



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** PUBLIC HEARING - USDA Rural Development Grant Application

**Preferred Agenda:** June 23, 2020

**Submitted By:** J. Lynn, Chief of Police

**Reviewed By:** R. Towry, City Manager

**Type of Action:** Resolution \_\_\_\_ Motion X 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:** Attachment Name

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## **Purpose of this RCA:**

Requesting a Public Hearing related to the USDA Rural Development Grant Application that the Sweet Home Police Department request. The Grant information was presented to Council for support and approval on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Grant application has been submitted. The next step is the requirement to have the Grant request noticed and a Public Hearing held.

## **Background/Context:**

On April 14, 2020 information associated with a USDA Rural Development Grant Application was presented to the City Council for review. During the meeting, Council voted to approve Resolution No. 6 for 2020 which authorized staff to submit an application for the 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant and authorized the City Manager to sign the required documents.

Upon submission of the application, staff was instructed to Notice and hold a Public Hearing, one of the requirements of the USDA Grant. The public hearing is intended to discuss the project and proposed budget and allow the public an opportunity to comment.

Officer McDonald prepared the USDA Rural Development Grant application. It will 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:**

Does the public want the Sweet Home Police Department to continue participation in the USDA Rural Development Grant?

**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 has approved a Resolution allowing City staff to apply for the USDA Rural Development Grant would assist in offsetting the cost of needed equipment. The next step in the process is holding a public hearing on the project.

**Options:**

1. Do Nothing.
2. Hold a public hearing to allow the citizens an opportunity to comment on the USDA Rural Development Grant application and then motion to re-affirm Council Support for Resolution No. 6 for 2020, A Resolution Authorizing Staff to submit an application for the 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant Application for the Purchase of Equipment.
3. Request additional information from staff.

**Recommendation:**

2. Hold a public meeting to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the USDA Rural Development Grant application and make a motion to re-affirm Council Support for Resolution No. 6 for 2020, A Resolution Authorizing Staff to submit an application for the 2020 USDA Rural Development Grant Application for the Purchase of Equipment.