

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF: November 5, 2007  
4.3 (k)

AGENDA ITEM NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
*Robert G. Wells*  
**THROUGH:** ROBERT G. WELLS  
CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** GERALD F. MOORE *Guy Moore*  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
**SUBJECT:** ELECTRONIC CRIME FIGHTING TOOLS GRANT REQUEST

**ISSUE:**

Should the City of Salem apply for, and if granted accept, a National Institute of Justice grant to pay for one officer position to research and develop electronic crime fighting tools?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends Council approve application for and acceptance of grant money allocated to the Salem Police Department to pay for one officer position which will research and develop software tools designed to assist law enforcement in locating child pornographers.

**BACKGROUND:**

This is a federal grant program administered by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. The grant request would be for approximately \$132,000 to pay the salary and benefits for one Salem Police Detective position plus a modest amount for software, a computer, and travel and training costs. The initial grant request is for one year but could be renewed for additional years until the project is completed.

The project would be focused on the development of software tools that would greatly enhance the efficiency of identifying and locating criminals who use computer and internet technology to distribute child pornography. During the software development, the detective would be identifying and investigating internet criminals based in the Salem area. During a second phase of the program, the tools developed would be distributed to other investigators on a national scale. The results would be a greater number of investigators around the country locating and developing cases within their respective jurisdictions. The goal is eventual worldwide reduction of the victimization of children for child pornography purposes. The grant funds would cover the total costs associated with the project and would not require any matching local funds.

**FACTS & FINDINGS:**

1. The goal of this grant project would be to develop software tools that will help identify and locate criminals who use computer and internet technology to distribute child pornography.
2. The software tools that would be developed under this grant would assist Salem Police in pursuing local criminals, but could also assist law enforcement agencies throughout the world in combating child pornography crimes.
3. A Salem Police Detective with the training and expertise to move forward with this grant project has already been identified. One additional police officer position would need to be authorized by City Council to replace this detective.
4. There would be no matching City funds required by this grant. However some overhead costs such as supervision of the project and labor burden costs aside from salary and benefits would be absorbed within existing City budget authorizations.