



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: 7/8/2024

AGENDA ITEM: Consider a request by the police department to apply for a DWI officer grant through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

PREPARED BY: Kevin Ott

BACKGROUND:

The Grand Rapids Police Department was notified that OTS has opened a request for proposal (RFP) for law enforcement agencies to apply for a dedicated DWI officer who would be focused on detecting and arresting impaired drivers. The purpose of the DWI officer is to have a dedicated member of the police department assigned to enforce traffic laws to keep citizens of Grand Rapids safe on our roadways through enforcement.

This program has been ongoing since the fall of 2014 and agencies that continue to meet the goals of the program have been able to keep this grant funding if they continue to be active with traffic enforcement and meet the goals of the program. According to the program coordinator, only one agency in the past 7 years has been terminated from the program and that was due to the agency failing to submit required reporting documents.

In addition, this program is unique to Minnesota and the only such program in the nation. This program has produced statistical results with the areas that this program has been deployed. OTS reports that they have experienced a 35% reduction in impaired driving crashes in these areas between 2022 and 2023. This was achieved through focused and sustained impaired driving enforcement.

If awarded this grant, OTS will award up to \$150,000.00 for reimbursement of the dedicated officer's salary, benefits, training, and traffic related overtime per year.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion allowing the police department to apply for a DWI officer through the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).