



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action - Resolution No. 6 for 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant Application Resolution

Preferred Agenda: April 14, 2020

Submitted By: J. Lynn, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: R. Towry, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: SH Financial Policy

Towards Council Goal: Goal #2 – Be an effective and efficient Government
Goal #3 – Look for methods to improve community safety
Goal #3 – Develop partnerships with regional services

Attachments: USDA Loan Resolution, USDA Grant Application

Purpose of this RCA:

Seeking review and passage of a resolution in support of the Sweet Home Police Department's USDA Rural Development Grant request. The Grant would be used for the purchase of a vehicle and equipment for the K9 Drug Detection Program.

Background/Context:

In November of 2018 the Sweet home Police Department started our first Drug Detection K9 Program. Sweet Home Police Officer Sasha McDonald was the driving force behind the K9 Program. Her efforts and commitment to the idea helped in receiving the donations that allowed the program to begin. Our K9, Gemma, was donated and has performed exceptionally. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office donated a fully outfitted K9 patrol vehicle to our Department. The donated vehicle had been taken out of service by Deschutes County and had around 90,000 miles on it at the time. The vehicle is a 2013 Chevy Tahoe and it currently as around 126,000. With the miles going up, we have seen an increase in maintenance expenses associated with it.

Officer McDonald has prepared a USDA Rural Development Grant application that would assist in the funding of a new K9 patrol vehicle as well as additional protective equipment for the patrol officers. This equipment includes the purchase of ballistic vest carriers and ballistic shields for each patrol vehicle. The ballistic carriers and shields will provide the officers with an additional level of protection from large caliber firearms.

The Challenge/Problem:

Should the Sweet Home Police Department apply and participate in the USDA Rural Development Grant for equipment related to the K9 Drug Detection Program?

Stakeholders:

Police Department. Maintaining updated vehicles and equipment with a limited budget and funding is important. The USDA Grant is an attempt to offset funding required.

City of Sweet Home Residents. A safe community is essential for the citizens of Sweet Home to enjoy a high quality of life. A functioning Drug Detection K9 program can act as a deterrent for drug activity as well as another investigative tool within the community.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

Funding - The total cost of the proposed project (a new K9 patrol vehicle, 7 ballistic vest carriers, 7 ballistic shields) would total \$59,329.44. The USDA Rural Development Grant would cover 35% of the project (\$20,765.30). The City would be required to match the remaining 65% which would be \$38,564.14.

If Council were to support and approve the USDA Grant, the City would be committing the match funding necessary for the Grant.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

Council approval of a Resolution allowing City staff to apply for the USDA Rural Development Grant would assist in offsetting the cost of needed equipment.

Options:

1. *Do Nothing.*
2. *Approve Resolution No. 6 for 2020 – Authorizing Staff to submit an application for the 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant and authorizing the City Manager to sign the required documents.*
3. *Request additional information from staff.*

Recommendation:

1. *Motion to Approve Resolution No. 6 for 2020 authorizing Staff to submit an application for the 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant and authorizing the City Manager to sign the required documents.*