

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Motion to Authorize the City Manager to Accept Federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds for the School Resource Officer and Other Law Enforcement Programs
DEPARTMENT: Finance
PRESENTED BY: Debbie Tarry, Finance Director
Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn, Grants Specialist

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT: Since 2001, the City of Shoreline has participated in the US Department of Justice's Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program. Recent program changes have been instituted requiring that each participating jurisdiction's governing body must approve the acceptance of the grant funding.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED: The Council has two alternatives to consider:
1. Council could accept the \$18,673 of LLEBG funding and the City's cash match of \$2,075. (Recommended)
2. Council could refuse the \$18,673 of LLEBG funding. This is not recommended due to the fiscal impact on the School Resource Officer program and the overall Police Services Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The City of Shoreline will receive \$18,673 in federal fiscal year 2003 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds that the City will use in 2004. The use of these funds requires a 10% cash match, or \$2,075, which has been identified in the proposed 2004 City budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to accept federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds for use for the School Resource Officer and other law enforcement programs in 2004.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 

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Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to accept federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds for use for the School Resource Officer and other law enforcement programs in 2004.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2001, the City of Shoreline has participated in the US Department of Justice's Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program. Recent program changes have been instituted requiring that each participating jurisdiction's governing body approves the acceptance of the grant funding. Therefore, formal Council approval is required for the City to accept and use LLEBG funds.

BACKGROUND

The Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) Program provides funds to units of local government to underwrite projects that reduce crime and improve public safety. The LLEBG Program emphasizes local decision making and encourages communities to craft their own responses to local crime and drug problems. The Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act of 1995 authorizes the use of these funds. The funding level for each jurisdiction corresponds with a formula based on the number of Part 1 (violent crime) offenses within that jurisdiction and the amount of funding available. A local jurisdiction is only eligible to receive funds if the amount they are entitled to under the formula is over \$10,000. Congress increased the overall funding to this program in the 2000 federal budget, which allowed Shoreline to participate. Additionally, the LLEBG Program requires a 10% cash-match. Both the historic funding level and the match amount since the beginning of the program in Shoreline are shown below:

Federal Budget Year/ City Budget Year	LLEBG Funds	Local Match	Total
2000/2001	\$16,124	\$1,792	\$17,916
2001/2002	\$27,067	\$3,007	\$30,074
2002/2003	\$22,943	\$2,549	\$25,492
2003/2004	\$18,673	\$2,075	\$20,748

The fluctuation in year to year LLEBG amounts are due more to the changes in federal appropriation of funds than a local change in the amount of Part 1 offenses.

In the City of Shoreline, LLEBG funds have been used to support the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program, the Citizen's Academy, and additional officer training and equipment needs as identified. In 2004, the LLEBG funds will again support the SRO program, the Citizen's Academy and additional officer training, in that priority order.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

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