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REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Deputy Chief Gregory Taylor, Police Department

DATE: August 28, 2015

SUBJECT: US Department of Homeland Security Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program

Recommendation - Through the City Manager, authorize the Police Department to apply for grant funding through the US Department of Homeland Security Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program. Said funding to be used for the purpose of purchasing an Incident Command Vehicle.

Background – The City of Concord is the State Capital and largest city in Merrimack County. The City also is home to the NH State Prison, US Federal Building, NH State Hospital and numerous other Federal, State, and County properties. The City consists of approximately 64 square miles with a population of approximately 45,000 residents. The City encompasses every type of geographical area, from an urban downtown area, to suburban neighborhoods, to rural farmland and wooded areas.

The Concord Police Department is the largest municipal police agency in Merrimack County. The Police Department has primary response duties to critical incidents within the City. In addition, many of the neighboring communities rely upon the Concord Police Department to assist with manpower and equipment resources. The Concord Police Department is also an active participant in the Central NH Special Operations Unit (CNHSOU). The Concord Police Department is the primary stakeholder in the CNHSOU and currently has 10 members assigned to the CNHSOU including the Unit's Commanding Officer. The CNHSOU consists of sixteen membership communities that cover approximately 1,000 square miles, which makes this the largest land area coverage of any team in the State of New Hampshire. The CNHSOU, as a specialized Unit, responds to requests for assistance from not only the City of Concord but also other jurisdictions throughout the State.

Both the City of Concord and the CNHSOU have a need for a specialized Incident Command Vehicle. These types of vehicles are widely used throughout the law enforcement community serving as a command center during critical incidents. This vehicle would provide features necessary to implement and properly run an incident command including communications equipment, lighting equipment, alternate power sources, and workspace. This Incident

“Community Committed”

Command Vehicle would be replacing the current command vehicle that the Department utilizes. The current vehicle was purchased in 2005 however its capabilities are limited and it currently serves more of a transportation and equipment storage role. The Department is in need of a vehicle with more functionality from an incident command perspective to meet the demands of our Department and also to assist other agencies when needed.

Discussion – This grant will allow for the Concord Police Department to purchase a new Incident Command Vehicle. The estimated cost of such a vehicle fully outfitted is approximately \$150,000. If approved, this grant will cover the full cost of the vehicle with no match from the City. The City however would be responsible for future maintenance of the vehicle, which would be the equivalent maintenance of the command vehicle currently owned by the Department.

The availability of such a vehicle in Concord would allow for a rapid response to incidents occurring within the City and the surrounding communities.

As the grant applicant, if awarded, the City of Concord would be the sole owner of this vehicle and responsible for its housing and maintenance. The vehicle would, however, be available for use by the CNHSOU and other local agencies as needed for incident command purposes during emergency and critical incidents.