

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 THROUGH 2016-2017
ITEM/PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM**

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT: Police	PROJECT TITLE: Vehicles and Personnel
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: <p>The addition of one police officer position and vehicle in the authorized staffing plan for the Police Department will provide us with the additional staffing needed to successfully expand our current organization into an effective community policing and problem solving agency. These positions will also assist us in protecting the citizens, visitors, and business owners of Nags Head.</p> <p>This request is based on the measured increases in the number of response calls the Police Department has documented over the last 10 years. These increases are contributed to by the increased number of visitors coming into our area, the recent economic recession, and increase of daily vehicular traffic in our town.</p> <p>Police officers' daily duties can no longer be contained within past job descriptions. Sworn staff must divide their time to the point that quality of work comes into question (i.e. patrolling neighborhoods, responding to citizen complaints, enforcing State laws and local ordinances, overseeing traffic safety on each street and highway, the investigation and analysis of crime, documentation of every call responded to in detail, collection of evidence, maintaining all issued equipment, learning/retaining up-to-date knowledge on criminal procedures and computer skills and lastly participating in effective community policing). With all these mandatory duties placed on each officer's shoulders, it is easy to see why they are stretched so thin.</p> <p>Each member of this department recognizes it is our responsibility to maintain order and protect and serve the public, while affording dignity and respect to every individual. Our objective over the next five years is to improve the quality of life through an expended community partnership, which will promote safe and secure neighborhoods.</p> <p>To reach this goal, the Police Department must greatly enhance our community partnerships, promote problem solving, and create a form of organizational management to promote all aspects of community policing. The department currently participates with the "Nags Head Community Watch Association" using this connection to distribute crime and disorder information, as well as gain input from the community to learn about local problems. The additional position will allow this agency to expand avenues for street officers and supervisors, enabling them to reach into the community and grasp the needs of citizens and local business owners. Community partnerships are essential to this department's community policing strategy; however this can only be accomplished when officers have more time to interact with citizens, business owners, community groups, and other government agencies.</p> <p>This request will allow the department to continue to provide and improve police services to an expanding seasonal tourist population and locally owned businesses. It will also commit the Nags Head Police Department to being responsive to our local residents by delivering quality services.</p> <p>This request, if approved and incrementally funded, will enhance programs the Police Department and the State of North Carolina deem necessary. These programs include crime prevention, community watch and community policing, highway safety, and traffic educational programs. These enhancements will make the Town of Nags Head a safer place in which to live and visit. Keeping a safe community also helps attract new businesses by providing a safe community to conduct business. This additional police officer is being requested for the following fiscal years: one police vehicle and one police officer for FY 2013 – 2014.</p>	

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PROJECT JUSTIFICATION: (What need is being met: Where is this documented: How does this project address the need?)

There have been numerous studies that clearly show that during times of recession, property crimes increase. Property crimes are defined as crime that includes, among other crimes, burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft, and vandalism. Property crimes only involve the taking of money, property and the destruction of property. The climb in property crimes seem to occur when unemployment rates and poverty rates increase. It's hard to prove that one thing causes another, but they have a tendency to follow each other.

	Year 2001 Recession				Year 2009 Recession – To FY 10/11		
	FY 00/01	FY 01/02	FY 02/03		FY 08/09	FY 09/10	FY 10/11
Total # of Calls Responded	8,821	10,951	10,276		10,568	11,179	10,197

Over the last five years, the monetary amount of stolen and damaged property reported just within our Town limits is overwhelming.

Description	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Stolen Property	\$308,932	\$297,844	\$253,828	\$193,079	\$159,847	\$1,213,530
Damages reported in Damage to Property Crimes	\$234,596	\$ 95,305	\$90,893	\$ 73,486	\$ 93,305	\$587,585
Vehicular Accidents (amounts only include property damage, costs incurred for personal injuries is not included)	\$604,725	\$844,350	\$809,840	\$854,173	\$1,026,810	\$4,139,898
Totals Per Year	\$1,148,253	\$1,237,499	\$1,154,561	\$1,120,738	\$1,279,962	\$5,941,013

Property crimes can negatively impact our local economy. According to several studies of consumer behavior, visitors who experience crime while visiting our community may not be persuaded to return. Their money leaves our community for reasons as simple as having an unfortunate experience, involving minor costs and/or injuries.

Businesses are also adversely affected when they are victimized by crimes such as burglary, larceny, and shoplifting. The creation and sustainability of diverse businesses in our town is pertinent; having a wide assortment of varied businesses within our town attract both visitors and locals, who help to support our local economy.

