

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

AGENDA# 14

A G E N D A R E P O R T

DATE September 2, 2003

ITEM: Setting public hearing for Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds

INITIATED BY Police Department.

ACTION REQUESTED Set public hearing for use of block grant funding as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee for October 7, 2003.

PRESENTED BY Chief of Police, Robert Jones.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Commission set a public hearing regarding the proposed use of Law Enforcement Block Grant funds for October 7, 2003. The following individuals have been previously appointed to the Law Enforcement Grant Ad Hoc Committee:

Local law enforcement agency	(Capt. Cloyd Grove)
Local records supervisor	(Ms. Sheryl Carr)
Local prosecutor's office	(Mr. Kory Larsen)
Local court system	(Ms. Darlene Kravik)
Local public school system	(Mr. Richard Kuntz)
Local business	(Mr. Channing Hartelius)
Local nonprofit group	(Ms. Mikeal Baker-Hajek)

MOTION:

I move the City Commission set a public hearing regarding the proposed use of Law Enforcement Block Grant funds for October 7, 2003.

SYNOPSIS:

A grant has been applied for that requires an Advisory Board be appointed to review the application for funding. Minimum membership requirements were specified by the BJA. The grant also requires at least one public hearing be set regarding the proposed use of the funds.

BACKGROUND:

Congress allocated funds to be dispersed under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, established within the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The allocations were based on a formula that considered population and reported Part I violent crimes (Uniform Crime Report Data). The Great Falls Police Department was awarded **\$51,212.00**. The Department's matching share must be at least a 10% **(\$5,690.00)** hard cash match. Total Grant including match **\$56,902.00**.

Seven areas were approved for fund use. One area included law enforcement support for:

- 3) equipment, technology and other material related to law enforcement functions

The Department completed the Grant Application. The Department's intent is to recommend the money be used to off set the continued costs of a computer system for the Department compatible with a the currently installed CAD dispatch system and continued expansion of the systems capabilities in mobile computing.

As part of the Grant Award and BJA requirements, the Unit of Government must hold at least one public hearing and must establish an advisory board to review the application for funding prior to the funds being received. This committee has been appointed to review prior grant applications. This meeting will finalize the grant application process. Minimum requirements for membership on the Advisory Board were set by BJA. Grant requirements state that the Advisory Board has to be authorized to make nonbinding recommendations to the unit to the Commission regarding fund us.