

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Police Department

To: David L. Corliss, City Manager
From: Tarik Khatib, Interim Chief of Police
Cc:
Date: December 26, 2010
Re: Grant Position

BACKGROUND

The Federal S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAMA), as administered through the Kansas Governor's Grant Program, provides funding to law enforcement in an effort to increase investigation into incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, rape, and stalking. Grants provide 75% of total project cost(s) with required agency matching contributions of 25% (cash or in-kind services). In November of 2010, the Lawrence Police Department applied for 2011 grant funding to add two specialized detective positions which would be responsible for targeting and investigating violent crimes against women. These positions would also coordinate with advocates and prosecutors in ensuring desirable outcomes.

AWARD

On December 22, 2010, the department received notification that it would receive a total grant award of \$71,484 to fund one position. The portion funded by the VAWA grant is \$53,613 (75%) with the department's matching responsibility expected to be \$17,871 (25%). The grant award period is from January 1, 2011 to December, 31, 2011. This is a one-year grant without a specified renewal provision. There are no requirements to continue to fund the project/positions once the grant award period is expended.

NEED

In 2009, the Lawrence Police Department responded to 975 domestic disturbance calls and investigated 71 rape, 598 domestic battery, 24 sexual battery, and 11 stalking cases. The vast majority of the victims in these incidents were women. With the exception of evidence and computer forensics, the Investigative Division is not organized by specializations. Absent special circumstances, most domestic violence cases are handled by the responding officer and are not typically assigned to a detective. The addition of a detective position dedicated to investigating these types of cases will increase efficiency, victim advocacy, and offender accountability.

RECOMMENDATION

The grant of \$53,613 (base detective wage) would allow for the hiring of an officer at up to the experienced hire rate (Step 3 - \$43,166) to replace an officer promoted to detective for the purpose of investigating violent crimes against women. There would be \$10,447 (\$53,613 - \$43,166) available towards the promotion of a current officer. A likely scenario would require less in wage increases to the promoted officer. This would increase the number of detectives to 18 while maintaining the number of officers at 103. This represents an increase in the number of authorized commissioned personnel by one in 2011; from 142 to 143. As there is no requirement to continue funding for the position after the term of the grant, the number of authorized positions may be reduced once again through attrition if outcomes of this project do not provide justification to continue to support the position.

I recommend the department accepts the \$53,613 in grant funding for the project and provides for up to \$17,871 in matching funds (employee benefits and other in-kind services). The current experienced officer hiring process scheduled to end with the beginning of the 31st Academy on January 24, 2011, can provide for the replacement of a current officer who is promoted to detective.