

# **MEMORANDUM**

*Office of Steve Pangelinan, Chief of Police*

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**To:** Tom Williams, City Manager  
**From:** Steve Pangelinan, Chief of Police  
**Subject:** 2015 Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) Grant  
**Date:** May 1, 2015

The City of Milpitas anticipates receiving COPS Grant funds from the state pursuant to Government Code sections 30061-30063, in the amount of \$110,690. These funds must be used to support front line law enforcement services and must supplement and not supplant existing funding for front line law enforcement services. No city matching funds are required.

These funds shall be appropriated pursuant to written request from the Chief of Police of the law enforcement agency that provides police services for the city. The request shall specify the front line law enforcement needs of the requesting entity including the personnel, equipment and programs that are necessary to meet those needs.

Below are recommended expenditures for COPS Grant monies for fiscal year 2015:

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|--|-----------------|
| <b>1. Tasers and Taser Cams</b>                      | <b>\$28,500</b> |
| <b>2. Dictation Services</b>                         | <b>\$18,000</b> |
| <b>3. Surveillance Equipment</b>                     | <b>\$20,000</b> |
| <b>4. Range Upgrades</b>                             | <b>\$9,000</b>  |
| <b>5. Technology Improvements to Police Vehicles</b> | <b>\$35,190</b> |

**TOTAL: \$110,690**

Further specifics on these spending areas are as follows:

### **1. Tasers and Taser Cams (\$28,500):**

Officers currently utilize Tasers as a less lethal option when the use of force is called upon in the performance of their duties, and every Taser is equipped with a Taser Cam in order to collect video and audio evidence whenever a Taser is activated. The purchase of approximately twenty (20) Tasers and twenty (20) Taser Cams, along with the associated accessories and training materials, would enable the Police Department to replace inoperative ones that are no longer cost effective to repair and would ensure there is an adequate inventory of Tasers and Taser Cams in the event an officer needs a replacement.

### **2. Dictation Services (\$18,000):**

Report writing is a fundamental task of every officer, and the current primary method to complete reports is typing, which requires an officer to be committed to a keyboard and a computer. The keyboards and computers in police vehicles are not ergonomically appropriate for typing more than a few words at a time. Consequently, officers need to be in an office at the police station or at the sub-station to complete reports, and it takes officers out of the field. Based on prior experience with report dictation and a recent testing & evaluation program with a vendor, officers can dictate the narrative portion of some reports in less than half the time it would take to type the same narrative portion. Having the option for officers to dictate the narrative portion of some reports in the field with existing digital recorders would keep more officers in the field instead of in an office.

### **3. Surveillance Equipment (\$20,000):**

The Police Department currently deploys surveillance equipment in order to further criminal investigations while limiting the amount of personnel needed for each operation. As technology progresses, such equipment is becoming more efficient and more reliable. The purchase of new surveillance equipment to supplement the existing inventory would enable officers to conduct investigations more efficiently.

### **4. Range Upgrades (\$9,000):**

The Police Department maintains an outdoor shooting range so that officers can receive on-going firearms training and maintain proficiency with their assigned firearms. The range includes a "bullet trap" that collects the fired bullets and minimizes the exposure of lead to the surrounding areas, a "shoot house" that mimics the environments officers might encounter when they need to use their firearms, a classroom, sanitation facilities, target equipment, and shooting accessories. Necessary upgrades of the facilities and equipment, as well as replacement of worn equipment, will extend the range's useful life and minimize emergency repairs.

### **5. Technology Improvements to Police Vehicles (\$35,190):**

The police vehicles, including the Command Van, contain a variety of hardware and software for officers to use in the field, and the technology includes mobile computer terminals, GPS equipment, modems, cellular capabilities, powered antennas, and specific computer programs. As with most technology, there is an expected useful lifespan for existing equipment, and upgrades are available for enhanced performance. Improvements to the technology in police vehicles, including the Command Van, would enable officers to operate more efficiently.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Allocate 2015 COPS Grant funds for the above program areas.