



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 Crime Commission ~ Statewide Infrastructure and Technology Improvement 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 Crime Commission is now accepting applications for FY 2015-16 funding and offering grant funding for programming that will support technology initiatives to enhance the readiness and effectiveness of a department's day-to-day operations. In keeping with this mission, the Governor's Crime Commission supports the use of technology resources that ensure a safe working environment for officers across the State in an effort to make sure that all North Carolina data integration projects are interoperable. Specifically, the Elizabeth City Police Department will seek to acquire 800 MHz radios through this infrastructure/technology grant. The purchase of the radios will enhance the daily operations of the department and provide greater officer safety through enhanced communications in the field.

ANALYSIS:

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, through its Statewide Infrastructure and Technology Improvement Initiative Program, is offering individual law enforcement agencies up to \$60,000 in grant funding with a 25% match on the part of the local agency. The Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking to obtain twenty (20) hand-held, portable 800 MHz radios at an estimated cost of \$3,000 ~ for a total of \$60,000. Under the requirements of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, which receives grant monies from the US Department of Justice (JAG Office), there is a 25% match required of the agency. To purchase a total of thirty (60) portable 800 MHz

radios, the City of Elizabeth City would have to match a total of \$15,000 and North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission would cover a total of \$45,000.

Twenty (20) hand-held, portable 800 MHz radios would outfit approximately fifty percent of the sworn uniformed officers in the field; additional radios 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. The Elizabeth City Police Department needs to replace its aging portable police radios to the 800MHz system. Central Communications (E911) has been capable of dispatching on the 800MHz frequency for some time now. The replacement of our mobile radios would ensure a primary secure voice means of communication the ability to talk state wide and the means to communicate with other assisting agencies in times of natural disasters. Application will be submitted in this fiscal year (FY2014-15); however, grant is approved, the City's matching funding would not be expended until FY 2015-16.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council authorize the submission of a preliminary grant application to the Governor's Crime Commission for the purchase of 20 hand-held, portable 800 MHz radios to be used by sworn police officers in the field and to incorporate matching funding into the FY 2015-16 budget.