..Title
2014 COPS Hiring Program Grant Award

..Staffreport
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the three year grant award totaling $500,000 from the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) to fund four (4) School Resource Officers (SRO's).

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION

On June 20, 2014 the police department submitted a COPS Grant Application to secure a $500,000 grant to hire four School Resource Officers. The decision to file this application was brought before council in May 2014 and approved for submission. As part of the decision making process to file for the application a meeting took place with the San Leandro Unified School District. During those discussions a partnership was developed and the district agreed to fund any balance that was not covered by the COPS Grant.

The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire career law enforcement officers. This is done in an effort to create and preserve jobs, and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. Typically, CHP grants only cover a maximum federal share of $125,000 per officer position during a three year period (36 months). Subsequently a fourth year of funding needs to be guaranteed by the awardee and the officers being hired cannot be laid off. The COPS office issued a letter in April 2014, inviting the nation's law enforcement community to apply with a deadline of June 24, 2014. A total of 1,296 agencies applied for the nearly 121 million dollar grant allocation, but only 215 received awards. There were 104 applications throughout California and 28 received funding. Fortunately, the COPS Office issued an award notice in the amount of $500,000 to the City of San Leandro on September 24, 2014.

The City requested 4 officers, the maximum allowed per the capping methodology used by the COPS Office. The formula is 5% of actual sworn strength. In the case of San Leandro, 5% of 90 sworn is 4.5 officers or 4 for reporting purposes. Because of the relatively limited funding available compared to the amount requested, and the desire to distribute officers to a larger number of agencies, the COPS Office imposed caps on the total number of officers that were awarded to any individual agency.

The COPS Hiring Grant will only cover $125,000 for each officer during a three-year period, which amounts to approximately 38% of the officers' salary. Therefore, the City of San Leandro (San Leandro Unified SD) would be required to provide the matching funds of 62%. Below is the breakdown in total cost, City match and COPS grant funds:

YEAR	TOTAL	SLUSD MATCH	COPS GRANT
1	$520,045	$345,045	$175,000
2	$542,035	$369,035	$173,000
3	$565,130	$413,130	$152,000
4	$565,130 (est.)	$565,130 (est.)	0
%	100%	69%	31%

Some highlights regarding the conditions of acceptance include:

- Presenting a positive image of the law enforcement profession to local youth
- Nurturing one-on-one relationships with at-risk youth
- Deterring criminal activity and disruptive behavior during school and after-school sponsored activities
- Revitalizing science-based drug, gang, and bullying awareness programs
- Hosting assemblies and various other group-based activities for students
- Facilitating Season of Service non-violent/peace-oriented service projects
- Facilitating lunch time & after-school activities for students
- Participating in student counseling sessions and parent conferences, when requested
- Serving as a liaison between the Police Department and local school district staff
- Hosting various community, parent & youth Town Hall meetings
- Establishing service clubs and other opportunities for volunteerism

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this grant will not impact the General Fund. If approved, the City will receive $500,000 towards the hiring of four (4) sworn police officers and work in partnership with the San Leandro Unified School District.

PREPARED BY: Greg Lemmon, Police Captain, Police Department