

Committee : Finance	Date : 10/8/2024
Common Council Item Number: ID#24-10778	Date: 10/15/2024
Submitted By:	City Administrator Approval:
Chief Daniel Thompson	Tony Brown, City Administrator
Finance Department Review:	City Attorney's Office Review:
Joe Ciurro, Finance Director	Brian Running, City Attorney

Subject:

Consideration and Possible Action to Accept the Waukesha Police Commercial Motor and Crash Reduction Grant award approved by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for \$768,325.

Details:

The Waukesha Police Department wrote a Federal Grant to establish a Traffic Unit to enforce Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) carriers who typically operate in and around county and municipal areas and often do not operate on the interstate. When bypassing the interstate, CMV operators avoid weigh stations and Wisconsin State Patrol Inspectors and rarely get the three required inspections needed to complete the new entrant program successfully. Many of these new entrant carriers are start-ups that do not fully comprehend the safety regulations to which they need to abide. As such, these carriers are more likely to be involved in a CMV crash. WKPD officers can determine whether the carrier is a new entrant. Carriers with poor Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) safety scores have and will remain a top priority for roadside inspection.

The WKPD will also focus on unsafe equipment and drivers, particularly in city construction areas during the spring and summer, which typically see a higher traffic volume. The WKPD routinely observes CMV weight and unsecured cargo violations. When overweight, the distance required for a truck to stop significantly increases, particularly in emergencies. Vehicle brake inspections are crucial to identifying inoperative or damaged braking systems for trucks that routinely operate with heavy cargo loads.

Approval of this grant will also allow the unit to conduct proactive outreach training to assist local commercial motor vehicle companies better educate and train their employees to help keep our city roads safer.

The grant will provide staff for two full-time positions in the unit, including two fully equipped CMV Enforcement vehicles.

Options & Alternatives:

An alternative is not to accept the funds, which are awarded at no cost or financial obligation to the city.

Financial Remarks:

The grant period is from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.

Executive Recommendation:

Chief Thompson recommends approval of this grant award.