

**TAB 10**

**POINT PAPER**  
**AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING**  
**COPS GRANT**  
**April 6, 2009**

**Problem:** City Commission authorization is required for staff to apply for and accept grant funding.

**Background:** On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring.

The Police Department is interested in applying for COPS funding, which will allow for the hiring of new police officers. The Palmetto Police Department would like to hire four additional police officers. COPS funding provides salaries, and benefits for three (3) years, with a commitment of the City to fund the officers for the fourth year. Applications must be submitted by April 14, 2009.

The COPS funding is not an allocation, but rather, a competitive grant.

CAPTAIN MAYER WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT COSTS AND  
PROPOSED EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.

**Alternatives:**

1. Authorize the submission of the applications as described above.
2. Take no action.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends alternative #1, the Commission's authorization to apply for this grant.

**Budget Impact:**

The COPS grant will impact the budget for uniforms and equipment until 2013, after which salaries and equipment will become the responsibility of the City for one year. The Police Department estimates that the initial annual cost to equip a new officer with uniforms, radios, vehicle, and associated material is in the neighborhood of \$40,000 per officer, including cleaning, allowances, brass, etc., or a total of \$160,000 for four new officers. The average cost per officer for year four is estimated at \$52,000 for salary and benefits, excluding any new equipment, for a total of \$208,000 for four officers.



## **COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP)**

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is pleased to announce the availability of funding under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). The COPS Office will receive the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to address the personnel needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

### **Quick Overview**

CHRP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts.

Up to \$1 billion in grant funding will be available for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers.

There is no local match requirement for CHRP, but grant funding will be based on current entry-level salary and benefits packages and therefore any additional costs for higher salaries or benefits for particular individuals hired will be the responsibility of the grantee agency.

CHRP grants will provide 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years (36 months) for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of local budget cuts.

\*In addition, there is no cap on the number of positions an agency may request, but awards will be limited to available funding. Please be mindful of the initial 3-year grant period and your agency's ability to fill the officer positions awarded, while following your agency's established hiring policies and procedures.

At the conclusion of federal funding, grantees must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant. The retained CHRP-funded position(s) should be added to the grantees law enforcement budget with state and/or local funds, over and above the number of locally-funded positions that would have existed in the absence of the grant.