

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item
Application for Muscatine Health Support Foundation Grant

DATE: 04-16-2012

INTRODUCTION:

The Police Department is requesting City Council approve our request to apply for a grant in the amount of \$18,500 from the Muscatine Health Support Foundation. This request is for cost of outfitting all officers on the department with C50 respirators. This would also cover the purchase of a NIOSH approved CBRN canister filter for each officer as well as a haversack for carrying and storage of the mask.

BACKGROUND:

The grant proposal, which the department submitted last year, was returned by the Health Support Foundation with the request that the department seek funding through regular budgetary means. The department submitted this request into the 2012/2013 budget to see it get cut due to lack of available funds. In short, it is doubtful that the department will be able to fund such an initiative for some time to come, unless we receive outside assistance.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

The department needs to take steps now to be prepared for what may happen in the future. The community of Muscatine has already experienced several close calls involving incidents that could have or did cause area evacuations. Over the past several years the community has had to deal with 2 chemical train derailments which caused the evacuations of 2 factories, a 3 day factory fire which put all department members on standby for a possible evacuation, a gas line explosion which caused the immediate evacuation of the surrounding area, and a tornado that tore through the community but fortunately created on long term chemical/fire hazard. These are just a few examples that have created potential threats to our community. The Police Department's ability to fulfill its roll of entering into a hot zone and helping get people to safety is crucial to the health and safety of the community as a whole.

Muscatine Health Support Foundation

Grant Proposal

To: Muscatine Health Support Foundation, Board of Directors

From: Captain Steve Snider - Muscatine Police Department

Reference: Avon Respirators

Date: 04/10/12

Last year the Muscatine Police Department submitted a grant proposal to the Muscatine Health Support Foundation, which requested that it consider funding the purchase of chemical respirators for the members of the Muscatine Police Department. In October and December of 2010, members of the Muscatine Police Department, Muscatine Fire Department and Muscatine Public Works participated in joint training sessions regarding the Federal Intermediate Incident Command System and the Incident Command System-400 (Advanced). This training was geared towards dealing with large scale disasters, whether natural or man-made, that might affect our community. Throughout the training, several table top exercises were conducted.

During these exercises, participants were asked to reach decisions on several topics, which ranged from chain of command, establishing perimeter for incident, necessary support needed, areas of responsibility and etc. Incidents covered everything from floods, to tornados, to chemical spills and even major factory fires. While the Fire Department will usually take the lead role in dealing with such incidents, it will often fall to the Police Department to set the perimeter and (in the event of chemical contamination) evacuate those citizens that need to be removed from the hot zone.

The Police Department's ability to fulfill this role is hindered by a lack of protective equipment to outfit department personnel. Equipment that would allow our officers to function safely within the hot zone without being exposed to the chemical contaminants that has caused the evacuation. The Department's solution to this issue would be to outfit department personnel with a respirator that would allow them to function safely within the hot zone.

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Muscatine Health Support Foundation

Grant Proposal

fortunately created on long term chemical/fire hazard. These are just a few examples that have created potential threats to our community. The Police Department's ability to fulfill its roll of entering into a hot zone and helping get people to safety is crucial to the health and safety of the community as a whole.

I am again submitting a grant request to the Muscatine Health Foundation asking that they consider funding the \$18,500 needed to outfit each member of the Muscatine Police Department with the required respirator. This grant would be a one-time start up cost that would allow the department to fit all its current members with an Avon C50 respirator, equipped with a CBRN canister filter and a haversack for storage/carry. Future maintenance costs and new purchases would then be done on an individual basis, which would be more manageable and within the department's regular budgetary means.

The purchase of this protective equipment is crucial to the Police Department's ability to coordinate with the Fire Department and remain effective during these critical incidents. I thank the board for taking the time to review this application and for their consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,
