



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

RE: Consideration - Application for Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant

DATE: January 20, 2015

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department continues to seek grant funding opportunities through outside sources including Federal, State, Local, and private entities. The North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program is now accepting applications for FY 2015-16 funding and offering grant funding for equipment for law enforcement agencies, to include police vehicles which can be added to departmental fleets. This grant opportunity would help the Elizabeth City Police Department to enhance its highway safety program in conjunction with the Governor's Highway Safety Program's overall mission of decreasing crashes involving fatalities/injuries and increasing traffic enforcement involving speeding, DWI, seatbelt, and child restraint violations. Purchase of two additional police vehicles with grant funding from the Governor's Highway Safety Program would benefit the department and be a cost efficient way for the City to obtain this needed equipment thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of daily operations.

ANALYSIS:

The Governor's Highway Safety Program grant for FY 2015-16 allows for purchase of traffic equipment, to include police vehicles. If the Elizabeth City Police Department is approved for funding under this equipment grant, the Department would be responsible for a 25% match of the cost and the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program would cover the remaining 75%. Equipment, including two (2) patrol vehicles with emergency lighting, siren, radio, console, striping, installation and shipping totaling \$80,000, can be sought through this grant funding. Out of this amount, the total budget impact to the City would be \$27,500 (\$17,500 of this total reflects the City's 25% match, with the additional \$10,000 budgetary funding needed to cover costs) and the

North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program would cover a total of \$52,500 towards the costs of the two marked vehicles. Application would be made in this fiscal year (FY 2014-15); however, if grant is awarded, the City's matching funding would not be expended in FY 2015-16 budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council authorize the submission of a grant application to the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program for equipment, to be used specifically for the purchase of two additional patrol vehicles, and to incorporate matching funding into the FY 2015-16 budget in order for the two vehicles to be added to the department's fleet.