

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2015 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2015 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Applications are due June 26, 2015.

Grant funds may 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 and the Story County Sheriff's Office through this grant offering is \$14,625. There is no match requirement with this grant.

This year the two law enforcement agencies propose to use the funds in a joint project to support mental health services programs within the agencies. Available funds will be used to send personnel to advanced training on crisis prevention and intervention as it relates to mental illness. Additional funds will be used to support training for local officers, deputies, dispatchers and jailers. Funds will also be used to purchase medical diagnostic equipment for the jail so that the physical health of those on medication can be more rapidly and accurately established and monitored.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County to apply for grant funding under the 2015 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. A cooperative arrangement between the City of Ames and Story County will support training related to crisis prevention and intervention as it relates to mental illness which will benefit the personnel involved with the jail services.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.