

Donald J. Lee, Jr.

Chief of Police



Key West

POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Mr. Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM: Donald J. Lee Jr., Chief of Police

DATE: November 10, 2015

RE: Florida Keys Community College Police Academy Sponsorship

Action Statement:

The Key West Police Department requests authorization to sponsor local cadets through the Florida Keys Community College Police Academy using State Law Enforcement Trust Funds not exceed \$35,000.00. This request complies with the requirements of Florida Statue 932.7055. Salaries for the cadets will be paid through budgeted and available salary dollars from the police general fund, Regular Salary and Wages. The full time police academy is tentatively scheduled to start in January 2016.

Background:

The Police Department has not been able to recruit and fill it's vacancies with qualified certified applicants. We intend to pre-screen and then sponsor local cadets through the full time academy at FKCC. By doing so, the department will be able to fill the vacant positions with qualified and vetted local police officers. The cadets will be full time temporary employees and paid a reduced salary while they attend the academy. Upon successful completion of the academy these cadets will become full time police officers with our department and paid entry level officer pay. The department has experienced a high success rate when sponsoring local cadets through the police academy in the past.

Advantages and Disadvantages:

With the current economy and the extraordinary cost of living in the keys, fewer and fewer applicants can afford to pay their own way through the police academy. This program will provide the means for qualified applicants to become Key West Police Officers. Without this program, the pool of qualified applicants diminishes and the department would be forced to disqualify anyone who is not in a financial position to pay their own way through the academy. Additionally, this program will afford an employment opportunity for local residents with strong ties to the community to become sworn police officers.



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Financial Impact:

The tuition for the cadets will be funded through State Forfeiture funds. The salaries for the cadets will be paid through the current Regular Salaries and Wages, 001-2101-12. The Police Department currently has seven (7) budgeted Police Officer vacancies.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Key West Police Department to use State Law Enforcement Trust Fund to pay tuition costs of sponsored cadets in the Police Academy, not to exceed \$35,000.00. Also, authorize the use of Regular Salaries and Wages, 001-2101-12, to provide temporary employee wages to the cadets during the Police Academy.



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