

Police Department Applies For Youth Officer Funds

Commissioners approved application Monday night for a fulltime youth bureau officer for the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Chief Earl Lloyd told the board Monday that a youth officer would be far more beneficial to the city than a narcotics officer initially approved in March.

"My personal feelings," Chief Lloyd said, "is that other than the publicity generated by hiring a full-time narcotics officer, the value to the city would not be as great as hiring a youth officer instead."

He said the youth programs offer the largest blocks of federal funding than any other at this time, programs which will be funded for the next three years. In the initial year the federal funds would take care of 90 percent of the costs with the state and city putting up five percent each. The schedule graduates down on the federal level and up on the city level over the three-year period until in the fourth year the city would handle full costs of operation.

"The program is geared to have the bulk of all expenses come in the first year of operation," Chief Lloyd said.

The chief said program of funding would take effect on Jan. 1, 1977, but since the state and federal programs run on a fiscal year of October 1 to September 30, the first year would only be a nine months program.

Salary for a youth officer, one trained in social and economic conditions, would be about \$9,500 or \$170 per week, which is a fraction higher than the base pay for a local police sergeant.

The chief said the LEAA funds every aspect of the youth officer program — vehicle and its maintenance and operation, uniforms, equipment, office supplies, travel, etc.

The application for the first year indicates the total initial cost is \$17,489.80. Broken down, the federal funding would total \$15,739.82 with the state and the city's share totaling \$874.48 and \$874.50, respectively.

As outlined by Chief Lloyd the principal benefits of having a fulltime youth officer are: reduction in juvenile crime, reducing juvenile court cases by effective pre-trial screening, more thorough research of cases and evidence of petitions, increased effectiveness of the Kings Mountain Police Department through having an officer trained in juvenile matters and increased coordination of agencies and individuals dealing with juvenile delinquency and undisciplined behavior.

"We believe that an officer trained in this area can do more toward reducing crime in the long run by being able to work with and counsel potential juvenile offenders," Chief Lloyd said.

Juveniles in delinquent

and undisciplined areas is described as the youth not yet 18 years of age, unmarried, not emancipated or not a member of any branch of the armed forces of the United States.

The application approved Monday night will be made to the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Division of Law and Order, Raleigh.

CARD OF THANKS
We would like to thank all of our friends for their prayers, kindnesses, flowers and food during the illness and loss of my mother, Mrs. Addie Arrowood.
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Overmountain March Will Culminate At Battle Site

The second annual reenactment of the march on the Overmountain Victory Trail will culminate at Kings Mountain on October 7, the anniversary of the victory over Patrick Ferguson and his Tories during the Revolutionary War battle.

Retired General William Westmoreland is expected to be present to meet the marchers at Kings Mountain. The march of October 7, 1780, took some 12 days and covered nearly 150 miles before the patriots met Ferguson for the battle which Thomas Jefferson called the turning point in the war for independence.

The march consisted of two columns of men, one beginning in Surry County and the other from a small group of men at Sycamore Shoals. They joined forces at Quaker Meadows on the Catawba River in Burke County in preparation of the journey to Kings Mountain.

In conjunction with work by the city traffic flow committee application is being made to take advantage of the Highway Safety Program Standard 13 (traffic engineering services).

Al Moretz, acting public works director, explained the program to city commissioners Monday night and recommended application be made. He said the last comprehensive traffic plan made in the city was in 1967.

"With the planning for the downtown area and the changing traffic flow patterns to be created when the bypass is constructed north of the city," Moretz said, "now is the time to take advantage of this program so the city can be ready to handle the traffic

changes." The purpose of the program is to assure full and correct application of modern traffic engineering principals and uniform standards for traffic control to reduce the likelihood and severity of traffic accidents.

Moretz explained the program provides, as a minimum, a comprehensive manpower development plan to provide traffic engineering capabilities. This includes supplying engineering assistance to the city. Kings Mountain qualifies because it does not have a fulltime traffic

engineering staff. It also provides for upgrading the skills of practicing traffic engineers and basic instruction to employes and technicians.

The program also covers planning, design, construction and maintenance of public roads and the application of traffic control devices.

A traffic control devices plan includes inventory of all traffic control devices. Moretz said this project has been underway for several months in Kings Mountain and is almost completed.

The plan also includes periodic review of existing

control devices and systematic upgrading of substandard devices. The police department has requested and been granted several control device changes in the city's more congested areas where traffic accident statistics are higher.

Under the engineering manpower plan there are reviews of road projects under planning, design and construction stages to detect and correct any features that could lead to safety hazards, analysis of all high accident locations to develop corrective measures.

Moretz said there are several other features under Standard 13 and added that there are other areas of funding under such traffic programs that could aid the city in planning traffic flow.

He said the program is available under a 50-50 matching grant and that the city's half could be in the form of in-kind services in lieu of cash.

"At this point it would only be speculation as to how much money is available from the state sources to implement this program," Moretz said, "but a ballpark figure might be \$20,000."

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