



STAFF REPORT
Public Hearing 3-1-22

AGENDA ITEM #: 22-19
COUNCIL MTG OF: February 15, 2022
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Chief Edward B. Garone
PREPARED BY: Capt. George Feole
SUBJECT: NH Department of Safety Body Worn and Dashboard Camera Fund Grant

PURPOSE: Consider applying for and accepting funding from the NH Department of Safety, for body worn and cruiser cameras.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS: The Town Council approved \$130,460 for body worn cameras for the Police Department in the FY22 budget. During the Department's administration of this project, it was discovered that the cost has increased exorbitantly, and would also require additional personnel to manage the program. While it is uncertain whether the FY23 budget has the fiscal capacity to undertake this project, it is wise for the Town to proceed with a grant application in the event that the project's economics can be reworked within the framework of the upcoming town budget.

BACKGROUND: Recently we were notified by the NH Department of Safety that a grant for body worn and dashboard cameras has been announced. The grant will pay up to a maximum of \$50,000 per entity.

The police department has in its FY 23 budget proposal a project to purchase body worn cameras and replace our existing dashboard cameras. The cost of that project is approximately \$481,880 over a 5-year period with 40% of the total, \$190,000 due in year one. Additionally, because of the volume of video and data, as well as equipment management, we anticipate the need to hire an additional supervisor to manage all those issues. That cost will be approximately \$151,000 annually with increases each year depending on labor costs. Our estimated need for additional personnel is based on area wide inquiries of those that are utilizing such programs.

Accordingly, we have reduced our budget submission for that project by \$50,000 so that we can avoid supplanting issues with the grant funds if we are fortunate enough to be a recipient of the grant.

We realize that the budget at this stage is preliminary and a final decision on funding is months out. However, this grant solicitation has an application deadline of March 15, 2022. Should the project in our budget ultimately not be financed we simply would decline any grant if approved.

DISCUSSION: Since the grant amount exceeds \$10,000 threshold, as required by state statute, a public hearing is required before Council action.

FISCAL IMPACT: The acceptance of these funds will have an offsetting impact to the budget of up to \$50,000 if the grant is approved and we move forward with the project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL: Schedule this matter for the Consent Agenda on February 15, 2022, Council meeting with a subsequent public hearing to be held at the March 1, 2022, Town Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: See Resolution #2022-014