

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

In early February the Police Department learned that it was eligible to apply for funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau's Highway Safety Program to support traffic safety and enforcement programs. Because the completed applications were due before March 1, 2017, and the Department filed an application with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. Should that application be accepted and an award made, the Department seeks permission to accept the award and participate in the program.

This program is conducted through the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau in cooperation with local and county law enforcement agencies. Its purpose is to address traffic safety problems including alcohol, excessive speed, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and vehicle occupant protection. The program is designed with both enforcement and educational components to improve driver safety and protection, to reduce impaired driving, and to enhance overall traffic safety. The Ames Police Department has participated in similar annual programs for more than a decade.

This grant will support additional traffic enforcement during periods of high risk for impaired driving, excessive speed and crashes. The officers conducting this intensified traffic enforcement will be added to the normal staffing levels for the Police Department and will work on an overtime basis. The areas in which these officers work will be selected on the basis of citizen complaints, officer observations and traffic incident data.

The grant application seeks \$35,450 for the following uses:

- To pay officers at an overtime rate,
- To replace an in-car video camera and a preliminary breath test device,
- To add a vehicle mounted message board,
- To fund acquisition of educational materials on traffic safety,
- To send an officer to an annual national traffic safety conference.

There is no local match required with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the submittal of the Police Department's application for and participation in the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau Enforcement Grant program.
2. Do not approve the submittal of this application.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Participation in this program allows our Police Department to devote additional resources to traffic safety without additional costs to the City. These funds help reduce traffic violations and improve traffic safety for the citizens of Ames.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative #1 as described above.