

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
Thru: Teresa Montgomery, City Comptroller
From: Dante Elbin, Chief of Police
Date: May 1, 2013
Subject: U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Application

REQUEST:

The Gautier Police Department requests City Council approval to submit a grant application for bulletproof vests to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

BACKGROUND:

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

DISCUSSION:

The Gautier Police Department estimates that 36 bulletproof vests need to be replaced. The department received a quote of \$672.00 per vest from Mid South Uniform. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$24,192.00. The selected vest meets the required NIJ Standard-0101.06 for Ballistic-Resistance of Body Armor. The Bulletproof Vest Partnership determines the level of funding available once all applications are received. The program is designed to pay up to 50% of the total cost of each vest in the application. The Police Department plans to use asset forfeiture funds for the 50% local match requirement, which will not affect the 2013-14 budget. The current deadline is May 20, 2013. Vests must be received and payment requested within two years of the approval date.

The grant also requires that applicants have a mandatory wear policy in effect at the time of the grant application submission. A mandatory wear policy has been developed and is also submitted for City Council approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Police Department recommends that City Council approve submission of an online grant application for bulletproof vests to the U.S. Department of Justice as outlined above prior to the May 20, 2013 deadline. We make this recommendation based on the critical safety needs of our officers and requirements mandated by the State insurance policy.

The City Council may:

1. Approve the above grant application submission as presented;
2. Approve the above grant application submission with changes; or
3. Disapprove submission of this grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S):