

## HERMITAGE

### City using federal stimulus grant to hire policeman

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Hermitage has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to hire a new policeman, said City Manager Gary P. Hinkson. The city will receive \$50,000 a year over two years, and is not required to keep the policeman on staff beyond the end of the grant, he said.

The grant will cover the policeman's base salary and health care costs, while the city will be responsible for costs such as overtime and pension, Hinkson said. The department had 30 policeman in 2008, lost three to retirements and a resignation, and only hired one replacement in 2009 because of a general fund revenue drop due to the economic crisis.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant is for the creation of new positions, retention of existing ones, or reinstatement of positions that had been eliminated, Hinkson said. "We will be replacing a position vacated because of budget restraints," Hinkson said. "We would have been back to 30 if not for funding issues."

The city has a list of qualified candidates from the last round of testing conducted in 2009, and will start with that list in seeking to hire a new policeman, Hinkson said, adding that he wants to hire someone as quickly as possible.

The grant is federal stimulus money funneled through the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency.