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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Thomas – Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: September 19, 2022

SUBJECT: American Rescue Plan Act Grant

Recommendation

Accept and appropriate the amount of up to \$80,217.00 in funding provided through the State of New Hampshire Department of Justice. Funds from this program will be used by the Department to purchase a pick-up truck, two all-terrain vehicles (ATV), and a trailer.

Background

The American Rescue Plan Act is federal funding for municipalities and state agencies to aid with activities related to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions. This funding is coordinated through the NH Department of Justice. The City of Concord is made up of 9,800 acres of conservation land, 23% of the City's total acreage. The City has 84 miles of hiking/walking trails, 31 trail systems in total. Since the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions the City has seen a significant increase in the use of all the hiking/walking trails throughout the City. With the increased use of the trails the City has experienced an up-tick in violent criminal activity and other crimes on the trails and on the conservation areas, to include a double homicide. These areas are not easily accessible on foot or by bicycle when investigating or patrolling. With the use of two all-terrain vehicles (ATV), the Police Department will be able to monitor the trail systems and conservation areas more efficiently and proactively.

Discussion

The New Hampshire Department of Justice will serve as the fiscal agent and primary administrator of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The Concord Police Department will utilize funding provided by this grant to purchase two all-terrain vehicles (ATV), a trailer, and a pick-up truck. With the use of the all-terrain vehicles (ATV), the Police Department will be able to monitor the trail systems and conservation areas more efficiently and proactively.

It is recommended that the City Council accept and appropriate this funding.