Nags Head has seen drastic increases of visitors and vehicular traffic directly related to the movement of tourists through our community. Over a five year period, Jockey's Ridge State Park reported a 54% increase in visitors, up from the reported 962,251 visitors in 2005, to 1,478,034 visitors in 2010.

Dare County tourism continues to grow, maintaining a record pace in the amount of money visitors are spending on accommodations. The Dare County Visitors Bureau's *Gross Occupancy Summary* acknowledges motels, rental houses, bed and breakfasts, condos, and campgrounds had pulled in \$370.3 million in 2011. This tops 2010 figures by almost \$14 million. In addition, receipts for meals in 2011 were up \$3.1 from

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figures in 2010.

In addition to these figures, on May 21, 2011, the grand opening of the NC Aquarium at Jennette's Pier was held. From the grand opening date through October 21, 2011, approximately 250,000 people visited Jennette's Pier.

The above markers are clearly indicating that the police department can expect more property crimes due to the down turn in the country's economy, and, in addition, a large boost in population during our tourism season. With the opening of Jennette's Pier alone, our town has seen an estimated increase of 500,000 visitors entering into our small community. If we consider visitors to Jockey's Ridge State Park, along with visitors passing through our town from outside localities just to gain access to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Pea Island Refuge, Wright Brothers National Memorial, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and the Elizabethan Gardens, there is no way to measure the impact these visitors will have on our community.

Considering all known factors, it is certain the police department will be tasked heavily and will be most affected by the increase in vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic. The Nags Head Police Department will be adversely affected by these numbers and will be stretched to maintain or improve our current standards.

LOCATION OF PROJECT: (Attach a map if applicable)

Nags Head and other Outer Banks jurisdictions as requested and required under mutual aid agreements. Work to be accomplished at the direction of administrative and supervisory personnel in the Police Department.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITY: (Choose One)

Does the requested project:

- a) Correct an unsatisfactory level of service?
- b) Maintain a current level of service?
- c) Increase a level of service?
- d) Represent a "vision"?

DEPARTMENTAL RANK: (Prioritize your request in relation to other departmental project request)

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PAST ACTION: (Choose one)

Is the requested project currently scheduled for implementation:

Yes

No

If yes, what year? _____

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES:

None

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PROJECT DEPENDENCY: N/A

NEGATIVE IMPACTS:

With or without the increase of the requested police officer, over the next five years the Town can expect to experience a rise in both property crimes and vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It is important to remember that with these increases come heavier workloads for our police officers. Our citizens, business owners, and visitors will continue to share in the cost for the damages caused by negligent offenders. Calls for service, which include both criminal offenses traffic related call, and service calls, can be expected to continue to rise due to increases in business, tourism and rental property development. The number of tourist visits to the town continues to increase each year. Due to the geographic location of the town and the numerous shopping centers, malls, food stores, restaurants, and for-profit recreational facilities, we see a tremendous amount of daily transient population to all points north, south and west of Nags Head, stopping in our town. With our continued growth in these areas, our street officers are already stretched covering both traffic and criminal investigations, with no additional time to devote toward developing community partnerships.

It is imperative that we make reasonable efforts, which are fiscally responsible, so that we can continue to protect and preserve the quality of life here on the Outer Banks. Just as sure as development is going to continue and the tourist populations are going to rise, traffic and crime problems will also increase. This additional police officer position is needed in order for the Police Department to maintain and improve the present level of service to the public and maintain and expand the level of public confidence in the Police Department.

The Town of Nags Head needs this requested police officer to address these increases in traffic related problems, which will in turn also help eliminate our citizens and visitors from being victimized by deterring defendants and educating those who may be unaware of the our State laws.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES:

Are there grants or additional funds which might be used in conjunction with the CIP to fund this project:

Yes _____

No X

If yes, describe:

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ESTIMATED COSTS			
Capital/ One Time Costs	Description of Capital/One Time Costs		Cost
	1 Police Vehicle-Radios, In-Car Video Camera and Moving Radar and Related Equipment	\$	36,855
	TOTAL Capital (One Time Costs)	\$	36,855
Continuing Annual Operating Costs	Description of Continuing Annual Operating Costs (A)		
	Maintenance, Gas, Tires, Oil for vehicle	\$	4,080
	TOTAL A (Continuing Annual Operating Costs)	\$	
Salary (If Additional Personnel Needed)	Description of Salary (B)		
	1 Police Officer (includes salary, and benefits) Salary and Benefits is \$63,379	\$	63,379
	TOTAL B (Salary if Additional Personnel Needed)	\$	63,379
	TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS (A+B)	\$	67,459
YEAR REQUESTED: FY 2013 - 2014		PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION: (By CIP Committee)	