

City of Hesperia

STAFF REPORT



DATE: May 7, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Nils Bentsen, City Manager

BY: Mike Browne, Hesperia Police Captain
Eric Mello, Hesperia Police Sergeant

SUBJECT: Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Grant Application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the City Council approve and adopt Resolution No. 2019-20 authorizing the submission of a California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) Grant Application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for a total of \$57,183, and authorize the City Manager and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department to execute the Application and any amendments thereto on behalf of the City.

BACKGROUND

For many years, California State Parks has offered grant funds to support law enforcement operations in communities throughout the state. These funds are available on an annual basis through a competitive grant request process. Several hundred local, state, and federal agencies apply for these grant funds through an application process and final awards are based on needs of the particular jurisdiction. The City of Hesperia has applied and received funds from this program in the past and has developed a very effective OHV program. The City currently provides enforcement with funds provided in the 2018/2019 grant cycle.

ISSUES/ANALYSIS

The City of Hesperia continues to grow and with the increasing population and development, so do the complaints and other issues associated with motorcycle disturbance calls, accidents etc. Several hundred calls for service a year are generated by citizens complaining of noise, dust, and general issues associated with illegal riding on public roads and private property. The Hesperia Station is in need of a funding source to purchase equipment, provide training to staff, and pay salaries to deputies who can patrol problem areas issuing citations, educate youth at local schools and events, network with OHV enthusiasts providing direction to legal riding areas therefore reducing complaints, accidents and overall increasing the quality of life for residents in the community. The 2019/2020 California State Parks grant program has grant funds available for various projects including law enforcement. With approval, Hesperia will apply for \$57,183 for the 2019/2020 grant project, to purchase new equipment and provide enforcement for OHV areas within City limits.

The project would be managed by a Sheriff's Sergeant and utilize several trained deputies who would be assigned to the team as a collateral duty. The OHV team would conduct regular patrols in problem areas, conduct safety programs at schools and local community events, and provide education to citizens through public outlets and the media.

FISCAL IMPACT

Per the grant regulations, the City would be responsible for up to a 25% match of the awarded funds. Funding for the 2019/2020 project would require the City to commit to a \$14,295.75 match and per the regulations, much of this match can be accommodated through fuel and maintenance costs of OHV enforcement used equipment, patrol assignments associated with OHV contacts, calculated salary costs for the use of volunteers at events or on operations, and the use of any currently owned city equipment and staff. This match requirement could be in large part satisfied by a detailed fiscal management of resources and equipment use on a daily basis by the OHV sergeant and the City finance department.

Also per the grant regulations, the City would periodically submit payment requests to State Parks for reimbursement for funds spent during a specific time period. There is also an option of advance requests that can be submitted for funds needed to purchase large equipment items such as a vehicle, minimizing the City's out of pocket expense for such purchases.

ALTERNATIVE(S)

1. Provide alternative direction to staff

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. 2019/2020 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Grant Application (available on file at the Police Department)
2. Resolution No. 2019-22