

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE AMES FOUNDATION FOR POLICE EQUIPMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 11, 2017, Council approved an agreement between the City and The Ames Foundation (The Foundation) to support projects in the Police Department. Funds held by The Foundation were donated by local citizens to support police officer safety. The projects can include the purchase of equipment, police outreach programs, officer safety projects, and training enhancements. **Pursuant to the agreement, expenditures from the program are to be reviewed and approved by Council.** The Police Department has identified a project that would be an appropriate use of the funds.

Two Ames Police Officers work as School Resource Officers (SRO) directly in the Ames school buildings. The SROs have access to all the same equipment that other Ames officers have. Included in that equipment is a ballistic shield. Although ballistic shields traditionally provide protection from firearms, they also provide protection in other cases where knives, sharp objects, or even unarmed but physically aggressive behavior confronts an officer. They are often an important tool that allows an officer the time and ability to de-escalate a critical incident.

The shields are carried in the trunk of a patrol car so they can be on-scene as quickly as possible in an incident. The SROs, however, spend most of their day inside school buildings and retrieving a shield from the vehicle in the parking lot may not be practical. Conversely, the department determined that carrying a large shield in and out of school building was also not desirable.

As an alternative, the SROs identified a portable ballistic shield from PopShield, which folds up, is lighter weight and very portable, and is still rated to provide appropriate protection. The cost for two PopShields \$1,330.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the expense and authorize the Police Department to request reimbursement from the Ames Foundation in the amount \$1,330 for the purchase of two PopShields.
2. Do not approve the expense, nor authorize the Police Department to request reimbursement from the Ames Foundation.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Ames Foundation agreement, and the donations made to the Foundation on the Police Department's behalf, were established to promote officer safety, community outreach, and training enhancements. This project is appropriately related to that objective.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the Police Department to request reimbursement from the Ames Foundation in the amount of \$1,330 for the purchase of two PopShields, as stated above.