

Marlborough Receives Grant for Bulletproof Vests

Marlborough's Resident Trooper O'Rourke recently received a call from Congressman Rob Simmons that the Town's application for the 2004 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program had been approved.

In 1998, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant act was signed into law to assist states, local units and tribal governments in equipping their law enforcement officers with life-saving armor vests. The grant program is administered jointly by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Justice Programs, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

In 2000, additional legislation extended the BVP into 2004, provided priority funding for jurisdictions with populations of less than 100,000 and increased funding level to \$50 Million dollars each year.

The 2004 Grant Program was announced in early March 2004. The Town's application for grant funding was prepared and submitted by Selectmen Bill Black and Resident Trooper O'Rourke that same month. The grant awarded, in the amount \$1,982.50 will reimburse the Town for up to half the costs of approved bulletproof vests purchased. Detailed submission and reimbursement requirements will be forwarded to the Town later this month.

Selectmen Bill Black, the Board of Selectmen's Public Safety liaison stated, "The Town's Public Safety budget for fiscal year 2004/2005 provides funding for the hiring of an additional Part Time Police Officer (Constable). Currently the Town has three Part Time Officers this will be expanded to four Part Time Officers in July." Black is currently coordinating the hiring process for Part Time Officers.