

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: BULLET-PROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department is requesting permission to again apply for funding from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. 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 police officers.

Bulletproof vests have a life cycle of approximately five years, and the Police Department has a rotating schedule for replacement of vests. In addition, due to attrition, new officers are added to the force. Because vests are tailored to the individual officer, new vests must then be purchased. During the period of this grant, scheduled replacement calls for the acquisition or replacement of 20 vests.

The estimated cost for all vests is \$14,800 (estimated at \$740 per vest for 20 vests). The program provides 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 2009-2010 Police Department budget was constructed with the anticipation that we would apply for and receive a Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant. The 2009 Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant application is due June 24, 2009.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Ames 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 Ames Police Department's application for this 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 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 the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.