



July 28, 2009
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PRESS RELEASE

Sumner Receives COPS Grant for Hiring New Officer

Sumner, WA—On July 28, 2009, Sumner Police received word that the department had been awarded \$321,401 from the COPS Hiring Recovery Program to hire a new officer for four years. Sumner Police requested this money to fully cover the position left vacant for over a year due to budget constraints. The grant will pay this position's salary for three years with the understanding that the City fund the position for at least one more year.

“Only 14.3% of the agencies that applied were awarded grants,” said Mayor Dave Enslow. “We are honored that Sumner was one of the ones fully awarded.” According to the US Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), they based funding decisions on many factors, such as the applicant's fiscal health, crime, and community policing plans. With all the factors, Sumner ranked number 23 out of the 156 agencies applying in Washington State.

“Our officers were working really hard to make cuts that the public wouldn't see, but we were out of options, especially with this position sitting unfilled for so long,” said Sumner Police Chief John Galle. “Now, the COPS grant, along with other grants we have received, will allow us to continue working with citizens to keep crime from happening rather than only respond to crime after it happens.”

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For the Sumner Police Department, the COPS grant follows other grants that the department has received in 2009 including:

- \$32,835 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance to purchase improved technology and support community-oriented policing projects (also a grant funded by Federal stimulus money),
- \$93,682.50 from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to fund an officer for a year to work as a gang prevention officer,
- \$4,800 from a Traffic Safety Equipment Grant for patrol equipment,
- \$25,000 from the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to purchase a vehicle for a detective assigned to the regional auto theft task force.

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