







Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Powell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH:  David N. Carmany, City Manager

FROM: Eve R. Irvine, Chief of Police 
 Bruce Moe, Finance Director 
 Gwen Eng, General Services Manager 
 Julie Dahlgren, Management Analyst 

DATE: June 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution Accepting the Citizen's Option for Public Safety Program Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Account (SLESA) Grant; Authorize and Appropriate SLESA Grant Funds to Purchase Communications Equipment from South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority in an Amount Not to Exceed \$147,000, and Law Enforcement Software and Equipment with Remaining Grants Funds and Accrued Interest (Approximately \$59,000).

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 Account (SLESA); b) adopt Resolution No. 6365 to accept grant monies from SLESA; c) appropriate \$206,000 in SLESA grant funds and accrued interest for proposed expenditures; d) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers) and award an order to South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority for mobile communications equipment in an amount not to exceed \$147,000; and e) authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase of the remaining equipment within this staff report to fully expend the remaining SLESF grant funds and accrued interest (approximately \$59,000).

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

Each fiscal year (FY), the City receives an allocation of \$100,000 from SLESA; the funds are placed in an interest bearing account. The requested items will be purchased with the aforementioned SLESA allocation; therefore, there is no impact on the General Fund. The total cost of the proposed expenditures is approximately \$206,000 (two years of grant funds, plus accrued interest) and the SLESA 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 Account (SLESA), 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 2009-2010 SLESA funds to purchase handheld radios for patrol officers and mobile data computers for patrol cars.

This staff report is a request to accept and spend FY 2010-2011 and FY 2011-2012 SLESA 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.

DISCUSSION:

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 areas of mobile communication, evidence management software, patrol equipment, traffic enforcement, and forensic analysis equipment. The proposed purchases are permissible expenditures.

Proposed Spending Plan:

Mobile Communication and In-Car Equipment:	\$147,000
Mobile data computers, hardware, and data plans (\$61,000)	
Portable radios, headsets, and chargers (\$34,000)	
In-car video system and body-worn audio equipment (\$52,000)	
Evidence Management System:	\$27,000
Replacement Shotguns for Patrol Cars:	\$17,500
Traffic Enforcement Equipment:	\$8,500
Forensic Analysis Equipment:	\$6,000

Communication tools and in-car technologies 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.

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.

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 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 mobile data computers, data plan, and radio purchases represent the next phase in the replacement schedule and will complete our compliance and interoperability goals.

Mobile Data Computers

Mobile data computers are rugged computers that provide wireless data communications via radio modem between our patrol units and RCC. The mobile data computers recommended for replacement are around ten years old and are reaching the end of their useful life; replacement parts are no longer available to make repairs. Additionally, they are not in compliance with the FCC's 2013 narrow banding 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. Officer safety is increased with immediate field access to databases. The proposed mobile data computer systems 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. The cost of mounting/installation hardware and a one-year data plan for each mobile data computer unit in the Police vehicle fleet is included.

Portable Handheld Radios & Headsets

The Police Department is in need of new radios, wireless headsets, and accessories to replace aging and damaged equipment. The recommended purchase will replace Department radios which are around ten years or older; 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.

In-Car Video System

In 2006, the Manhattan Beach Police Department installed digital mobile video systems in all of our patrol vehicles. The in-car video and related body-worn audio recorders are vital to officer safety and are used by officers daily in the field. Our current system is six years old, video-recording units are no longer under warranty, repair costs are rising, and many units are unserviceable. Additionally, there have been technological advances in the field including higher resolution video, improved range of reception, and consolidation of peripheral devices to save space in the patrol car. The new units are an upgrade to our existing units.

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 do not pay additional charges for labor. RCC staff maintains and repairs our communication equipment

and in-car video 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 \$147,000 to purchase mobile data computers for patrol cars, portable handheld radios and headsets, in-car video systems, and necessary hardware, software, parts, and accessories to make the communications equipment field-ready for law enforcement operations.

Evidence Management Software

Evidence management software efficiently and effectively streamlines the evidence tracking, storage, and disposal process. Proper management and tracking of evidence in the Police Department's property and evidence room is important to successful prosecution of criminal violations. In recent years, management of property and evidence has become more complex due to legislative mandates and additional regulatory requirements related to the increasing number of hazardous materials processed through the property system. The Police Department has a duty to store and protect property and evidence while it is in the custody of our agency and to restore the property to its rightful owner as soon as practical. The implementation of this technology will streamline the daily evidence management tasks, reduce repetitive work effort and paperwork, and increase the accountability of evidence store by the Department. It will also simplify the purging process, therefore reducing our ever increasing storage footprint. Staff will return to City Council with a recommended vendor at a future Council meeting.

Replacement Shotguns for Patrol Cars

The Police Department's patrol car shotguns are approximately 20 years old and approaching end of service life. The requested replacement shotguns have better sights, integrated lights, and are designed to fit in the existing shotgun locks in the patrol cars. The requested purchase of 25 new shotguns will outfit all patrol, K-9, detective, and Watch Commander police cars and will ensure the safety of our officers and the public. The old guns will be used as trade-ins to offset the cost of the new guns.

Traffic Enforcement Equipment

The Police Department works in partnership with the community to provide safety education to reduce accidents and ensure the safe movement of vehicles. Special enforcement details are deployed to address specific area concerns, including residential speed violations and speeding around local schools. In an effort to reduce speeding vehicles, one of the tools the Police Department deploys is the pole-mounted speed radar, which displays a motorist's speed in contrast to the speed limit, effectively alerting the driver of their speed and serving as an educational tool. The small size of this unit allows it to be deployed in numerous locations throughout the City. The City has one solar-powered pole-mounted speed radar board currently and four locations that the Traffic Engineer recommends that the unit be deployed, on a rotational basis. The unit can be relocated periodically (every six months) in order to provide the biggest impact. An additional unit would increase the success of the deployment program. The Police Department is also requesting a Handheld Speed Measurement device which will enhance the Department's ability to enforce speed violations and promote safe driving.

Forensic Analysis Equipment

Chemical processing of items for latent fingerprints involves the use of carcinogenic liquids and vapors that are recommended for use only in a fume hood, for the protection of the operator. Currently, the Crime Scene Investigations team does not have a hood for these procedures, and items must be processed outdoors. While the process is conducted in a well-ventilated, open air environment, the operator is still exposed to much higher levels of the chemical used (wind blowing the chemical, etc.) than they would be if the procedure was performed properly in the controlled environment of a fume hood. This portable, ductless unit consists of a durable steel structure which requires only electricity and filters. Other fume hood models are much more expensive and require a duct, which would have to be constructed in walls of the forensic lab. The requested product meets OSHA standards. As tabletop space in the forensic lab is limited, the purchase includes a portable cart for the fume hood which saves counter space for processing other items of evidence.

CONCLUSION:

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 \$147,000 to purchase mobile data computers for patrol cars, portable handheld radios and headsets, in-car video systems, and necessary hardware, software, parts, and accessories to make the communication equipment field-ready for law enforcement operations. Staff will return to City Council with a recommendation for Evidence Management Software. The remaining purchases are below \$20,000; therefore, staff will obtain quotes and award the purchase orders administratively. If City Council approves these recommendations, staff anticipates purchasing the equipment within the next six months.

Attachment: Resolution No 6365

RESOLUTION NO 6365

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DECLARING ITS INTENT TO ACCEPT A STATE GRANT UNDER THE CITIZEN'S OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPLEMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ACCOUNT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 AND FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE GRANT FUNDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

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 Account; 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, portable handheld radios for field officers, evidence management software, patrol equipment, traffic enforcement, and forensic analysis equipment.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH DOES HERBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council finds that the expenditure of grant funds as set forth in the agenda report dated June 5, 2012 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 Council hereby authorizes the City Manager and Chief of Police (as appropriate) to: (i) execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, agreements, amendments, payment requests, etc., which are necessary to accept the grant funds; and (ii) expend the grant funds as set forth herein or as determined by the Chief of Police in compliance with the grant requirements.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Section 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 2012

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Wayne Powell, Mayor
City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

Liza Tamura, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney