

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ames Police Department is again requesting permission to apply for funding from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program, and to participate in the program should funds be awarded. This program provides funds to local law enforcement agencies to support the purchase of new and replacement bulletproof vests for individual officers. This protective device is critical to the safety of our police officers.

Bulletproof vests have an approximate five-year life cycle. The Police Department has a rotating schedule for replacement of vests for current officers. In addition, as new officers are added to the force, new vests must be purchased that are tailored to the individual officer. During the period of this grant, the schedule calls for the acquisition or replacement of 18 vests.

The estimated cost for these vests is \$13,662. A portion of these costs will be covered by carry-over from a previous year's grant. For the remaining need, the BVP program will provide 50% of the purchase price for vests that meet DOJ standards. The Police Department has always purchased vests that meet DOJ standards. Local agencies must provide the other 50%. The 2011 - 2012 Police Department budget was constructed with the expectation that we would apply for and receive a Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant. The 2011 Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant application is due July 7, 2011.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Police Department's application to and participation in the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.
2. Do not approve the Police Department's application to the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Bulletproof vests are an indispensable piece of safety equipment for police officers. Historically the Police Department has successfully participated in this program with the U.S. Department of Justice to provide protection to our local officers. Participation in this program allows the City to provide the best product to our officers in a financially responsible way. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Police Department's application to and participation in this program.