

MUSCATINE POLICE DEPARTMENT**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator

FROM: Brett Talkington, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Item
Application for Muscatine Health Support Foundation Grant

DATE: 03-18-2013

INTRODUCTION:

The Police Department is requesting City Council approve our request to apply for a grant in the amount of \$19,000 from the Muscatine Health Support Foundation. This request is for cost of outfitting all officers on the department with C50 respirators. This would also cover the purchase of a NIOSH approved CBRN canister filter for each officer as well as a haversack for carrying and storage of the mask.

BACKGROUND:

The department submitted this request into the 2013/2014 budget to see it get cut due to lack of available funds. In short, it is doubtful that the department will be able to fund such an initiative for some time to come, unless we receive outside assistance.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE:

The department needs to take steps now to be prepared for what may happen in the future. The community of Muscatine has already experienced several close calls involving incidents that could have or did cause area evacuations. Over the past several years the community has had to deal with 2 chemical train derailments which caused the evacuations of 2 factories, a 3 day factory fire which put all department members on standby for a possible evacuation, a gas line explosion which caused the immediate evacuation of the surrounding area, and a tornado that tore through the community but fortunately created on long term chemical/fire hazard. These are just a few examples that have created potential threats to our community. The Police Department's ability to fulfill its roll of entering into a hot zone and helping get people to safety is crucial to the health and safety of the community as a whole. There will be no match from the city to obtain the Muscatine Health Support Foundation Grant.