of this equipment. TASER is the sole source provider of their product.

Item two allows us to purchase additional network attached storage for the existing jail and station video surveillance system so that we can store a full twelve months worth of data. We currently are only able to store about nine months worth of data. Twelve months is the industry standard because it tends to satisfy the majority of discovery claims. This item will be purchased from Dell, our exclusive provider of computers and computer peripherals.

Item three and four allow us to purchase the first components of the vehicle-mounted digital video surveillance systems for the patrol vehicles. Purchasing the first components now will enable us to start the project concurrent with the other three cities contracting with RCC, which will be operational in the next two months. We intend to purchase the additional components to complete this system, including more network attached storage and camera systems for the police motorcycles, in the budget of FY 2006/2007 with the 2006/2007 allocation of COPS funds. There are not adequate funds to purchase all components now. These items will be purchased from the RCC, as a quasi-public agency, as allowed by the City Code..

ANALYSIS:


\$102,000 in COPS funds must be spent by year-end 2005/06 to avoid losing the funds. There is a two-year expenditure requirement on these funds. Since year-end expenditures are estimated at only \$72,101, approval of the above purchases will allow us to meet the expenditure requirement.

Every item listed above was chosen for purchase because it truly enhances the capabilities of the Hermosa Beach Police Department to deliver service to the citizens of Hermosa Beach. Also, items two, three and four have the added benefit of helping to provide exculpatory evidence in future civil trials wherein police employees are accused of wrongdoing.


FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds are available for appropriation in the COPS Fund, which may only be used for law enforcement purposes.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas Eckert
Police Captain
Acting for the C.O.P.

Concur:


Stephen Burrell
City Manager

Fiscal Impact:


Viki Copeland
Finance Director