



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors

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

RE: Consideration - Application for Governor's Crime Commission ~ Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

DATE: January 22, 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 Crime Commission is now accepting applications for FY 2015-16 funding and offering grant funding for equipment for law enforcement agencies who do not qualify to receive funding directly from the US Department of Justice JAG allocation. Individual JAG allocations for 2015 have not been made public yet; therefore, the Elizabeth City Police Department wishes to receive approval to submit an application directly to the Governor's Crime Commission for this funding so that the opportunity to receive grant monies is not missed. Specifically, the Elizabeth City Police Department will seek to acquire body-mounted cameras to outfit uniformed patrol officers in the field with this needed technology that allows for greater transparency and accountability in the field of law enforcement. The purchase of the cameras will supplement the camera system already in place in patrol vehicles (I-Cop/dash cameras) and enhance the daily operations of the department and provide greater officer safety and accountability to citizens served.

ANALYSIS:

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, through its Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, is offering law enforcement agencies federal maximum funding of \$15,000 for equipment purchases. For FY 15-16, there is *no* local match required for this particular grant. The Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking to obtain body-mounted cameras at an estimated cost of \$485.00 each, for a total of \$14,550.00. The North Carolina Governor's Commission, through the Local Law

Enforcement Block Grant Program, will provide 100% funding towards the purchase of the thirty body-mounted cameras.

Thirty (30) body-mounted cameras would outfit approximately seventy-five percent of the department's sworn uniformed officers in the field; additional body cameras will be sought through budgetary funding or possibly other grant ventures in order for all forty of the department's uniformed police officers to be equipped with these important devices. Further, cameras have been known to decrease citizen complaints and, given recent National events, have become a top priority for the law enforcement community. Using grant funding would be a cost effective way to start the important process of ensuring that Elizabeth City police officers has this latest technology.

FINANCIAL:

The Finance Committee discussed this matter during their meeting of January 21, 2015. Upon motion by Mayor Peel, seconded by Councilman Horton, the committee unanimously recommended approval by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize submission of a preliminary grant application to the Governor's Crime Commission for the purchase of 30 body-mounted cameras to be used by sworn police officers in the field.