



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: Consider appointment of Police Officer(s) with the Grand Rapids Police Department.

PREPARED BY: Chery Pierzina, Human Resources Officer

BACKGROUND:

At the April 14, 2025, City Council Meeting, the City Council authorized Human Resources to post, interview, and hire for a Police Officer position. From our posting, the City received five (5) applications. The interview committee interviewed four (4) applicants.

Due to the recent resignation of a Police Officer, the City now has two open Police Officer positions. We are requesting authorization to hire for the second open position of Police Officer by using the applications and subsequent interviews from our most recent Police Officer posting. The interview committee is recommending the appointment of the following individuals:

Evan Wimmer, to the position of Police Officer, subject to successful completion and passing of a background check, pre-employment drug testing, physical examination, and pre-employment psychological testing. A start date will be determined at a later date, based on the results of the pre-employment testing. Evan currently works for the Winona Police Department. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in May 2019. He has excellent communication skills, a hard-working attitude, and integrity. He has skills in many different law enforcement categories, including active shooter training, firearms training, defensive tactics training, taser training, to name a few. Evan will be an asset to the Grand Rapids Police Department and will fit in well. Based on the current Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding approved at the March 13, 2023 City Council Meeting, and the Memorandum of Agreement approved at the February 12, 2024, City Council Meeting, Evan will be given four (4) previous years of experience and will start at the 5th year on the Police Officer salary range, with a salary of \$35.74 per hour. He will be given four (4) years credit for placement on the Flexible Time Off (FTO) table

Katie LaTourelle, to the position of Police Officer, subject to successful completion and passing of a background check, pre-employment drug testing, physical examination, and pre-employment psychological testing. A start date will be determined at a later date, based on the results of the pre-employment testing. Katie attended Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College for law enforcement and criminal justice. She is currently working on a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with an expected graduation date of December 2025. Katie has training in crisis intervention, police ethics and professional conduct, active shooter, and response training. She has her Trauma Informed Policing Certification and is POST licensed. Katie will be a welcomed asset to the Grand Rapids Police Department. Katie has previous experience working for the Duluth Police Department. Based on the current Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding approved at the March 13, 2023, City Council Meeting, and the Memorandum of Agreement approved at the February 12, 2024, City Council Meeting, Katie will be given one (1) previous year of experience and will start at the 2nd year on the Police Officer salary range, with a salary of \$33.13 per hour. She will be given one (1) year credit for placement on the Flexible Time Off (FTO) table.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:

Make a motion to hire for the second open position of Police Officer by using the applications and subsequent interviews from our most recent Police Officer posting; and appoint Evan Wimmer and Katie LaTourelle to the position(s) of Police Officer, with each of them subject to successful completion and passing of a background check, pre-employment drug testing, physical examination, and pre-employment psychological testing, and all other conditions of employment as stated above.