

STAFF REPORT

January 10, 2022

Topic: Authorize acceptance of an Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant in the amount of \$200,000 to fund de-escalation and implicit bias training.

Discussion: In July 2021 the Laconia Police Department applied for a grant offered through the US Department of Justice under its COPS De-escalation Training Solicitation Program. Recently we have been notified that our application has been approved and the grant has been awarded.

This project will enable the LPD to prevent unnecessary violence in the city during police interactions by bolstering our mission of community-oriented-policing through enhanced transparency, accountability, and community relations. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a robust cadre of annual trainings to include the Verbal Judo Institutes' (VJI) De-Escalation and MILO Counter Bias Training Simulation (CBTsim) trainings for officers and dispatchers. These trainings will build officer knowledge about effective practices and outcomes in preventing crime and promoting safe communities through the proper use of de-escalation skills. Additionally, the LPD will host two annual VJI De-Escalation Through Intervention trainings open to law enforcement agencies in Belknap County.

This grant was included in the FY21-22 anticipated grants resolution, RES-2021-09. A public hearing was held for grants listed in this resolution on June 14, 2021.

Fiscal Impact: None - The entire cost of this program is covered by the COPS Grant, there is no local match requirement.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends acceptance of the COPS de-escalation grant in the amount of \$200,000.

This report submitted by: Captain Al Graton, Laconia Police Department

Proposed motion:

"I move to accept and expend the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to fund de-escalation and implicit bias training."