

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

2009-G9193-IA-DJ

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

AGENCIES

POLK COUNTY, IOWA	\$21,920
CITY OF DES MOINES	\$286,229
CITY OF URBAN DALE	\$12,091
CITY OF WEST DES MOINES	\$19,586
	\$339,826

The 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funding will be a tremendous opportunity for all agencies affected to upgrade technology and equipment to augment and improve their individual law enforcement functions. All of the funding awarded each agency will be directed towards the JAG Purpose Area: Law Enforcement Programs. This funding will provide equipment addressing officer safety, the creation of a new K-9 program, procedural efficiencies and technology upgrades to further all of our individual public safety missions.

The Des Moines Police Department, as fiscal agent, will request a separate account code from our Finance Department in order to monitor expenses and revenues. As each recipient agency incurs an expense, a claim will be submitted to the fiscal agent with the required invoice and proof of payment attached. The fiscal agent will then request a drawdown of funds for reimbursement to the respective agency. The grant file for the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant will include indexes dedicated to each agency listed above.

It is anticipated that when the award document has been made available and all steps to successfully implement the grant have been completed, agencies included in this grant award will be notified the funds are available. Those agencies requesting equipment will follow their respective agency's purchasing policies and can proceed with the purchasing process at that time.

PURPOSE AREA 1 POLK COUNTY, IOWA \$21,920

The Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) seeks to use funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, Local Solicitation to supplement the funding for the purchase of an Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR). \$25,000 was allocated for this system from the Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. This system will be deployed by our Patrol Division to enhance the ability of Deputies to identify stolen vehicles and plates. Use of an ALPR system will also increase the likelihood that Deputies will identify missing persons, persons with active criminal warrants, or terrorist and gang associations. Polk County is intersected by two of the nation's major highway systems, Interstates 80 and 35. Both interstates provide a conduit from major cities surrounding Iowa. Use of an ALPR system may lead to information related to vehicles and subjects transient in the area. The system includes

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

2009-G9193-IA-DJ

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

office software which allows investigators to use the data captured at a later date. It is anticipated that access to this information may provide leads to many criminal investigations.

The total project cost is estimated at \$68,920. Funds awarded through this grant solicitation will be used to leverage the previous grant funds and forfeited funds to fully implement this system. The funds will purchase computers, monitors, servers and network connection equipment. The ALPR will be installed in a patrol vehicle which may need additional equipment that may be purchased using these grant funds.

This system will provide for officer safety and enhance the ability of Deputies to identify stolen vehicles and plates, missing persons, persons with active warrants and persons with terrorist or gang associations, thus increasing officer performance.

The Sheriff's office will report on the number of shifts the Automated License Plate Reader is in use, the number of stolen vehicles recovered, stolen plates recovered and number of arrests directly attributable to the ALPR. Other noteworthy events will be included.

PURPOSE AREA 2

CITY OF DES MOINES

\$286,229

1. Crime Deterrence Cameras

\$47,325

The City of Des Moines has seen an increase in graffiti in parks, on school buildings and other public areas. Since early spring, reports have been taken of the theft of military veteran grave marker medallions at most of the cemeteries in the City. One cemetery, Laurel Hill, reported 45 medallions were missing. Other criminal activity reported has been vandalism at public schools where classrooms have been entered and desks overturned, windows spray painted and other damage occurring. As of this writing, a deployed camera captured images of three individuals involved in criminal activity that culminated in a drive-by shooting.

The Police Department is requesting funding for six cameras to be added to the three currently in our inventory that will be deployed in various areas of the city based on need. Utilizing a cellular connection, these camera systems can provide remote monitoring to allow officers to observe suspects from anywhere and send notifications to patrol officers in the area where there is criminal activity. A single officer can monitor several locations. As the monitoring is over the internet, the safety of officers and detectives is ensured. Officers should be aware of the progression of violence starting with criminal mischief to include gang graffiti and windows broken out. These criminal acts often turn into assaults, drive-by shootings and homicides.

Cellular connectivity has been recommended due to the park settings and need for rapid deployment. The cameras can be recorded to a server. The Iowa Department of Public Safety has agreed to allow this department to utilize their DPS Milestone server for this purpose.

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

2009-G9193-IA-DJ

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Additional licenses will be purchased to allow Des Moines to use the server. The purchase of nine hard drives to download collected data from each camera for back-up purposes will complete this project.

2. Automated Field Reporting System \$238,904

The Des Moines Police Department will be using the balance of the 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to design and standardize electronic police report forms and implement an automated field reporting system (AFRS). An AFRS is intended to reduce the time required to complete incident reports and improve the quality of data collected in the reports. This system allows officers to use mobile data computers or laptops to fill out incident reports without leaving their assigned areas.

