

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY 2008 INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM, BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has been notified that it has been awarded a grant under the Department of Homeland Security's 2008 Infrastructure Protection Grant Program, Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP). The grant amount is \$386,060. There is no match required with this grant.

The BZPP is one of several programs promoted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to improve infrastructure protection activities. The funds available through the BZPP are provided to increase the preparedness capabilities of state and local jurisdictions responsible for the safety and security of communities surrounding high-priority critical infrastructure and key resource assets through planning and equipment acquisition. The Ames Police Department is eligible for these funds because the National Animal Disease Center and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory are located in Ames.

The grant conditions significantly limited the use of funds to those activities that are in support of Police Department's role assisting in the protection of those federally identified critical assets. The Ames Police Department's primary use of the funds would be to acquire new Computer Aided Dispatch, Records Management and Mobile Data software and hardware. That project is part of the Police Department's 2009/10 Capital Improvements Plan and reflects some grant funding. In addition, funds will be used to acquire equipment including laptop computers, a radio interoperability device, portable incident lighting, officer protective equipment and GPS units. The grant also includes First Responder Modeling Software and radiation monitors for the Ames Fire Department.

This grant will be administered through the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (IHSEMD) as the state-level representative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Police Department will be required to enter into a contract with IHSEMD assuring that the Police Department will comply with the grant conditions. There is no cost to the City associated with this contract.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can authorize acceptance of the grant from the Department of Homeland Security's 2008 Infrastructure Protection Grant Program, Buffer Zone

Protection, and entering into an agreement with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division regarding this grant.

2. The City Council can not authorize acceptance of this grant

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The BZPP provides the City with a unique opportunity to improve its readiness to provide response to those critical infrastructure assets located in the City while sharing the costs of that with other levels of government. Although the grant program will impose burdens on the City to track and report on the use of the funds, the benefit derived will far exceed those burdens.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 and thereby authorize acceptance of the grant from the Department of Homeland Security's 2008 Infrastructure Protection Grant Program, Buffer Zone Protection, and entering into an agreement with the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division regarding this grant.