



MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Finance Committee

From: Rich Olson, City Manager
Eddie M. Buffalo, Jr., Chief of Police

Date: May 22, 2019

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Application to FY2019 COPS Office School Violence Prevention Grant Program for Purchase of Video Surveillance Technology and Training

BACKGROUND:

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, an announcement was released to law enforcement agencies from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice. This announcement advised of an appropriation of money that could be used for video surveillance technology and training/travel for law enforcement officers to prevent school violence and enhance school safety for the nation's youth. The deadline to submit a preliminary application for this grant is May 31, 2019. This is a competitive grant award designed to provide funding to improve safety and security at schools and on school grounds. The grant is two years (24 months) in duration and individual grant awards cannot exceed \$500,000.00. If awarded, this grant does require a 25% match on the part of the local agency. Staff feels the grant would be extremely beneficial in acquiring needed equipment for area schools; training and travel are also permitted as allowable costs under this grant, which could provide Elizabeth City Police Officers with increased knowledge in this critical area.

ANALYSIS:

If authorized to make a preliminary grant application to the COPS Office for the School Violence Prevention Grant Program, the Elizabeth City Police Department would seek to acquire 60 H4 Multisensor 4-Image brand surveillance cameras, which would provide enhanced security measures to the exterior perimeters of the public schools in Pasquotank County. The H4 Multisensor 4-Image surveillance camera reportedly has exceptional coverage, featuring four individually configurable camera sensors that can be positioned to monitor virtually any area. Additionally, these cameras can provide the image quality needed to cover larger areas with excellent detail and have the ability to maintain high-image quality with less bandwidth and storage requirements. All public schools in Pasquotank County will benefit from this technology. The security cameras

would allow school staff and law enforcement to take proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of students, teachers, and staff on the premises. The cost of the surveillance cameras is estimated at \$138,000.00.

If authorized, the Elizabeth City Police Department would also seek an additional \$30,000.00 for training/travel for law enforcement officers at Elizabeth City Police Department, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office, and staff at Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools. This training would help personnel learn how to prevent student violence against others and self. It would also enable our officers to visit other jurisdictions engaged in similar programs, attend conferences, and trainings directly related to the goals of the grant.

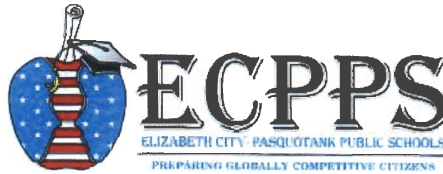
The total grant budget proposed is \$168,000.00; if awarded in full, there would be a total of \$42,000.00 required match/budget impact. In partnership to improve safety and security within the public schools, Elizabeth City Police Department, Pasquotank County Sheriff's Office, and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools will each fund 33.33% of the required \$42,000.00 match; \$14,000.00 each. Grant awards from the COPS Office are typically announced in September; therefore, the budget impact would occur during FY2019-2020 if awarded.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, recommend that the City Council approve the Elizabeth City Police Department's submission of a preliminary grant application to the COPS Office for its FY2019's School Violence Prevention Grant Program, for the purpose of acquiring video surveillance technology and related training for schools in Pasquotank County.

Administration
Rhonda James-Davis
Interim Superintendent

Meredith Collins
Interim Finance Officer



Board of Education
Sharon Warden, Chair
Virginia Houston, Vice-Chair
George Archuleta
Walter B. Jolly
Pam Pureza
Dr. Denauvo Robinson
Dr. Shelia Williams

May 14, 2019

Larry D. James, Sr.
Administrative Captain
Elizabeth City Police Department
Administrative Division-Office of the Chief of Police
[305 East Main Street](#)
[Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27909](#)
Email: ldjames@cityofec.com

Dear Captain James:

It is my pleasure to write this letter to give my full support of the purchase of the external surveillance cameras for select schools within our district. We are willing to fund \$14,000.00 which is 1/3 or roughly 33.33% of the matching fund (25%) of the \$168,000.00 you are seeking in grant money. In addition, we understand that \$138,000 will go towards the purchase of the cameras and \$30,000.00 (\$10,000 for each partner) for towards training for and travel for ECPPS staff, law enforcement officers and professional development on school safety.

We are very excited and supportive of the proposal. We are equally excited about the collaboration between our district, the Elizabeth City Police Department, the Pasquotank County Sheriff.

Sincerely,

Rhonda James-Davis
Interim Superintendent

1200 Halstead Boulevard/PO Box 2247 ~ Elizabeth City, N.C. 27906-2247
252.335.2981 (Phone) ~ 252.335.0974 (Fax)
www.ecpps.k12.nc.us

Preparing Globally Competitive Citizens