

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☒ Vote/Action Requested
☐ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: _____

Department: Police Presenter(s) & Title: Chief Marty Ferrell

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion and Possible Action on the Canton Ambassadors for Public Safety (CAPS) Initiative

Summary:

Canton Police Department is requesting Council's consideration to approve the hiring of four (4) Canton Ambassadors for Public Safety(CAPS). Please recall, this program was introduced to the Council at the Fall Retreat last October. The CAPS Unit will respond to non-emergency, non-violent calls for service, patrol city parks, direct traffic, patrol downtown and city park special events, and additional duties not included in this summary. We believe the PD's current budget allocation will cover the funding needed to implement this program for the remainder of the current fiscal year. In the upcoming FY 2026 budget process, the PD will request budget funding of ~\$360,000 to fully fund the CAPS Unit for the 2026 Fiscal Year.

Budget Implications:

Budgeted? ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Total Cost of Project: \$ 180,000.00 Check if Estimated ☒

Fund Source: General Fund ☒ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: _____

Staff Recommendations:

Staff will ask for Council's consideration for: Motion to approve the implementation of the PD's Canton Ambassadors for Public Safety Program (CAPS), including the hiring of up to four (4) ambassadors for public safety.

Reviews:

Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Attachments:

CAPS Unit PowerPoint Presentation



CANTON

AMBASSADOR

for

PUBLIC SAFETY

C.A.P.S. UNIT

Service Provided by Canton Police Department

Canton Ambassador for Public Safety

Why Create a C.A.P.S. Unit?

Benefits to the Community

- Increase presence in city parks
- Expedited response to low-risk calls
- Assist with accidents
- Help with community events
- Visibility in the community
- Direct traffic

Benefits to the Police Dept

- Force multiplier for PD
- Crime scene processing
- Recruiting pathway to Police Officer role
- Increase morale as Police Officers can respond to higher level calls
- Assist with missing person searches

Visuals of C.A.P.S. unit

Uniform/Vehicle branding

C.A.P.S. personnel will wear uniforms and drive vehicles that are branded with the C.A.P.S. colors/logo along with language that the service is provided by the Canton Police Department.

Uniform



Uniform Patch



Vehicle with branding

C.A.P.S. Annual Expenses

The annual costs will cover salaries and benefits, fully-equipped vehicles, and the uniforms and accessories required for the four C.A.P.S. team members. These expenses will support two shifts: Tuesday through Saturday and Sunday through Thursday.

Description	Annual Total for CAPS Initiative
Salaries – \$24.59/hour + benefits (2080 hours)	\$286,457.60
Vehicles/Equipment	\$58,752
Uniforms/Accessories	\$13,120
Total Estimated Cost	\$358,329.60

Organizational Structure/Training

C.A.P.S. unit will
report to the
uniform patrol
bureau

Training will consist of two components

- Internal administrative procedure training
- Field training with police FTO
- Total training 6-8 weeks