



Agenda Item #:



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: David N. Carmany, City Manager

FROM: Rod Uyeda, Police Chief
 Bruce Moe, Finance Director
 Andrew Harrod, Police Lieutenant
 Julie Dahlgren, Management Analyst

DATE: May 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Accepting the Citizen's Option for Public Safety Program Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds (SLESF) Grant; Authorize and Appropriate SLESF Grant Funds to Purchase Mobile Communication Equipment from South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$104,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council: a) conduct a public hearing relating to the acceptance and proposed expenditures of the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF); b) adopt Resolution No. 6308 to accept grant monies from SLESF; c) appropriate SLESF grant funds and accrued interest for proposed expenditures; d) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers) and award purchase order to South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority for mobile communications equipment in an amount not to exceed \$104,000.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

During FY 2009-2010, the City received an allocation of \$100,000 from SLESF; the funds are placed in an interest bearing account. Grant funds and accrued interest must be encumbered by June 30, 2011. The requested items will be purchased with the aforementioned SLESF allocation; therefore, there is no impact on the General Fund. The total cost of the proposed expenditures is approximately \$104,000, and the SLESF grant funds and accrued interest will be fully expended on the requested purchases.

BACKGROUND:

During the 1996-1997 legislative sessions, the State adopted legislation to provide block grants to individual cities to support front-line law enforcement needs. The program is called the Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF), created through Assembly Bill 3229, the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) Program. Since the inception of this program,

Manhattan Beach has received an annual allocation of \$100,000. Last fiscal year, City Council approved the Police Department to use the 2008-2009 SLESF funds to purchase handheld radios for patrol officers and mobile radios for patrol cars. This staff report is a request to accept and spend FY 2009-2010 SLESF funds. All funds received under this grant must be used to supplement local front-line law enforcement needs and cannot be used to supplant existing funding.

Based upon current and projected Police Department equipment needs, staff believes that these funds would best be utilized to purchase needed equipment to better serve the community in the area of mobile communication equipment. The proposed purchases are permissible expenditures.

DISCUSSION:

Communication tools are essential for first responders. Properly functioning in-car communication systems and portable radios ensure rapid response to calls for service and are a critical necessity for officer safety. They also allow officers to immediately share information and intelligence during routine operations and emergencies.

Additionally, regulations from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate private Land Mobile Radio system licensees (including public safety agencies and state and local governments) to convert from what has been known as "wideband" (25 KHz) operation to "narrowband" (12.5 KHz or equivalent) by January 1, 2013. Agencies that do not meet the mandated deadline face the loss of communication capabilities and fines of up to \$10,000 per day.

The South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority (SBRPCA, also referred to as "RCC" for Regional Communications Center) is a joint powers authority agreement between the Cities of Gardena, Hawthorne and Manhattan Beach, while also providing communications services under contract to the cities of El Segundo and Hermosa Beach.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department, with the help of RCC, has developed a radio/communication equipment replacement schedule which will help us to achieve our goal of enhanced interoperability and compliance with federal mandates by January 1, 2013. The recommended purchases represent the next phase in the replacement schedule and will bring us closer to our compliance and interoperability goals.

RCC staff stays current with new innovations in the communication industry and performs field tests on products before a recommendation is made. As a member agency of RCC, we receive free labor. RCC staff maintains and repairs our communication equipment until it is retired, performs on-site service, and keeps back-up components, which lessens communication equipment and vehicle downtime. Finally, RCC can obtain prices for equipment that are consistently at or below pricing available from other vendors, often at dealer cost.

As a result, staff requests the formal bid process be waived per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers) and that the award be made to RCC in the amount of \$104,000 to purchase 15 mobile data computers for patrol cars, 12 portable handheld radios for field officers, and necessary software, parts, and accessories to make the communication equipment field-ready for law enforcement operations.

Mobile Data Computers for Patrol Vehicles (Approximately \$90,000)

Mobile data computers are rugged computers that provide wireless data communications via radio modem between our patrol units and RCC. The 15 mobile data computers recommended for replacement are around ten years old and are reaching the end of their useful life, and replacement parts are no longer available to make repairs. Additionally, they are not in compliance with the FCC's 2013 narrowbanding requirements.

Mobile data computers enable patrol units to connect wirelessly to law enforcement computer database systems, providing officers with instant information as well as facilitating silent and secure communications among patrol cars, dispatch, and the Police station. The computers are powerful and effective tools which allow officers to complete a myriad of tasks in their patrol unit while they are in the field. Officers are provided rapid access to critical information and are able to make better and informed decisions in the field. This includes access to Department of Motor Vehicle files (in and out of state), Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center, searchable state and local laws, penal codes, vehicle codes, municipal codes, etc.; and law enforcement forms including legal court forms. Officer safety is increased with immediate field access to databases.

The proposed mobile data computer systems, which will be installed in all marked patrol units, are ruggedized toughbook touchscreen laptops with a slide-out spill resistant backlit rubber keyboard and Bluetooth technology. The screen is an anti-reflective sunlight readable liquid crystal display (LCD). Much of the system hardware is designed to be trunk-mounted, which frees up patrol car cab space and reduces interior wiring. Mobile data computers are specially designed for law enforcement in-vehicle use and are resistant to moisture, dust, shock, vibration, extreme temperatures, and electromagnetic interference. The requested units meet upcoming FCC mandates, as well as future compatibility standards with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System, and are recommended by RCC.

Portable Handheld Radios (Approximately \$14,000)

The Police Department is in need of new radios and accessories to replace aging and damaged radios. The recommended purchase will replace 12 Department radios which are around ten years or older and replacement parts are no longer available to make repairs. The requested portable handheld radios are rugged, lightweight models that meet upcoming FCC mandates, as well as future compatibility standards with the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System, and are recommended by RCC.

CONCLUSION:

If City Council approves these recommendations, staff anticipates purchasing the mobile data computers and portable handheld radios (\$104,000) within the next six months.

ATTACHMENT: Exhibit A – Resolution No 6308

RESOLUTION NO. 6308

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENT TO ACCEPT A STATE GRANT UNDER THE CITIZEN'S OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 AND AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE GRANT FUNDS FOR THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT: MOBILE DATA COMPUTERS FOR PATROL CARS AND HANDHELD PORTABLE RADIOS FOR FIELD OFFICERS.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, has been notified of its eligibility to receive grant money provided through the State of California Citizens Option for Public Safety Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund; and

WHEREAS, the procedural requirements for acceptance of funds under this program requires that City Council conduct a public hearing and receive public comment regarding the anticipated areas of expenditure for such funds; and

WHEREAS, City Staff has determined that the highest priority for the use of these funds is for mobile communication equipment, including mobile data computers for patrol cars and portable handheld radios for field officers.

WHEREAS, the City Council concurs with the recommended expenditures as identified by City Staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, FIND, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The expenditure of grant funds as recommended by City Staff is consistent with the intent of the grant requirements and will enhance the delivery of police services within the City of Manhattan Beach.

SECTION 2. The City Manager and Chief of Police are hereby authorized to execute the necessary documents to accept the grant award and authorize expenditures pertinent thereto.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall make this resolution available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 17th day of May, 2011.

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:
:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By 
City Attorney