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DATE: February 4, 2025

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Travis Sanborn, Finance Director

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Authorization to Submit Measure Z Funding Application to the County of Humboldt

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Accept this report as written and authorize staff to submit the Measure Z funding application to County of Humboldt; or
2. Provide direction to staff regarding desired modifications to the funding application.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Measure Z, approved by Humboldt County voters in 2014, is a half-cent sales tax measure specifically designed to maintain and improve essential county services, focusing on public safety. The measure generates local funding that cannot be redirected by the State and requires strict fiscal oversight, including annual independent audits and community input through a citizens' advisory committee.

The City of Rio Dell has previously benefited from Measure Z funding to support our public safety initiatives, though we have not received funding allocations in the past two fiscal years. This funding stream has proven vital for maintaining adequate law enforcement services in our community, particularly given the significant budgetary challenges faced by smaller municipalities.

For the upcoming funding cycle, the City proposes to submit an application requesting support for two crucial public safety positions:

1. One (1) Full-Time Police Officer Position: Estimated cost of \$126,000
2. One (1) Full-Time Community Services Officer Position: Estimated cost of \$116,000

These cost estimates are based on current fiscal year salary and benefit calculations and represent the full cost of maintaining these positions. Funding these positions would significantly enhance our ability to maintain adequate patrol coverage, ensure timely response to calls for service, and strengthen our community policing initiatives.

The Measure Z funding application must be submitted to the County of Humboldt by February 14, 2025. If approved, this funding would support our public safety operations, allowing us to maintain and improve service levels for our residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

If fully awarded, the Measure Z funding would provide approximately \$242,000 in support for critical public safety positions without directly impacting the City's General Fund. However, it should be noted that any future continuation of these positions beyond the grant period would require the identification of alternative funding sources or subsequent Measure Z allocations.

ATTACHMENTS

None.