



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>April 8, 2024</u>
Requested By: <u>Bennie Boles, Interim Chief</u>
Department: <u>Police</u>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	_____
Account Number:	_____
Amount Budgeted:	_____
Amount Requested:	_____
Budgeted Item:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Exhibits: Current School Resource Officers Agreement, 2 Year Extension Agreement, CPI Calculations and CPI Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics Data

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

For more than 25 years, the City of La Porte (“City”) and the La Porte Independent School District (“District”) have operated under an Interlocal Agreement for School Resource Officers (SRO). The last agreement was voted on and established by City Council on May 28, 2021, and expires at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. The 2021 agreement added a full-time Sergeant to supervise the current cadre of six SROs. The SROs are assigned to the following schools: Two (2) La Porte High School, one (1) Baker Junior High, one (1) Dewalt Alternative, one (1) Lomax Junior High, and one (1) La Porte Junior High. The full-time SRO Sergeant floats between the campuses and will fill in as needed.

The Department has been in discussions with the District regarding their future needs and a proposal for a new agreement. Through these discussions, it was recommended that the City and the District exercise the optional two-year extension. The extension is recommended due to the Texas Legislature’s adoption of Texas House Bill 3, which requires the District to provide at least one (1) armed security officer on all campuses during regular school hours. The law defines a security officer as a school district police officer, an SRO, a commissioned officer employed as security personnel, a school marshal, or a district employee meeting the requirements to be armed on campus. The District desires to place at least one (1) SRO on all elementary school campuses, requiring the Department to add seven (7) officers. Due to the current staffing challenges, the Department cannot, at this time, provide an additional seven (7) officers as SROs. Currently, the District has hired officers on a part-time basis, to meet the legislative requirement. The two-year extension will allow the Department to fill current vacancies while the City and the District negotiate the details for the next agreement.

The agreement for a two-year extension allows for annual cost increases based on the standard Consumer Price Index formula, and the updated figures included in the extension agreement were calculated by Finance utilizing that formula. For the school

year 24-25, the calculated amount is \$667,278.78; for the 25-26 school year, the calculated amount is \$687,903.60.

The La Porte Police Department recommends that the City Council approve the extension with the La Porte Independent School District, allowing the City and the District more time to negotiate a new agreement adjusting to the legislative changes and recommendations of adding additional staffing. The Department believes the agreement extension substantially benefits the La Porte community.

STRATEGIC PLAN KEY FOCUS AREAS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Organizational Excellence: The City of La Porte will operate in a transparent, efficient, accountable, and responsive manner by preparing the organization and the staff for the future, focusing on core services, attracting, and retaining the best employees and wise stewardship of financial resources.

Establish and communicate emergency preparedness plan to better respond to dangerous events in the community and area.

ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL

Authorize the City Manager to execute a two-year extension of the current agreement between the City of La Porte and La Porte Independent School District to provide law enforcement services to the District.