

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2013 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2013 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Applications are due July 9, 2013.

Grant funds can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice, as well as research and evaluation activities that will improve or enhance law enforcement programs related to criminal justice.

Because the Story County Sheriff provides jail services for the county, the grant conditions require that the Sheriff participate in the grant application for funding under this JAG program. The Police Department proposes that the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Story County for acquisition and use of the funds.

Total funding potentially available to the Ames Police Department through this grant offering is \$23,686 and the Police Department proposes to use the funds for specialized training and equipment purchases to support crisis prevention and resolution programs.

The recently created mental health advocate program would receive a laptop computer to support the data and communications management functions that have become integral to that project. Equipment to support weapons storage and active shooter training would be funded and an additional taser would be purchased. In addition, the grant would fund the purchase of a device that facilitates the forensic examination of electronic devices. Finally, the grant would support sending one person to the 2013 Crisis Intervention Team Conference, a national known resource and training conference. There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an agreement with Story County to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2013 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, and authorize application for that grant.

2. Do not approve the agreement with the Story County or the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant application.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

JAG funds have been used productively during the past few years to purchase equipment and provide training. The program has proven to be a valuable source of funds for special purchases and programs.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving an agreement with Story County to develop and apply for a grant funding under the 2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, and authorizing application for that grant.