

Lompoc City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: August 2, 2005

TO: Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator

FROM: William F. Brown, Jr., Chief of Police
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SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL HIRING PROGRAM FEDERAL GRANT

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council review the following staff report and:

1. Authorize the City Administrator or his designee to accept \$150,000 in grant money over three years under the Universal Hiring Program grant provided by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and sign all associated grant agreements related to this grant.
2. Approve the allocation of \$182,202 in matching monies from un-appropriated General Fund Reserves to employ two police officers for the duration of the 2005-2007 budget cycle.
3. Commit to retaining the two police officer positions with General Fund monies for at least one budget cycle (one year) beyond the termination of the grant period, (as required by the United States Department of Justice Universal Hiring Program).

DISCUSSION:

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services was established under the Public Safety Partnership and Community Oriented Policing Act in October of 1994. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services was tasked with the achievement of four primary goals:

- # to increase the number of community policing officers on the beat by 100,000 Nationwide;
- # to promote the implementation of department wide community policing in law enforcement agencies across the country;
- # to help develop an infrastructure that institutionalizes and sustains community

policing after Federal funding has ended; and

- # To demonstrate and evaluate the ability of agencies practicing community policing to significantly improve the quality of life by reducing the levels of violence, crime and disorder in their communities.

The Universal Hiring Program provides a total of \$75,000 per officer hired under the program over a three-year period. The requesting agency is required to retain these positions at the end of the three-year grant period.

The Lompoc Police Department has previously received \$150,000 and deployed two officers under the Universal Hiring Program. One officer was hired in 1995 and another in 1996. On June 3, 2003, in conjunction with our biennial budget request, the Lompoc Police Department applied for two additional police officer positions under the Universal Hiring Program (UHP). Although the United States Department of Justice distributed circulars announcing various agencies that were awarded UHP grants, they did not make any notification of grant award acceptance or denial over the past two years that was specific to the City of Lompoc or the Lompoc Police Department.

On July 13, 2005, the Department of Justice notified the Lompoc Police Department that it was in the final stages of approval to receive a grant award of \$150,000 to fund two full-time police officers. The conditions under which this grant is awarded are that the UHP grant officers not supplant existing budgeted positions and that municipalities retain these positions at least one budget cycle (one year) beyond the three year grant period.

The Lompoc Police Department is currently authorized forty-eight officers paid out of General Fund monies. An additional officer is funded by the California Office Of Emergency Services under the Domestic Violence/Crimes Against Women Reduction Program and two part-time officers are funded by two small local grants. Cumulatively, the current total authorized is forty-nine full-time and two part-time sworn personnel. The UHP grant will increase staffing levels to fifty-one full-time and two part-time sworn officers. The utilization requirements on UHP grants have little restrictions, allowing the Department to deploy these officers in a variety of assignments including patrol and investigations. It is anticipated that these two new positions will be assigned to the Patrol Section to increase the number of officers available on the street.

Recommendation:

The Lompoc Police Department seeks to keep an adequate ratio of officers to population in order to maintain service delivery at the current level. As Lompoc's population increases it is even more important that the City seek methods to fund additional police officer positions. The UHP grant was sought in 2003 in conjunction with our biennial budget request for additional staff, as a creative way to add officers while easing the

impact to the City's General Fund. This opportunity has now unexpectedly and belatedly presented itself. It is our recommendation that the City Council:

Authorize the City Administrator or his designee to accept \$150,000 in grant money over three years under the Universal Hiring Program grant provided by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and sign all associated grant agreements related to this grant;

Approve the allocation of \$182,202 in matching monies from un-appropriated General Fund Reserves to employ two police officers for the duration of the 2005-2007 budget cycle; and

Commit to retaining the two police officer positions with General Fund monies for at least one budget cycle (one year) beyond the termination of the grant period, (as required by the United States Department of Justice Universal Hiring Program).

Respectfully,

William F. Brown, Jr., Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO CITY COUNCIL:

Gary P. Keefe, City Administrator