

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THRU: *Linda Norris*
LINDA NORRIS, CITY MANAGER PRO TEM

FROM: GAIL WARNER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR *Gail P. Warner*

SUBJECT: LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT GRANT

ISSUE:

Should City Council authorize staff to apply for, and execute a grant contract with the Oregon State Library, for the final year of a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant?

RECOMMENDATION:

That City Council authorize staff to apply for, and execute a grant contract with the Oregon State Library, for the final year of a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$37,540.

BACKGROUND:

In librarianship, in general and in Oregon in particular, there is an increasing and immediate need to make libraries feel more welcoming and accessible to all residents by reflecting the growing diversity of our communities. It is important to accomplish this not only by purchasing diverse materials, but to hire a diverse staff to welcome and serve the public in professional and paraprofessional roles. At the same time, there are a limited number of applicants from diverse populations. This is particularly acute for positions that require a masters degree in library science (MLS).

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

To help fill this need, library staff are requesting approval to re-apply for the final year of a three-year LSTA grant in the amount of \$37,540.

The grant will allow library staff, working through Chemeketa Community College and Western Oregon University, to hire five interns at Salem Public Library. Each intern will be offered up to 10 hours of work per week, which the intern would spend working and getting hands-on experience in a library division. An emphasis will be placed on hiring students with bilingual skills.