



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: January 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorization of Vehicle Donation for the Accelerant Detection Canine Program

Report in Brief

The Fire Department has received a request from the Esparto Fire Protection District to donate a surplus vehicle to the Esparto Fire Protection District for use in association with an Accelerant Detection Canine Program. Approval of these requests requires the City Council's authorization.

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the donation of a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria (#512) sedan to the Esparto Fire Protection District to be used as an Accelerant Detection Canine Vehicle for the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association Canine Program.

Background

In April of 2008 the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association purchased an Accelerant Detection Canine. This program is supported and operated through the Esparto Fire Protection District and was initiated to assist arson investigators in Yolo County. Through the program the canine is made available, free of charge, to all Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies throughout the County.

The Esparto Fire Protection District is staffed by volunteers and, similar to many rural fire districts, challenged from a resource standpoint. The District has identified the need to acquire a vehicle to be used to transport the K-9 (Magnum) and handler (Matthew Milliron) to and from fire scenes. In response to this need, the District has submitted a request to the Woodland Fire Department for donation of a surplus vehicle. Based on the importance of this program and its use by all Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies in Yolo County, staff agreed to review opportunities to meet this need.

Discussion

The Woodland Fire Department and Police Department have utilized the County's Accelerant Detection Canine eight (8) times in the past eight months. This program benefits the City in reduction of cost and man hours, while increasing the accuracy of evidence collection during arson

investigations in the City of Woodland. To further illustrate the value of this program to our local Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies, an accelerant detection canine was retained by the Woodland Fire Department in December 2007 to help with the investigation of a string of suspicious fires at the same home on Pershing Avenue. The cost to retain that canine and her handler was \$1,575.66 and the dog was very helpful. The Woodland Fire Department can not fund such an accelerant detection canine program on its own, but is committed to helping the Esparto Fire Department and the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association support this program knowing the value of having such a resource here locally that is available at no cost.

The standard disposition of surplus City vehicles is to auction the units with other surplus equipment. Income generated from the auction sales is deposited into the City's fleet vehicle fund to help offset acquisition of new vehicles. Periodically, staff receives requests from other organizations to donate surplus vehicles. These requests are carefully considered on an exception basis. Given the critical importance of arson investigation, staff believes this request should be favorably considered.

Fiscal Impact

There is no cost to the City for this donation. However, it is estimated that this vehicle would bring \$500 - \$800 in revenue if it was to be sold at auction. This means that a potential loss of revenue to the City of as much as \$800 could occur.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve and authorize the donation of a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria (#512) sedan to the Esparto Fire Protection District to be used as an Accelerant Detection Canine Vehicle for the Yolo County Fire Chief's Association Canine Program.

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