

# Council Business Meeting

April 5, 2022

|                    |  |                                       |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item</b> | Authorization to Apply for Vehicle Barrier Grant   |                                       |
| <b>From</b>        | Scott Fleury PE<br>Tighe O'Meara   | Public Works Director<br>Police Chief |
| <b>Contact</b>     | <a href="mailto:Tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us">Tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us</a><br><a href="mailto:Scott.fleury@ashland.or.us">Scott.fleury@ashland.or.us</a> | 541-552-2142<br>541-552-2412          |

## **SUMMARY**

Staff is seeking Council approval to join the Cities of Medford and Grants Pass in applying for a grant to purchase vehicle barriers for special events.

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

N/A

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

None

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Special events such as Ashland's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, Medford's Pear Blossom Parade and Grants Pass Boatnik event draw large crowds and require an increasing level of security presence and actions to keep safe. In recent years various communities, nationally and globally, have seen events such as these suffer attacks via people deliberately driving vehicles into large crowds. In an effort to try to guard against this, the City of Ashland has deployed large trucks at local events, with other communities taking similar precautions.

Approximately one year ago the Cities of Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass came together and collectively applied for a grant to purchase vehicle barriers that would provide this protection in lieu of large trucks deployed as barriers. These barriers would be easier to manage than the trucks, would require less staffing, and would be less costly to replace if someone were to damage the equipment. The grant application provided for the purchase of three trailers, each with eight barriers. The regional plan is for one trailer to be stored in each of the three cities, with each locally housed trailer available for use for local events, such as the Saturday Grower's Market on Oak Street. For larger events the hosting city would collect all the trailers for use, then return them to their locally housed cities for storage until another event.

The previous grant application was unsuccessful. The three cities collectively would like to try for this regional grant again, and this year the intent is to obligate \$10,000 in matching funds from each of the cities towards the grant for the vehicle barrier trailers. No grant match funding was provided in the last application package and the group thinks that providing some level of match will provide for a better overall application. The total purchase price for this equipment is approximately \$300,000.

The function of protecting our community events falls to both the Police Department and the Public Works Department, so both departments are bringing this matter before Council. The request is for authorization to participate in this regional grant, and for Council's approve a grant match of \$10,000 from the Police Department and/or Public Works Department.

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

If this grant application is successful, the City will provide \$10,000 in matching funds. In return if successful the City will have access to \$300,000 worth of public safety equipment for use at our community events, and larger regional events. If awarded staff will bring back a supplemental budget request.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City’s participation in this regional grant application and authorize the Police Department and/or the Public Works Department to provide \$10,000 in match if the grant is awarded.

**ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS**

I move to authorize the City’s participation in the grant and approve a \$10,000 expenditure in matching funds from The Police and/or Public Works Departments if the grant is awarded.

**REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Literature on the vehicle barriers



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