Atascadero City Council
Staff Report – Police Department

Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund

(Proposed designation of funds would be used in equipment improvements and other frontline Police services and supplies)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council designate 2007/2008 Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF) monies for use in equipment purchases and other frontline Police services and supplies.

DISCUSSION:

The State of California has awarded the City of Atascadero $100,000 in SLESF funds for 2007/2008. These funds are awarded equally for each city and intended to fund frontline municipal police services. The Government Code requires cities to appropriate and approve the use of the funds by City Council in the month of September.

Availability of these funds presents an opportunity to continue the Police Cadet program an additional year. Cadets perform a variety of tasks designed to improve service delivery and enhance organizational efficiency. Cadets work in a mentoring environment that will help prepare them for a potential career in law enforcement with the City of Atascadero.

Staff has identified the need to upgrade our existing investigative electronic devices that include the in-car video system, portable radios, and preliminary alcohol screening devices.

The Police Department has implemented Mobil Data Computers (MDC) in emergency vehicles. This equipment has been benefiting the community by increasing the visibility of officers in the field, reducing response times and reducing the demand on Dispatchers. Additional MDC’s are needed to equip all of the existing patrol units.
The Police Department deploys officers on bicycle patrol and staff has identified a need to upgrade an existing bicycle and equipment and purchase additional patrol bicycles and equipment.

Funds will also be allocated to purchase needed duty firearms, less lethal equipment, supplies and training, and other frontline police services and supplies as necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT:

$100,000. All costs are paid for by SLESF grant funds and do not affect the general fund.

ALTERNATIVE:

Decline the use of SLESF grant funds. Not recommended due to significant benefit gained by use of the funds.