

**CITY OF LODI
REQUEST FOR NON-PROFIT FUNDS**

PROPOSAL LETTER

Amount Requested: \$5,000

Contact:

Chet Somera
209-642-3163
csomera@lodi.gov

Organization:

Lodi Chaplaincy Association
215 W. Elm Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Federal Tax Status:

501(c)(3) Nonprofit
EIN: 68-0347508

Organization Overview

The Lodi Chaplaincy Association is a nonprofit religious corporation organized under the laws of the State of California. Our chaplains are trained professionals who specialize in crisis response, emergency support, and critical incident counseling.

Chaplains provide compassionate, faith-based support to public safety personnel, their families, and members of the community. While rooted in their individual faith traditions, all services are offered inclusively, regardless of race, gender, creed, or religious background. Each chaplain is endorsed by their respective faith community and brings both spiritual guidance and emotional support to those they serve.

Through their presence and service, chaplains offer strength, stability, and care to individuals facing difficult and often traumatic circumstances.

Mission

The mission of the Lodi Chaplaincy Association is to provide spiritual care, emotional support, hope, and encouragement to Lodi Police and Fire personnel, their families, and the broader community.

Board of Directors

Garold Murray – President
Julie Wall – Vice President
Amber Leonardini – Secretary
Chet Somera – Treasurer
Bob Morgan – Sergeant at Arms

Project Description

The Lodi Chaplaincy Association provides a wide range of supportive services to public safety personnel and the community, including:

- Building trusted relationships with police, fire personnel, and their families
- Participating in ride-alongs with police officers and firefighters
- Supporting internal staff such as dispatchers, administrative personnel, and records staff
- Providing a welcoming and safe space for personnel to connect with chaplains
- Hosting holiday luncheons and morale building events
- Responding to major incidents and emergency scenes
- Assisting with death notifications
- Facilitating critical incident stress debriefings and follow-up care

To sustain these services, ongoing specialized training is essential. Additionally, funds are needed to provide refreshments and hospitality items that help create a supportive and approachable environment for those served.

Performance Measurement

Program success will be evaluated through:

- Increased participation in and completion of specialized training programs
- Effective application of training during crisis and emergency responses
- Strengthened relationships and trust between chaplains, public safety personnel, and the community
- Positive feedback from those served

Community Benefit

The Lodi community benefits directly from the presence and work of chaplains. By supporting the emotional and spiritual well-being of police officers, firefighters, and their families. The Chaplaincy Association helps ensure that first responders remain resilient, focused, and prepared to serve the community effectively.

A well supported public safety workforce contributes to a safer, healthier, and more connected community overall.

Closing

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would be pleased to provide any additional information or clarification the City Council may require.

We respectfully request that the City Council award \$5,000 to the Lodi Chaplaincy Association to support specialized training and the purchase of food and hospitality items essential to our outreach efforts.

Sincerely,

Chet Somera

Chaplain Chet Somera
Chaplain Coordinator