

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department is again requesting permission to apply for funding from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program, and to participate in the program should funds be awarded. 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 our police officers.

Bulletproof vests have a life cycle of approximately five years. The Police Department has a rotating schedule for replacement of vests for current officers. In addition, as new officers are added to the force, new vests must be purchased that are tailored to the individual officer. During 2014/15, the schedule calls for the acquisition or replacement of 12 vests.

The estimated cost for these vests is \$9,336. The grant requires local agencies to provide 50% of the cost; and, to the extent that federal funds are available, the BVP program will provide the other 50%. The 2014/15 Police budget was constructed with the expectation that we would apply for and receive a Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant so the Police Department's 50% share has already been budgeted as a commodities expense. The grant application is due by May 13, 2014.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Police Department's application for and participation in the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.
2. Do not approve the Police Department's application for or participation in this grant 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 U.S. 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 with half the cost paid by the Department of Justice.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.