

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2016 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

On June 28, 2016, City Council authorized the Police Department to apply for the 2016 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The grant conditions required that the application be filed jointly with Story County and the Council approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County. The application and the Memorandum of Understanding were completed and submitted; and on September 9th the Department of Justice notified the Police Department that the grant had been awarded in full.

This grant program 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. There is no local match requirement.

This specific grant award was for \$10,862, and the funds will be used for a project to expand county-wide law enforcement access to the local public safety network. The public safety network provides mobile dispatching, vehicle location, communications, report writing and data management functions. The network already includes the Ames Police Department, the Story County Sheriff's Office, Story County Conservation officers, and Iowa State University Police. Expansion of the system to additional law enforcement agencies within the county will benefit all agencies by providing coordinated dispatching and vehicle location information, improved communication between the agencies concerning response to criminal activity, and more effective county-wide criminal data accessibility.

Access to the public safety network requires in-car mobile data terminals and mounts; a device and data service that allows connectivity from the vehicle to the public safety network; and the mobile dispatch, mobile report writing and records software. The grant will provide the SunGard software necessary to connect additional vehicles to the system. Funding from each additional agency accessing the public safety network will be required for hardware and connectivity costs. Ames will not be connecting additional vehicles to the network at this time.

Other emergency response agencies, including Ames Fire and Mary Greeley Medical Center, utilize the mobile dispatch and vehicle location functions of the public safety network.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the 2016 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and authorize the Police Department to participate in the program.
2. Do not authorize participation in this grant program.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Police Department has participated in the JAG grant program in the past and the program has proven to be a valuable source of funds for special purchases and programs. This grant will provide the same benefit.

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