

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sena moved that Resolution No. 6501 be approved as presented. Commissioner Calderón seconded the motion and the vote was recorded as follows: Newman yes, Sena yes, Taylor yes, Calderón yes, Buie yes, Gerth yes, Cobb yes. The motion carried. Copies of the resolution and supporting documentation are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Consideration of a Grant Award Through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for the 2016 Hiring Program (CHP).

Police Chief Chris McCall stated the Hobbs Police Department applied for a grant through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office of the U. S. Department of Justice to fund police officer positions. He stated the grant allows for certified police officers to be hired with the task of developing community relations within the City of Hobbs. Police Chief McCall stated the Department is committed to the community and, through the grant, will dedicate five personnel to community engagement efforts in order to build trust with diverse members of the community. The grant period is 36 months with \$625,000 being paid by the U. S. Department of Justice and \$751,165 being the match by the City of Hobbs. Police Chief McCall stated the City will be required to maintain the officer positions for a minimum of 12 months following the 36-month federal funding period.

Police Chief McCall presented a PowerPoint to the Commission with an overview of the grant program. He briefly explained the mission statement and outlined the job duties of the potential positions. He also outlined various new programs to be implemented such as public education, youth engagement and social media. Police Chief McCall stated the grant required positions will be filled with veteran officers and new hires will be trained for day-to-day police operations. He added that the desired outcome of this program is to increase the transparency of the department, improve the quality of life for Hobbs citizens, lower crime rates and to further evaluate the needs of the community.

Commissioner Calderón stated he participated in a radio show in the past and made announcements to urge the Hispanic community to report person on person crimes without fear of immigration concerns.

Commissioner Taylor stated that a volunteer community committee needs to be formed and take part in this outreach process. She further stated each district should be represented equally. Commissioner Taylor thanked Police Chief McCall for the detailed presentation. Police Chief McCall agreed and stated a community committee would fit well with the community outreach program.

In response to Commissioner Gerth's inquiry, Police Chief McCall stated there are currently three officers attending academy and they are included in the current total of 95 filled positions. Police Chief McCall stated veteran officers will fill the positions and

new officers will be hired for those vacancies. He stated HPD currently has 95 filled positions but is budgeted for a total of 103. He added that the \$751,000 matched funds will provide the base salary for the officers required by the grant as well as providing some of the benefits.

In answer to Mayor Cobb's question, Police Chief McCall clarified that the grant would be funded for three years with a requirement that the City fund the fourth year.

Mr. Murphy explained that the City currently budgets a total of 103 officer positions for HPD. He stated funds for any unfilled positions flow back into the budget. If this grant moves forward, the funds will filter into the budget, leaving only the fourth year fully funded by the City. He added there is also an option for an 18-month extension of the grant if the funds have not been fully utilized.

In response to Commissioner Newman's inquiry, Police Chief McCall stated the program will utilize veteran officers and new hires will fill the grant requirements. He stated every other officer hired will be paid through grant funds in a format similar to the Student Resource Officer (SRO) grant.

In answer to Commissioner Gerth's question, Police Chief McCall stated the 2016 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant will not change the number of Student Resource Officers used at the Hobbs Municipal Schools.

In response to Mayor Cobb's question, Police Chief McCall explained that veteran officers will be used for the social media aspect of the program due to their existing knowledge of internal policies and practices of the department. He stated that rookie officers will be trained and used to fill positions on the street.

To answer Commissioner Gerth's inquiry, Police Chief McCall stated there are currently three officers attending police academy. He again stated that every other officer hired will be funded by the grant. He added this will be a build-out process that will happen over a period of time. Police Chief McCall stated it will take time to get the new hires fully trained.

In further response to Commissioner Gerth, Police Chief McCall stated there are currently more certified officers applying for HPD positions which cuts down on training time. He stated incentives were used in the past to attract certified officers. Police Chief McCall stated the police academy is held at least twice per year and the HPD officers who attend the academy are active employees while they attend.

Mr. Murphy stated there are currently 95 officers on HPD staff, with 103 positions budgeted. He further stated that if not passed, the City will lose out on all of the grant funds.

Commissioner Sena stated he has been granted the unique opportunity to visit various departments throughout the City as well as members of the community. He stated the main concern of everyone is the safety and well being of the citizens of Hobbs. He added there is a huge need for community engagement.

Commissioner Buie expressed concerns over the safety of the officers hired. He stated there were reports of police officers being shot today in the United States.

In response to the question by Commissioner Buie, Police Chief McCall stated if one person who becomes involved with the Community Outreach Program changes the way they perceive HPD and police officers, then the program cost is worth it.

Commissioner Taylor stated an officer was killed in San Antonio, Texas. She stated she prays daily for leaders in our country as well as the safety of the officers.

Commissioner Newman stated that he remembers only one day time as a former HPD Captain in the early 1990s that HPD was fully staffed. He stated full staffing at the department is going to be difficult, especially in this current climate.

In response to Commissioner Gerth's question, Mr. Murphy stated the average annual cost for salary and benefits per officer is \$91,000.00. He continued by stating that the City's gross receipts tax is currently estimated at approximately \$400,000.00 more this month than at the same time last year. He added that community engagement will help turn opinions.

Mayor Cobb expressed his support of HPD and stated they are a model department. He stated the community needs to know the Commission is committed to the department.

Mr. Murphy recognized all of the HPD officers present in the audience tonight. In response to Mr. Murphy's inquiry, all members of the HPD audience stood in support of their commitment to the grant program.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sena moved that the grant award through the Office of COPS for the 2016 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) in the amount of \$625,000.00 for three years be approved as presented. Commissioner Calderón seconded the motion and the vote was recorded as follows: Newman no, Sena yes, Taylor yes, Calderón yes, Buie yes, Gerth yes, Cobb yes. The motion carried. Copies of the agreement supporting documents are attached and made a part of these minutes.

Consideration of Approval of a CES Contract with Accent Landscaping for Tree Replacements on the SR 18 Beautification and Trail Project and Tree Additions and Replacements Along Turner Street in the Total Amount of \$157,461.97 Including GRT.