

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item



DATE OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING: February 21, 2006

TO: GARY KEEFE, City Administrator

FROM: WILLIAM F. BROWN, JR., Chief of Police
b_brown@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN REDUCTION PROGRAM GRANT

Recommendation: that the City Council:

1. Authorize the Lompoc Police Department to make application and accept, if approved, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) in the amount of \$83,219 to fund the Lompoc Police Department's *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN REDUCTION PROGRAM*, and
2. Authorize the appropriation of \$47,634 as the matching fund requirement and residual salary and benefits costs from unappropriated General Fund Reserves; and
3. Authorize the City Administrator to sign any appropriate documents to complete the Grant Award Forms Package, including any extensions or amendments thereof, as required by the Office of Emergency Services; and
4. Authorize the appropriation of \$17,492 as bridge funding for the Crime Prevention Specialist to monitor registered sex offenders in the City of Lompoc through June of 2006, from unappropriated General Fund Reserves.

Background:

In 1997, the Lompoc Police Department launched a concerted effort to address domestic violence and crimes against women through the D.V.-O.A.S.I.S. (Domestic Violence - Officers and Advocates Sharing Intervention Services) program. Although this program ran for only one year, the Department realized a significant increase in domestic violence arrests, enhanced victim advocacy and reduced recidivism. In 1998 the Lompoc Police Department applied for and received a grant from the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning to establish the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program. This grant provided specialized evidence gathering equipment, digital cameras, computers, a vehicle and funding for a full-time detective dedicated to domestic violence and crimes against women.

In 2004, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning was eliminated and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services assumed state level control of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) distribution. This grant has been funded every year between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2006.

Over the past seven complete fiscal years, the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program has provided training to police officers, enhanced criminal investigations involving domestic violence and/or crimes against women, facilitated the arrest of 1,159 violent offenders, and made 3,778 victim/survivor referrals to various advocacy programs. During the past four years the Department has enjoyed the benefit of contracting with the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center to provide in-house advocates for immediate intervention and follow-up to domestic violence incidents and crimes against women. These advocates have served as a resource for officers as well as victims and their family members.

The results of the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program over the past are illustrated in the table below:

	FY 01-02	FY 02-03	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	Total
Number of Investigations	462	352	376	493	1,683
Violent Offenders Arrested	149	144	207	240	740
Victims Referred by Advocates	533	491	453	382	1,859
Hours of Officer Training	490	383	352	320	1,545

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS				
Year	Felony	Misdemeanor	Total	% of adult arrests for year
1997	247		247	N/A
1998	71	108	179	8.9%
1999	90	77	167	8.1%
2000	65	89	154	8.1%
2001	63	63	126	6.6%
2002	63	77	140	6.7%
2003	93	62	155	8.1%
2004	88	86	174	7.2%
2005	79	75	154	7.1%

The grant calls for a continuation of the use of in-house victim advocates provided under an inter-agency agreement between the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center and the City of Lompoc, as well as dedicating a full-time detective to the investigation of domestic violence and crimes against women. The grant requires additional training for officers within the Department as well as the continuation of an enhanced public awareness program. The victim advocates and the Crimes Against Women Detective have coordinated training of property managers/owners as well as medical providers on domestic violence recognition and crimes against women. Two special editions of *Lompoc Police Beat* would be dedicated to domestic violence. Over the past year the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Project has established a Spanish language version of *Lompoc Police Beat* that is aired on a monthly basis.

The above mentioned programs would continue under the new agreement as well as the addition of domestic violence training for substance abuse treatment professionals and their clients.

Discussion:

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement and Victims Services Division has released the Law Enforcement Specialized Units Program, Request for Application for fiscal year 2006/07. The City of Lompoc is one of 17 jurisdictions selected to receive continuation funding for the fourth and final year of this VAWA funding cycle. The 2006 funding level designated by the Office of Emergency Services is \$83,219. The City is required to provide a match of 25% or \$27,740 to fund the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program.

