



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
November 18, 2024

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator
Tyrone Collington, Police Chief

Item Title: Budget Ordinance 05-2025 | A budget ordinance to amend the FY 2025 for the acceptance of the US Department of Justice COPS Grant funding.

Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:
Budget Ordinance 05-2025
Grant Agreement

Recommended Action:

Review and approve a Budget Amendment Ordinance for the US Department of Justice COPS Grant funding of \$1,625,000 (\$625,000 actual) with a budget impact of up to \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025.

Approval to hire two (2) new officers in the second half of FY 2025 to fulfill the grant requirement. The total hiring is five (5) new officers, which can be spread out over multiple years.

Summary: The Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant awarded to the Town of Bladensburg supports the hiring of five (5) additional police officers over multiple years to enhance public safety. The Town was awarded \$1,625,000, of which \$625,000 is reimbursable. This item amends the FY 2025 budget and approves the initial hiring of two officers.

Staff proposed that the program begin in Fiscal Year 2025, with an initial budget approval of up to \$125,000 for hiring two officers in the year's second half. This phased approach will help Bladensburg gradually increase its police force to improve community welfare and response capabilities. The COPS grant provides funding to help cover a portion of salary and benefit costs, alleviating financial strain on the town while advancing its commitment to community-oriented policing.

By expanding the police force, Bladensburg aims to increase police presence and support proactive crime prevention efforts, contributing to overall resident safety and quality of life. The program's phased implementation allows the town to assess and adjust as necessary to maximize the positive impact on community security and trust.

Chief Collington will be available to answer questions on this item.

Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [X]
Budgeted Amount: \$ 125,000
One-Time Cost: No
Ongoing Cost:

Continued Date:

Council Priority: Yes [] No []

Approved Date: