

Council Meeting of
April 5, 2011

PUBLIC HEARING

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Police – Conduct public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, Citizens Options for Public Safety grant funding and appropriate and allocate funds. Expenditure: \$167,875.11.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing concerning Assembly Bill 3229, the 2009 and 2010 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant funding;
2. Receive input from staff on programs of interest to the Chief of Police and Council as well as the public on the use of the grant funds; and
3. Appropriate and allocate \$167,875.11 and any interest to the recommended projects.

FUNDING:

2009 and 2010 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) Grant funds.

BACKGROUND

In the July 1996-97 State budget, then-Governor Wilson signed a provision for law enforcement funding. AB 3229 established the Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) program, which is supplemental funding for local law enforcement for the purpose of insuring public safety. The legislation requires that the funds be used for the support of frontline municipal police services and must supplement funding for existing law enforcement services. This grant program is ongoing and it requires a budget appropriation each fiscal year to continue funding.

ANALYSIS

2009 COPS Grant

The City of Torrance was awarded \$168,512.45 under the 2009 COPS grant. Council appropriated portions of the award on December 15, 2009, item 13A, and on May 11, 2010, item 13A. The 2009 COPS grant has a remaining unappropriated balance of \$116,375.11, including interest, which must be used by June 30, 2011. The Department recommends that the funds be appropriated and allocated as follows:

2009 Victim Assistance	\$7,275.11
Chemical Storage Shed	\$30,000.00
Police Scheduling & Timekeeping	\$30,000.00
SWAT Communications Gear	\$10,000.00
Chairs for Public Safety Dispatchers	\$12,000.00
Storage Area Network Node	\$22,100.00
Chemical Agent for SWAT	\$5,000.00
Expenditure	\$116,375.11

Victim Assistance Program

In November 1996, Council appropriated and allocated \$100,000 in COPS grant funding to develop and support a Victim Assistance program. Additional grant funding was approved by Council in each subsequent year. The Victim Assistance program has proven to be very successful in meeting the needs of the community. On May 11, 2010, item 13A, \$30,000 was allocated to the Victim Assistance program. Additional funds are recommended in the current year to meet the increased need for service in the community.

Chemical Storage Shed

A chemical storage shed was installed when the Police station was first opened in 1982. Since that date, the shed has deteriorated and its condition has become unsafe. The metal roof has corroded away and can no longer be repaired without major structural work. Since the roof is not secure, the shed does not meet standards for the proper storage and protection of evidence. A suitable prefabricated shed and installation are estimated to cost \$30,000.

Police Scheduling and Timekeeping

The Police Department is in the process of automating its personnel scheduling and payroll timekeeping systems. With the assistance of the Communications and Information Technology Department and the Finance Department, additional processes have been identified for automation. Staff will bring forward an amended vendor contract to expand the scope of work.

SWAT Communications Gear

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team wear helmets and communications headsets designed for field operations. The existing equipment has reached the end of its service life.

Chairs for Public Safety Dispatchers

The Police and Fire Communications Center is staffed around the clock, resulting in heavy wear on furnishings. Public Safety Dispatchers remain virtually immobile for long hours and require specialized, fully ergonomic seating. The chairs in the Communications Center are worn and in need of replacement.

Storage Area Network Node

On April 6, 2010, item 8E, Council approved the acquisition of a Storage Area Network (SAN) to replace the Department's computer disk storage. The SAN is a modular system which can be expanded by the addition of new nodes. The Department recommends adding a node now for anticipated storage needs and to avoid compatibility issues that may arise from Hewlett Packard's new product releases.

The exact amount of some of the above expenditures is not yet known, and there will be additional interest earned. The Police Department requests that Council authorize the reallocation of up to ten percent (10%) of the total grant award, including future interest, among the above programs and projects as needed to expend the 2009 COPS grant award in full.

2010 COPS Grant

Torrance was allocated a total of \$180,041 under the 2010 COPS grant. The City has received two quarterly installments to date, plus interest through February 2011, for a total of \$60,541.97. The Police Department recommends the sum of \$51,500 be appropriated and allocated as follows:

2010 Dispute Resolution	\$16,500
2010 Victim Assistance	\$35,000
Expenditure	\$51,500

Victim Assistance Program

The Department recommends that \$35,000 be allocated to support the Victim Assistance Program for another year.

Dispute Resolution

The Police Department's use of the City's Dispute Resolution program is significant, and it has become an integral part of the Department's Community Oriented Policing style. It is the Department's recommendation that \$16,500 be allocated and directed to the Dispute Resolution program in order to maintain funding for the use of this very important community program.

The City is scheduled to receive two more quarterly payments from the State for the 2010 COPS grant. Staff will return to Council at a later date to request appropriation of any available funds under this grant.

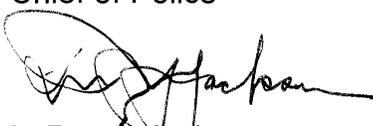
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. NEU
Chief of Police

By: Laurie Anderson
Business Manager

CONCUR:


John J. Neu
Chief of Police


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager