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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John G. Thomas – Deputy Chief of Police

DATE: August 15, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant

Recommendation

Accept and appropriate the amount \$25,300.00 in grant funding from the New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency designated for the police department to conduct roadway safety and outreach initiatives.

Background

The New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency has provided grant funding to the Police Department for many years in order for the Department to conduct varied enforcement initiatives designed to improve the safety of the City's roadways. This grant includes funding for the following initiatives: Speed Patrols, Operation Safe Commute, Join the NH Clique, Distracted Driving Patrols, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Patrols, DWI/Impaired Driver Patrols, Speed Radar Equipment, and Community Outreach. The Community Outreach portion of the grant is designed to bring the highway safety message to traditionally underserved New Hampshire drivers and vulnerable road users while fostering positive law enforcement/public interactions with groups such as Refugee/New Americans, Hearing Impaired Drivers, Youth Drivers, and Limited English Proficiency Groups. The funding provided by Highway Safety covers the overtime costs associated with conducting these patrols and outreach initiatives. Highway Safety also requires an in-kind match be provided by the City as part of this grant award. The total amount of the City match for this grant is \$6,325.00. This in-kind match simply puts a dollar amount on the resources that the City will be providing towards these Patrols and equipment throughout the grant period. The City's match will easily be covered through equipment/vehicle costs and administrative costs in managing the grant. Equipment/vehicle costs as well as administrative costs will be tracked and reported to Highway Safety to document the Department's in-kind match requirement. It is our intention to continue this valuable relationship with Highway Safety which allows us to place additional police officers and equipment in the field to assist in our continuing effort to address traffic concerns and make our roadways safer.

Discussion

The Department desires to continue its efforts in making the City's roadways as safe as possible. An important aspect of this is to conduct roadway safety, enhanced enforcement initiatives, and community outreach. Funding provided by this grant will significantly augment the Department's efforts to keep the roadways of the City safe for all those that use them. These grant funded patrols and outreach initiatives will be conducted throughout the year until the grant period ends on 09/30/25.

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Police Department to accept and appropriate \$25,300.00 in grant funding from the NH Highway Safety Agency designated for police department roadway safety initiatives and community outreach.