

Donald J. Lee, Jr.
Chief of Police



Key West POLICE DEPARTMENT

The four officers will be assigned to uniformed patrol duties. Specific crime prevention and other targeted objectives will be conducted by existing quality of life officers and detectives. These additional officers will increase the patrol presence throughout the City of Key West.

Options: Advantages/Disadvantages:

Option 1: To approve acceptance of this grant and the hiring of four uniformed police officers. This grant will increase the visible police patrol presence throughout the City of Key West, provide a higher level of public safety for our residents and visitors and enhance our crime fighting ability. They will enhance the uniformed police patrol presence in Bahama Village to compensate for the loss of the four Tax Incremental Funded police officers. An increased uniformed police presence in our city will enhance crime prevention. All national police studies have concluded that increased visible uniformed police presence decreases an areas crime rate.

Option 2: Not to accept these funds already awarded through this grant. This option is not the staff preferred option nor in the best interest of the city, the police department, or the general public's safety. Not accepting this grant will limit Key West Police Department's abilities to provide the desired level of services, crime prevention or provide enhanced public safety.

Financial Impact:

The grant does require retention of the four hired officers for a minimum of one year after the funding expires. There are also additional non grant eligible indirect expenses related to; holiday pay and clothing allowance. However, the federal grant allowed for annual leave and sick leave calculated in addition to their base salary. This awarded allocation is greater than the ineligible costs and completely offsets them. There is also the cost of department issued items and four additional police vehicles. (See Attachment 2 Officer Cost)

With the exception of the salaries and benefits, there are options available to address these other expenses, including but not limited to:

- The use of forfeiture funds
- Retention of 4 police units currently to be retired upon delivery of this years budgeted purchase of 16 police vehicles
- Purchase of 4 mobile computers and software with technology grant funds

These options will not completely eliminate the financial impact. Four additional police cars will eventually have to be budgeted and purchased over time. The use of forfeiture and grant funds would be budget neutral with the exception of the recurring software and connectivity costs.

Recommendation:

It is in the best interest of the City of Key West and the Key West Police Department to approve acceptance of this grant, authorize the hiring of four additional uniformed patrol officers.

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Chief of Police



Key West
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager
FROM: Donald J. Lee Jr., Chief of Police
DATE: October 17, 2011
RE: Acceptance of COPS Hiring Grant Award # 2011UMWX0042

Action Statement:

On May 31, 2011, the Key West Police Department filed an application for a U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring grant. The application was a request for funding for salaries and benefits to cover the hiring of four additional uniformed police officers for a period of three years. A condition of the grant is the retention and funding of the four uniformed officers by The City of Key West the fourth year. After the fourth year the city's commitment to retain them or not is at the city's discretion. The application was submitted and the grant was awarded to us on September 8, 2011. The total amount of the award is \$885,796. The Key West Police Department requests authorization to accept this award and hire four additional uniformed police officers. The funds are restricted to the grant application, which is the hiring of police officers for a period of four years. The police department's budget will have to be amended to recognize the revenue and additional positions.

Background:

The Key West Police Department has undergone a reduction of 11 sworn officer positions over the four years between F/Y 2004/2005 and F/Y 2008/2009. (See Attachment 1)

On September 1, 2009, the City Commission passed resolution 09-215 which authorized the Key West Police Department to accept an awarded COPS hiring grant for an additional 4 Patrol Officer positions. The grant is federally funding the salary and benefits of these four positions for three years and the City of Key West must retain and fund them for a fourth year. The four police officers hired are addressing quality of life and criminal issues throughout the city with emphasis on public recreational areas. With the addition of those patrol officers, and conversion of one civilian position to sworn, our staffing for F/Y 09/10 increased to 94 sworn positions.

Acceptance of this COPS Hiring Grant would bring our Uniformed Patrol Officer positions back up to the F/Y 04/05 level of 98 sworn positions. During the same time frame police calls for service have increased from 112,184 calls in 2004 to a projected 143,653 for 2011.

Out of the 2,712 competitive applications submitted nationally, the Key West Police Department was among the 238 departments, or only 9%, selected to receive this award.