



Agenda Item:

40

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Agenda Item Type: Resolution
No.:

Roll Call

Submitted by: Chief Bill McCarthy, Police Department

SUBJECT—

2005 COPS Secure Our Schools Grant Application

SYNOPSIS—

The City of Des Moines Police Department, with the assistance of the Des Moines Independent Community School District, is filing a grant application through the Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, 2005 COPS Secure Our Schools grant program, to request funding which would bring a state-of-the-art surveillance system to Des Moines' five public high schools.

FISCAL IMPACT –

This project is estimated to cost \$51,340.00. The grant will fund up to 50% of the total cost to implement the program. The School District has agreed to provide the rest of the funding with the Police Department responsible for the administration of the grant. The grant is for a one-year period.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The Police Department was invited to submit an application for the 2005 Secure Our Schools grant program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), U.S. Department of Justice. Funding under this program will allow recipients the opportunity to purchase a variety of school safety equipment and/or establish programs to encourage the continuation of school safety efforts within their communities.

In discussions with representatives of the Des Moines Independent School District, a decision was made to move forward with a request for grant funds. The School District agrees to provide the cash match required for this grant, and the Police Department agrees to administer the grant.

The Des Moines Emergency Response/Crisis Management Advisory Council, of which the School District and the Police Department are members, identified surveillance equipment at Des Moines school buildings as a priority in their initial security/safety assessment. Surveillance cameras would greatly increase the capacity of the Police Department and the School District to reduce crime and violence in each high school.

The School District has received an Emergency Response and Crisis Management grant through the U.S. Department of Education. The district has hired a consultant who is in the process of doing security audits at all private and public schools in the corporate city limits of Des Moines. The potential funding received from the 2005 Secure Our Schools grant would supplement the purchase of safety equipment at the five comprehensive high schools in Des Moines.