

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 5, FILE #090526**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

File #090526 authorizes the application, acceptance and funding of a COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant, administered by the United States Department of Justice – Community Oriented Policing Services, in the amount of \$10,298,750. Proceeds will be used to fund the salary and fringe benefits of 50 “new hire” police officers for a period of 3 years. While technically a 100% donor funded grant, the City is required to maintain these positions for at least one year upon expiration of the 36-month federal funding period. Monies for this grant are provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

BACKGROUND

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the COPS Hiring Recovery Program is a \$1 billion competitive grant program designed to address the full-time sworn officer needs of state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. Administered through the Department of Justice, the goal of the program is to help the nation’s law enforcement agencies add and retain the manpower needed to fight crime more efficiently through community policing. Application criteria laid out three specific options for award funding:

- 1) for the hiring of new police officers;
- 2) to rehire police officers who had been laid off; or
- 3) to rehire/retain police officers who were identified and on a dated list for layoff.

The Department of Justice used indicators of economic distress, such as foreclosures and unemployment, along with reported rates of violent and serious crime, to decide which requests to fund. In the end, the DOJ received over 7,200 applications for more than 39,000 police officer positions, representing a total of \$8.3 billion in requested funding.

DISCUSSION

The Police Department applied for 84 police officer positions through this program. However, due to the aforementioned high number of requests for this grant, the department was ultimately awarded 50 positions. It should be noted that no law enforcement agency in the country was awarded more than the 50 positions granted to the Milwaukee Police Department.

The 50 new police officers hired with grant proceeds will be used to offset the effects of normal attrition in the Police Department, thereby maintaining effective sworn strength.

FISCAL IMPACT

Acceptance of this \$10,298,750, 3-year grant requires no city participation and has no current impact on the tax levy. However, as a condition of acceptance, the City is required to maintain the 50 footnoted positions for a period of not less than 12 months upon grant expiration. This requirement will be reflected in the Positions Ordinance.

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