

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT JOINT APPLICATION**

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2009 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Although funding has been identified, the Police Department must develop a program that meets the criteria of the grant program, outline the expenditure to be made and submit an application for the funds. Applications are due May 18, 2009.

The JAG program is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. 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.

The grant conditions require that a single application be filed for all entities within Story County that are eligible for funding under the JAG program. More specifically, all agencies must join in the single application or no agency may apply. The Nevada Police Department and the Story County Sheriffs Office are both eligible for funding through this program. The three entities have proposed that a joint application be filed, with the Ames Police Department as the lead agency (responsible for administration of the grant program). The JAG Program requires that the proposal be formalized as a Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies.

Total funding potentially available to the three agencies is \$166,324. Because the funding for this grant is linked to another grant that supports the Central Iowa Drug Task Force, acceptance of funds from the JAG grant will reduce funds available to the Central Iowa Drug Task Force by approximately \$11,000. Because the activities of the Task Force remain a priority for the agencies and for citizens, the agencies propose that a portion of the funds be used to fund joint Central Iowa Drug Task Force activities. In addition, because mental health cases continue to be an issue for law enforcement, the agencies also propose use a portion of the funds to provide training to officers in all of the agencies to equip them with the skills to deal with these cases. The remaining funds would be split at a rate of approximately 2/3 to the Ames Police Department, and 1/3 to be shared between the Nevada Police Department and the Story County Sheriff's Office. The funding will be used by each agency to promote individual programs within each agency that

promote facility and officer security, and to purchase needed equipment. For the Police Department, that is likely to mean improved evidence lockers for evidence control and storage, improvements to the armory and weapons and chemical munitions storage, and improved facility security with access control and video surveillance equipment. The split reflects the Department of Justice preliminary allocation of the grant funds. There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Police Department's request to enter into an agreement with the Story County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada Police Department to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2009 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.
2. Do not approve the request to enter into an agreement with the Story County Sheriff's Office and the Nevada Police Department for this joint grant.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Police Department has participated in the JAG grant program in the past and is currently operating a computer crime program utilizing JAG funding. As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the grant program does put some new administrative requirements on grant funding. However, the program has proven to be a valuable source of funds for special purchases and programs and the benefit gained by the City makes this an appropriate grant opportunity to pursue.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Police Department's request to enter into an agreement with the Story County Sheriffs Office and the Nevada Police Department to develop and apply for a grant funding under the 2009 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.