

AGENDA REPORT

DATE October 7, 2003

**ITEM** Conduct public hearing & Adopt Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

**INITIATED BY** Police Department.

**ACTION REQUESTED** Conduct public hearing for use of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funding and accept the recommendation of the L.E. Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee for 2003-2004.

**PRESENTED BY** Chief of Police, Robert Jones.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the City Commission accept the recommendation of the L.E. Ad Hoc Committee for the use of BJA grant funds.

**MOTION:**

I move the City Commission accept the recommendation of the L.E. Ad Hoc Committee for the use of BJA grant funds.

**SYNOPSIS:**

A grant has been applied for that requires an Advisory Board be appointed to review the application for funding. An Ad Hoc Committee met on September 11, 2003 at 1000 hours. Discussion involved the proposed use of block grant funding for the purposes of offsetting costs associated with the purchase of equipment associated with the 911 Computer Aided Dispatch transition with an emphasis on Mobile Data Terminals. The funds will be used to make technological improvements to the existing system and to expand the systems capabilities. These may include but will not be limited to; state interface, improved county interface, repeater enhancements, software purchases, mobile terminal purchases and/or radio updates. Once the system is fully operational it will improve crime analysis and response capabilities.

The grant requires one public hearing regarding the proposed use of these 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 which 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. The final federal award will be \$56,902.00.

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

- 1) hiring, training and employing new, additional officers or support personnel
- 2) overtime
- 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 offset the costs of a computer system for the Department compatible with the existing CAD system and the Court system.

As part of the Grant Award and BJA requirements, at least one public hearing and an advisory board/ad hoc committee were necessary.

The Committee met and concluded that the use of funding is appropriate and is a continuation of previous grants expectations. The funding will help the patrol function by providing more fully operational patrol vehicles by providing additional mobile data terminals, associated equipment, and software licensure.