

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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| DATE: 12/02/2024 | SUBJECT: Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CREATE TWENTY-FIVE (25) POLICE CADET FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) POSITIONS UNDER THE COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP). THE CITY OF LAREDO WAS RECENTLY AWARDED FUNDING FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICE (COPS) PROGRAM TO HIRE TWENTY-FIVE (25) NEW POLICE OFFICERS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS. FUNDING IS AVAILABLE UNDER THE SPECIAL POLICE FUND – COPS HIRING PROGRAM. | |
| INITIATED BY: Joseph W. Neeb City Manager | | STAFF SOURCE: Miguel A. Rodriguez, Jr. Chief of Police |
| PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: City Council approved the acceptance of the grant with Resolution # 2024-R-317 on October 28, 2024. | | |
| BACKGROUND: Over twenty-five years after the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 was signed into Law, the COPS Office continues to support the efforts of law enforcement agencies across the country as they develop creative and innovative ways to deal with long standing community problems and public safety issues. Since the date of establishment of the COPS Office the U.S. Department of Justice has invested \$20 billion in community policing. It has funded the addition of nearly 136,000 officers to over 13,000 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to advance community policing in small and large jurisdictions across the nation. CHP grant funds must not be used to supplant (replace) local funds, that agencies otherwise would have devoted to sworn officer hiring. The hiring or rehiring of officers under CHP must be in addition to, and not in lieu of, officers who otherwise would have been hired or rehired with state, local, or federal funds. | | |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: The Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Program federal share will be \$3,125,000.00 and the city will be responsible for a local match of \$4,800,993.00, from General Fund, over the three-year (36 months) grant performance period of twenty-five (25) police officers. | | |
| COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: | | STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommends the approval of this Public Hearing/Introductory Ordinance. |

ORDINANCE No. _____

PUBLIC HEARING AND INTRODUCTORY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CREATE TWENTY-FIVE (25) POLICE CADET FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) POSITIONS UNDER THE COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP). THE CITY OF LAREDO WAS RECENTLY AWARDED FUNDING FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICE (COPS) PROGRAM TO HIRE TWENTY-FIVE (25) NEW POLICE OFFICERS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS. FUNDING IS AVAILABLE UNDER THE SPECIAL POLICE FUND – COPS HIRING PROGRAM.

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Program and the Laredo Police Department will provide twenty-five (25) police cadets that will enhance the COPS philosophy in the City of Laredo; and

Whereas, the Chief of Police recommends that City Council authorizes the addition of the twenty-five (25) police cadets and that the City of Laredo create these positions under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP); and

Whereas, these positions will be beneficial to the City of Laredo due to the additional man power that will be added to serve the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

Section 1: Public Hearing and Introductory Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to create twenty-five (25) police cadet full time equivalent (FTE) positions under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP). The City of Laredo was recently awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Program to hire twenty-five (25) new police officers for a period of three (3) years. Funding is available under the Special Police Fund – COPS Hiring Program.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVIÑO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MARIO I. MALDONADO, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

JOAQUIN A. RODRIGUEZ
FIRST ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY