

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE AMES FOUNDATION FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

BACKGROUND:

Recently, the City was informed that a number of generous residents in our community wished to donate funds to the Police Department. In order to assure these donations would be tax deductible, the Ames Foundation agreed to receive and disseminate these funds to the City upon request. On April 11, 2017, the Council approved an agreement between the City and the Ames Foundation to provide support to Police Department projects. The agreement stipulates that these projects can include the purchase of equipment, police outreach programs, officer safety projects, and training enhancements. Currently, there are approximately \$32,800 available under this program.

The Police Department has identified two projects that would be an appropriate use of the funds:

1. The first project would purchase new Level 4 ballistic plates to replace the aging body armor currently used by the Department's Emergency Response Team. The plates currently used by the ERT entry team were acquired years ago through a federal government equipment sharing program. A few years ago the Department was able to replace similar plates in the body armor worn by the Department's marksman. The replacements proved both effective in their role and cost efficient. Replacing the plates allows the officer to continue to use the existing carriers. The proposed replacements have been tested by the US Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice and are certified at a Level 4 (highest protection). The cost for the sixteen new plates will be \$3,260.
2. The second project will send two officers to a training opportunity entitled "Community Policing: Winning Back Your Community." This training presents practical solutions for improving citizen satisfaction, citizen confidence, and citizen support for law enforcement officers. The methods are based on research, empirical data, and actual practice. The anticipated expenses for this out-of-state training is \$2,536 for two officers.

Pursuant to the agreement with the Ames Foundation, the Police Department will expend funds for these two unbudgeted projects and then seek reimbursement for funds currently held by the Foundation.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve both the ballistic plates and training opportunity projects and authorize the Police Department to seek reimbursement from the Ames Foundation for expenses related to the projects.
2. Approve only the ballistic plates project and authorize the Police Department to seek reimbursement from the Ames Foundation for expenses related to this project.
3. Approve only the training opportunity project and authorize the Police Department to seek reimbursement from the Ames Foundation for expenses related to this project.
4. Approve neither of the two projects at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Ames Foundation agreement, and the donations made to the Foundation on the Police Department's behalf, were established to promote officer safety, community outreach, and training enhancements. Both of these project are appropriately related to these objectives.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving both the ballistic plates and training opportunity projects and authorizing the Police Department to seek reimbursement from the Ames Foundation for expenses related to the projects.