

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU ENFORCEMENT GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department is again requesting permission to apply for funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau to support additional overtime traffic enforcement and to participate in the project should funding be awarded. The program is conducted through the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau in cooperation with local and county law enforcement agencies in counties with high rates of impaired driving related crashes. The program is designed with both enforcement and educational components to improve driver safety and protection, reduce impaired driving and enhance overall traffic safety. The Ames Police Department has participated in this annual program in the past.

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

The application to the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau from the Police Department would request \$25,450 in funding to pay officers at an overtime rate, to replace an in-car video camera and a preliminary breath test device, and to fund acquisition of educational materials on traffic safety. There is no local match required with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Police Department's application to and participation in the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau program.
2. Do not approve the Police Department's application to the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau program.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Participation in this program allows our Police Department to devote additional resources to traffic safety without added local costs. These funds will 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, authorizing the submission of a grant application for \$24,450 and participation in the program of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau.