Money targeted for DWI fight

By BRUCE SCHULTZ
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LAFAYETTE — A $35,829 budgetary revision was approved Tuesday by the Lafayette City Council to help fund a program aimed at curbing drunken driving.

The change will divert the money for a prosecutor and assistant prosecutor of drunken-driving offenses. In addition, it will help fund the salary of a court clerk who will keep tabs on the proceedings.

Tuesday afternoon, a Lafayette delegation presented a program showing the state Highway Safety Commission in Baton Rouge why the city needs a federally funded grant of $172,000 to assist with enforcing and prosecuting driving-while-intoxicated cases.

Al Thierry, community affairs coordinator who appeared before the commission staff with Glyn Abel, part-time mayor’s assistant, said he is confident the city’s request will be funded.

Mayor Dud Lastrapes agreed, noting that the city will have to match the federal grant with about $50,000 to $60,000.

The commission meets on Dec. 15 to consider the city’s request. The decision will be referred to federal transportation officials in Dallas, who will decide if Lafayette meets the criteria for receiving the three-year grant.

The grant application is one of several phases recommended by a task force which considered possibilities for cracking down on DWI offenders.

The task force’s two other major recommendations, an open-container law and a 2 a.m. ban on alcoholic-beverage sales, also have been implemented. The 2 a.m. law went into effect on Dec. 1 in the city. A similar parish ordinance becomes law Jan. 1 for areas outside Lafayette.

The council also approved the purchase of 17 new patrol cars. Lastrapes said most of the cars will be used for replacement of older vehicles.

So far this year, 12 new officers have been added, he said. But two of those are out of a promised number of 21 new police officers, he said.

Consideration might have to be given to cutting some portions of the budget to allow for more police protection, he said.

The cars will cost $9,188 each for a total of $156,197 and will be purchased from Dependable Dodge of Lafayette. Other bidders included Lafayette Motors at $9,241 per car, Service Chevrolet at $9,540 per unit and Hub City Ford with $9,781 per car.

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Gilmore Named to Hall of Fame

Dr. Robert C. Gilmore, retired professor of music from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, was the first inductee to the Hall of Fame for Music Educators of Louisiana.

The Hall of Fame was established recently by the board of directors of the Louisiana Music Educators Association. Dr. Gilmore has been actively involved with music education for 45 years. He began his musical career as a performing musician, playing the French horn in New York and throughout the Midwest and Southeast. After 10 years experience as a teacher and supervisor of vocal and instrumental music in the public schools of Louisiana, he was appointed State Supervisor of Music in the Louisiana Department of Education. From 1946 until he retired in 1971, Professor Gilmore was on the music faculty of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He served as professor of music, brass instructor, and band director.

Since retirement, Gilmore and his wife Jeanne have been busy traveling and publishing materials concerned with the French heritage of South Louisiana. Operating their own publishing company, Acadiana Music, they have produced the following publications: "Chantez, La Louisiane!" a book of Louisiana French folksongs; "The Spoken French of Chantez, La Louisiane!," a recording by Jeanne Gilmore; "A Chronicle in Comparative Music Education," a look at music education in the United States and Western Europe; "Chantez Encore!," a second book of Louisiana French folksongs; "Les Jeunes Chanteurs," a teaching record of Louisiana French folksongs for the community of Albany, Louisiana.

As the first inductee into the Louisiana Music Educators Association Hall of Fame, Gilmore was recognized at a concert performed in his honor by the Louisiana All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra, held on November 23.