



RAPID CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Karl Jegeris, Chief of Police

October 9, 2015

Mayor Steve Allender
Council Members
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Earlier in the year, the RCPD attempted to obtain 6 additional fulltime police officers through COPS grant funding. In June of 2015, we brought our intentions to seek this grant to the Council, and in September, the RCPD was approved to move forward with the process. To justify this staffing increase, we cited recent crime trends, increased calls for service, an uptick in violent crime, a growing population, an expanding city, etc. The attached memo from Captain Hedrick comparing our staffing increases to similar agencies notes a clear deficiency.

Last month we learned the RCPD was not awarded COPS grant funding this year. In lieu of the 6 requested grant officers, I am requesting the Council approve 1 additional Police Officer position and 1 additional Community Service Officer position. Although our workload justifies an additional 6 officers, I recognize the recently approved budget cannot compensate for the lack of federal funding.

With this funding constraint in mind, I am making this request to keep up with a growing work load and to allow us to continue providing quality service to the City of Rapid City. Funding for these positions was included in our budget. While drawing up the 2016 PD budget earlier this year, we included a \$317,895 increase to cover the wages and benefits of the 6 sworn officers we were hoping to obtain through the COPS grant. The grant would then reimburse the City for 75% of the officer's wages and benefits, \$211,930, leaving the RCPD budget with a \$105,965 difference to cover the remaining 25%, or our portion, of the 6 officer's wages and benefits.

To cover the cost of adding 1 Police Officer and 1 CSO, we propose using the designated \$105,965 for wages and benefits of these newly proposed positions. The following breaks down the initial costs for these positions.

-Average cost for a starting Police Officer is \$42,415 in wages plus \$12,725 in benefits, totaling **\$55,140.**

-Average cost for a starting CSO is at \$34,140 in wages plus \$10,245 in benefits, totaling **\$44,385.**

-The total estimated cost for these two positions is **\$99,525**, and comes in just under the \$105,965 already included in the 2016 budget.

The current 2016 PD budget allows for these additional positions. However, we want to ensure you support the decision for us to move forward. As our community continues to increasingly rely on RCPD services, we need to adjust, as other comparative agencies have done, to continue serving our city at a high level.

Sincerely,


Karl Jegeris
Chief of Police

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