



MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council
THRU:
FROM: Mike Reynolds, Police Chief
DATE:
SUBJECT: **FY 2024 Selective Traffic Enforcement Project (STEP) Grant Award**

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends acceptance of the FY2023 Selective Traffic Enforcement Project (STEP) Grant Award and approval of a budget adjustment in the amount of \$72,700.

BACKGROUND:

The Fayetteville Police Department has participated in STEP every year since its inception in 1998. For 25 years, Fayetteville has partnered through grant funding with the Arkansas Highway Safety Office in an effort to reduce the total number of motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities. Our primary strategy for reaching our mutual goals is through dedicated and diligent enforcement of occupant protection, DWI/DUI, speeding, and distracted driving laws. This is accomplished by dedicating patrol officer(s) to monitor STEP activity for a given period of time in known problem areas. This grant funding not only allows us to participate in directed traffic enforcement (speeding, DWI, Click It or Ticket protection mobilization, etc.), it also allows the Fayetteville Police Department to purchase additional equipment, provide child safety seat checkpoints, and provide a loaner child safety seat for those in need.

DISCUSSION:

The FY2024 STEP Grant Award for the Fayetteville Police Department is \$62,700 in federal funding for STEP enforcement and \$10,000 in state grant funding for the purchase of child safety seats. Local in-kind matching funds in the amount of \$12,700 are required for the FY2024 STEP grant award. In-kind expenses are defined as on-duty regular patrol shift hours dedicated to STEP activity. The FY2024 STEP grant will reimburse the Fayetteville Police Department for overtime hours dedicated to seatbelt, driving under the influence, speed, and distracted driving enforcement activity. The grant period for this award is October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. Furthermore, the Fayetteville Police Department budgets \$15,000 annually to supplement and support the purchase of child safety seats for those in need.

STEP is a very important program and funding source for the Fayetteville Police Department. Through dedicated STEP activity during our shift hours, our department can meet the in-kind matching funds required of this grant award. Recent year to date figures for the Fayetteville Police Department indicates 3 fatality accidents compared to 4 for the same period in 2022, 4.2% decrease in injury accidents, and 9.9% decrease in driving under the influence charges. The loss of this grant funding would have an adverse effect on local traffic safety, and those in our community in need of child safety seats.

Mailing address:

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BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

In-kind expenses in the amount of \$12,700 are budgeted annually within our operating budget. Patrol officers will perform matching STEP activities while on duty, and no additional officers are required within the STEP grant.

ATTACHMENTS: SRF (#3), BA (#4), HIGHWAY SAFETY SUBGRANT AGREEMENT (#5), Item A.15 Email Correspondence (#6), Item A.15 Email Correspondence #2 (#7)

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