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**Date:** February 10, 2025  
**To:** Mayor and Town Council  
**From:** Sean O’Keefe, Town Manager  
**Re:** Discussion: **Town Donations**

**Objective:**

To discuss and determine the allocation of the Town’s annual donation budget, currently set at \$2,000, in light of competing requests and to promote transparency in the decision-making process.

**Summary:**

Historically, the allocation of the annual donation budget has been made at the discretion of the Mayor, with consistent support directed to local scouting organizations. The transition to the manager-council form of government has preserved this tradition, with the Town Manager deferring this choice to the Mayor.

Over the last decade, contributions have been made to the local Boy Scouts Troop and, after the local BSA troop dissolved, the local Troops of St. George. These organizations have provided valuable assistance to the Town by organizing flag services for Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day, as well as assistance during the annual Christmas Festival. On unique occasions, the Town has directed funds to other organizations, such as Lake Cares, the VFW, and the Lake County Firefighters Charity:

FY13: \$1,500 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts  
FY14: \$1,500 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts  
FY15: N/A  
FY16: \$1,500 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts  
FY17: \$150 VFW  
FY18: \$1,000 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts  
FY19: \$1,500 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts  
FY20: \$1,500 Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts; \$3,000 Lake County Firefighters Charity for 1946 Fire Truck  
FY21: \$2,196 Lake Cares; \$1,000 Boy Scouts  
FY22: \$2,000 Troops of St. George  
FY23: \$2,000 Troops of St. George  
FY24: \$2,000 Troops of St. George

An alternate request for this year’s donation budget comes from the Howey Garden & Civic Club, which requested at their February meeting that the Town donate \$1,000 to sponsor a full-page advertisement in their 100th-anniversary cookbook. This is a one-time request.

The Mayor has asked for this topic to come to council for consideration and approval.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact beyond the budgeted amount under discussion (\$2,000).

**Staff Recommendation:**

Without a robust reconsideration from council, staff recommends the continued prioritization of the Town's support for the local scouting organization, which has provided tangible support for key Town events such as flag services, thereby enhancing civic pride and community participation.