



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr. Chief of Police

REF: Consideration – Authorization to Submit Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation Grant Application

DATE: June 6, 2016

BACKGROUND:

The Elizabeth City Police Department continues to seek grant funding opportunities through outside sources including federal, state, local and private entities. The Lowe’s Foundation Community Grant Program is now accepting grant applications for 2016. This particular funding opportunity would assist the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Police Athletic League to renovate the former Elizabeth City Middle School Cafeteria into a second gymnasium. The vision for this facility is to have an indoor soccer turf. Funding received would go towards installation of a drop ceiling, new HVAC, and lighting. The Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking authorization to submit an application to the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation for this purpose.

ANALYSIS:

The scope of the Lowe’s Foundation Program grant allows for funding to be used for renovation of the PAL facility, specifically to create an indoor soccer turf to provide participants with additional athletic opportunities. In reviewing the grant’s requirements, Lowe’s provides funding to nonprofit organizations and public agencies that support their charitable goals, centering on public education and community improvement. Lowe’s Foundation supports projects that have an impact on communities and align with their core business of home improvement. Lowe’s Foundation acknowledges that schools and organizations continue to face financial challenges; and therefore, they provide funding for a variety of improvements for schools and community gathering places. By applying for this particular grant, monies would be used towards the renovation of what was formerly the Elizabeth City Middle School Cafeteria into a second gymnasium for the Police Athletic League program. This program reaches

hundreds of local youth each year through athletic, mentoring, and enrichment programs. The proposed budget for this project is: \$12,500 for lighting the new field space; \$15,000 for new HVAC; and \$12,500 for ceiling tile for a new drop ceiling. The total project cost is \$40,000 in grant funding. If the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Police Athletic League is approved for funding under this community partnership grant, an announcement is not expected until September, possibly October 2016.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council authorize a preliminary grant application to the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Grant Program for the purchase of building supplies, which will be used to renovate the former Elizabeth City Middle School Cafeteria into a second PAL gymnasium.

EMB/vdw