Our current process is built entirely on paper flow that requires interpreting hand written notes, manually keying the report into our records management system (RMS) and making a scanned copy of the original hand written report. This paper flow is inefficient, cuts down on officer productivity and diminishes the overall accuracy of our RMS database.

The AFRS has the potential to achieve benefits in efficiency and effectiveness to patrol officers, field supervisors, records section personnel and others. Another benefit is that our department's records management system has the information more readily available for access by other sections in the department. The quality of the information available will be improved because the data entered is more accurate and more information will be available in the patrol car where it is needed most. The improved quality will be due to access to spell-check and validation during data entry.

We anticipate there will be less drive time as officers will not need to go to the police station to complete reports or turn them in. The officers will be on the street faster after completing a report as digital forms are generally faster to complete. The extra time will enable officers to engage in more community policing, problem solving, or proactive policing. Review time by supervisors will be reduced and the records clerks should experience a reduced workload because they no longer have to enter information from reports into the database.

PURPOSE AREA 3

CITY OF URBANDALE

\$12,091

The City of Urbandale, along with its police department has expanded considerably over the past decade. This growth has brought about many benefits to our community but has also exposed issues that need to be rectified. As a progressive community and police department, we have determined that a canine unit will advance our ability to perform our duties.

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

2009-G9193-IA-DJ

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The City of Urbandale is at the crossroads of Interstates 80 and 35. Traffic flowing through our city each day come from such cities as Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City; pipelines for the illicit drug trade and conduits for Mexican drug trafficking. The Urbandale Police Department has been proactive in drug interdictions and numerous hours have been dedicated for this purpose. The 2009 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant will assist in the creation of a canine unit by providing funds for the purchase and training of a dual-purpose K-9.

There have been many occasions when an officer has had reasonable suspicion that a vehicle is carrying illicit drugs but the officer has not had probable cause to search the vehicle. Urbandale officers would contact other area agencies to ask for canine assistance on some of these stops, but often the canine unit was unavailable or the response time was such that the officer would have to decline the assistance due to the time constraints related to 4th Amendment issues. Another issue that would be addressed is when a subject flees from officers. The use of a canine unit would assist in the apprehension of the offender and decrease the number of man hours that, in some cases, has been disproportionate to the severity of the crime.

The usefulness of a canine unit as a tool in drug interdictions has long been proven effective. The unit would be utilized in these interdictions to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of officers in the fight against illicit drugs. The creation of the canine unit for the Urbandale Police Department would eliminate the slow response time of a canine unit from other jurisdictions. Having a shorter response time would allow the canine to pick up scent more efficiently and would decrease the radius search for a fleeing subject.

The canine would be assigned to a police handler working regular hours and would be on call 24 hours a day. To increase officer safety, the unit could potentially be deployed in situations such as high risk drug raids and warrant executions. Having a canine readily available will improve the seizure of illegal drugs and will also offer another layer of protection to the police officer.

Documentation of the daily training received by the K-9 will be tracked in a software program specifically designed for law enforcement K-9's. Additionally, interdiction stops, drugs seized, the amount and monetary value as well as all cash seized will be input into this program. Other activity involving the K-9 will be reported as well. The compilation of these statistics will be utilized to determine the effectiveness and success of the program. The software program will hasten the K-9 record keeping initiatives and provides for the protection of the officers and agency from civil liability.

The anticipated costs to start the program with the purchase of the pre-trained dual purpose K-9, training the officer and various pieces of equipment are estimated to be \$26,871. The 2009 Justice Assistance Grant will have a positive impact on the Urbandale community by

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

2009-G9193-IA-DJ

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

supplementing the initial costs of the canine unit. The Urbandale Police Department's use of Federal asset forfeiture funds will provide the balance.

PURPOSE AREA 4 CITY OF WEST DES MOINES \$19,586

Through the 2009 Justice Assistance Grant Local Award, the West Des Moines Police Department seeks funding to purchase assault vests, one Def-Tec 40mm grenade launcher, and 40mm chemical munitions for use in the grenade launcher.

The department seeks to replace thirteen tactical vests currently utilized by the West Des Moines Police Department's element of the Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT). The vests currently used by our SERT officers expire in April 2010. The Department plans to replace the current vests with Paraclete Releasable Assault Vests (RAV). The RAV is a vest currently used by the U.S. military and other security forces in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as police tactical teams across the country.

In addition, the Department plans to replace an antiquated 37mm grenade launcher with a new Def-Tec 40mm grenade launcher. The Def-Tec launcher will be assigned to the West Des Moines SERT. The grenade launcher will be used in tactical situations when the use of chemical munitions is required. 40mm chemical munitions for use in the grenade launcher will also be purchased.

Through this program the Department will replace outdated vests and equipment used by the West Des Moines Police tactical officers. The purchase will increase safety for the officers and better prepare them to address situations requiring the use of chemical munitions.