In May of 2004, the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization approached the Lompoc Police Department with an offer to enhance the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program. Staff evaluated ways to augment the specialized unit and determined to pursue a part-time crime prevention specialist (reserve police officer) to perform the following tasks:

- Conduct in-depth interviews, residency and employment verification on registered sex offenders residing in the City of Lompoc.
- Monitor the activities of "high risk" sex offenders and sexual predators.
- Coordinate community notification and assist with Megan's Law sex offender database presentations.
- Assist the Crimes Against Women Detective in the investigation of family violence and sexual assault cases.
- Take the lead role in developing a crime prevention community access television program in the Spanish language to reach the Hispanic community with domestic violence prevention and personal safety information.

The Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization (LVCHO) has funded this part-time (960 hours annually) position for a 24-month period beginning in December of 2004. Retired Sergeant Harry Heidt was hired to fill this role. Over the past year he has reduced the number of registered sex offenders residing within the Lompoc City limits by 31.8% (from 107 to 73). When this project began, Lompoc had 37 registered sex offenders who were out of compliance. Meaning that 37 registered sex offenders had failed to register and were unmonitored by law enforcement. As of December 31, 2005, there was one (1) sex offender out of compliance and he was last reported to be in Puerto Rico (a fact that has not been confirmed).

The Crime Prevention Specialist has facilitated 12 offerings of *Lompoc Police Beat* in the Spanish language providing valuable information on personal safety, family violence and sexual assault prevention to our Hispanic population. Members of this specialized unit (Crimes Against Women) have assisted and participated in the development of the *Stop Our Silence (SOS TV)* family violence prevention program sponsored by the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization. Additional goals for this component of the Crimes Against Women Specialized Unit for 2006 include obtaining DNA samples and

new photographs of all registered sex offenders to be maintained in the Department of Justice database.

The Crime Prevention Specialist's funding will be exhausted in the fall/winter of 2006. Carry-over funding from the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization is estimated at \$6,000 for the next fiscal year. Because of the tremendous benefit this position has provided to our community, we are requesting that this part-time position be provided bridge funding to carry it through 2006-2007, at which time it will be requested in the 2007-2009 budget process.

Crime Prevention Specialist	\$17,492
(Reserve officer @ \$22.027/hour plus 10.58% benefits for 718 hours)	

Total Project Budgetary Summary:

Proposed Expenditures	
• Crimes Against Women Detective (Salary & Benefits)	\$ 98,064
• 1 FTE Domestic Violence Victim Advocate (Salary & Benefits)	32,789
• Part-time Crime Prevention Specialist (Reserve)	<u>23,492</u>
TOTAL	\$154,345
Office of Emergency Services Revenues	\$ 83,219
Total Cost of the Program to the City of Lompoc PD (Includes the 25% match requirement of \$27,740)	\$ 71,126

Conclusion:

The Lompoc Police Department is proactively addressing family violence issues and the community has benefited from the additional resources provided under previous grants. The renewal of the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program and the augmentation of this specialized unit through a partnership with the Lompoc Valley Community Healthcare Organization have enhanced the prevention of domestic violence, crimes against women and family violence to a new level.

The VAWA funding for the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program has been extended to the City of Lompoc for a fourth year (FY 2006-2007). Federal funding for the existing Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program will end on June 30, 2006.

Summary:

Staff recommends that Council authorize the Lompoc Police Department to make application and accept, if approved, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) in the amount of \$83,219 to fund the Lompoc Police Department's *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN REDUCTION PROGRAM*; authorize the Finance Department to allocate \$47,634 as the matching fund

requirement and residual salary and benefit costs from unappropriated General Fund Reserves; authorize the City Administrator to sign any appropriate documents to complete the Grant Award Forms Package, including any extensions or amendments thereof, as required by the Office of Emergency Services; and authorize the Finance Department to allocate \$17,492 as bridge funding for the Crime Prevention Specialist to monitor registered sex offenders in the City of Lompoc through June of 2006, from unappropriated General Fund Reserves.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM F. BROWN, JR.
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL:

GARY P. KEEFE
City Administrator

Attachments:

1. OES Grant Award Forms Package
2. Interagency Agreement For Services between North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center and the City of Lompoc