



**Item:** COPS Hiring Grant  
**From:** Great Falls Police Department  
**Initiated By:** Cloyd A. Grove, Chief of Police  
**Presented By:** Cloyd A. Grove

**Action Requested:** Accepting the COPS Hiring Grant, and direct the City Manager and the Chief of Police to accept the grant award.

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (accept/deny) the COPS Grant award and direct the City Manager and Chief of Police to execute the acceptance letter and proceed with the implementation of the award.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls for a vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the City accept the COPS Grant that has been awarded to the Police Department to hire four officers in order to provide the following positions to the community: Housing Officer, Law Related Education Officer, Special Projects Officer and a Community Education Officer.

**Background:**

While preparing for the 2009 Public Safety Mill Levy election, the Police Department looked at available sources for funding that could be used to provide additional officers to the Department and be used to reduce the amount of mill increase sought. One funding avenue was a Community Oriented Policing Grant (COPS Grant) that had received additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund jobs that were lost and to create new positions that met the COPS requirement. The Department believes that this grant opportunity would work really well because it was designed to provide three positions that had been eliminated and to provide a new position that fit the COPS strategy. The Request for Proposals was released in March of 2009, the City’s application was completed and submitted in April 2009. The City received notice that our application had been accepted in July 2009.

Significant Impacts:

This grant will allow the Police Department to re-institute officer positions within the Great Falls Housing, Law Related Education, and Special Projects, and to institute a new position for a Community Education officer. The City must agree to maintain these positions for one year after the term of the grant expires.

Citizen Participation:

These programs build partnerships and positive relationships with Great Falls Housing Authority and residents; Great Falls School administration, faculty, students; community members and organizational membership.

Workload Impacts:

This funding would allow the Department to add an additional officer to the Great Falls Housing Authority to provide both traditional and community policing within the various housing areas. It will also allow the Department to re-institute Law Related Education within our high schools. This program provides a positive non confrontational atmosphere giving youth and officers an opportunity to establish positive, long lasting associations. The Special Projects position will allow the Department to resume several community programs that have been eliminated.

Conclusion:

Staff believes that these positions contribute to the overall mission of the Department by building positive partnerships and relationships with community members, businesses, and organizations.

**Concurrences:** Great Falls Housing Authority Board of Commissioners have agreed to fund the housing position the fourth year

**Fiscal Impact:** The grant will provide unmatched funding in the amount of \$837,148.00 to provide salary, benefits, and future salary increases for four sworn officer positions dedicated to Community Oriented Policing. The grant will provide this funding for a period of 3 years, after which the City must provide sustainability for one additional year at a current cost of \$225,401. There will be an initial financial impact on the City of approximately \$36,000 for hiring and training the newly hired officers. With careful coordination and budget allocation, the Department will be able to cover these initial costs.

**Alternatives:**

Deny acceptance of the grant which would revert to another agency in another jurisdiction.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Grant Application (Not available online; on file in City Clerk's Office.)