

ITEM #: 17  
DATE: 08-08-23  
DEPT: POLICE

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2023 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT**

**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2023, the Ames Police Department received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2023 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

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 under this JAG program. Therefore,** it would be appropriate for the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County for acquisition and use of the funds.

The total funding potentially available to the Ames Police Department and the Story County Sheriff's Office through this grant offering is \$17,485. **This year the two law enforcement agencies propose to use the funds to continue enhancing capabilities and expertise in mental health and wellness. A portion of the funds would also be used to outfit Emergency Response Team (ERT) officers with new communication headsets to replace outdated and malfunctioning headsets.**

If awarded, grant funds will be used to:

1. Provide furniture in a quiet space for officers to utilize to mentally relax or reset after a difficult call or shift. The furniture would include a couch and/or chair to either sit on or lay down for a few minutes as needed. A bookcase/cabinet would also be purchased to hold mental health resources, educational materials, and supplies.
2. Send several staff members to an annual Crisis Intervention Team conference, which is sponsored by a non-profit organization with the goal of supporting more effective interactions on issues related to law enforcement, mental health providers, and individuals with mental issues, their families, and communities.
3. Purchase communication headsets for the Emergency Response Team (ERT) members. Existing headsets are failing and continually pieced together to make them operational. Communication is vital for officers, especially in emergency

situations. These headsets would improve response and overall operational capacity.

**The grant requires that the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County** as well as a certifications and assurances document indicating that the City will abide by the grant terms and conditions. These documents have been reviewed and approved by City's Legal Department.

**There is no match required with this grant.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Story County to apply for grant funding under the 2023 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 pursue a JAG grant at this time and, therefore, not approve the agreement with the Story County or the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant application.

**CITY 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, as described above.