

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: April 21, 2009

Date Submitted: April 14, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Mary Dean Barwick, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

Subject: Request Board Approval for the WCSO to Apply for Grant Assistance from the COPS Hiring Recovery Program for Six Law Enforcement Positions

Statement of Issue:

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office requests Board approval to apply for grant assistance from the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). \$1 billion in grant funding has been made available for hiring and rehiring of law enforcement officers. The submission of this application must be legally and officially authorized by the Board of County Commissioners. If awarded, at the conclusion of federal funding (a 3 year period), grantees must retain all sworn officer positions awarded under the CHRP grant for at least a 12 month period.

Background:

CHRP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary enforcement authority. The funding must be used to create and preserve jobs while increasing community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

Analysis:

The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office has requested for these funds to be spent towards rehiring of 4 Road Patrol Deputies and the hiring of 2 new Road Patrol Deputies. The grant provides 100% funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for 3 years for newly hired officers or for rehire of officers who have been laid off or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date as a result of local budget cuts. An applicant may not reduce its budget for sworn officers just to take advantage of the CHRP grant. Any budget cuts must be unrelated to the receipt of CHRP grant funds. The total request of \$1,065,414 includes 6 positions for a 3 year term.

Options:

1. Approve the WCSO to submit the 2009 COPS Hiring Recovery Program Application.
2. Do not approve the WCSO to submit the 2009 COPS Hiring Recovery Program Application.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1

Attachments:

1. 2009 COPS Hiring Recovery Program Application