

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, PART 2**

**BACKGROUND:**

In April the Police Department 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. The City Council approved the Police Department's request to apply for funding under that grant and a grant application was submitted in May of this year. In late May, the Police Department learned that it is also eligible for additional funding through the same grant program, but through a different offer. This new funding is separate from the grant application already submitted. The Police Department must develop another program initiative that meets the criteria of the grant program, outline the expenditure to be made and submit an application for the funds. Applications are due July 9, 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.

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 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Story County Sheriff's Office for acquisition and use of the funds.

Total funding potentially available to the Ames Police Department through this grant offering is \$31,465. The Police Department proposes to use the funds for training and equipment purchases. There is no match requirement with this grant.

Building on the program established by a past JAG grant, the Department would use a portion of the grant to expand the capabilities of the computer crime unit through the acquisition of new forensic software. A group of officers would be trained to use the expanded capabilities provided by this software. Some hardware upgrades would be necessary with this program.

Additional grant funds would be used to train at least two new officers in latent fingerprint examination and equip them with the current digital fingerprint technology. Although the Department would retain the traditional ink and card fingerprinting system, newer digital

technologies allows for quicker, cleaner printing and faster fingerprint searches. The Department's expert in this field will be retiring soon.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can authorize an agreement between the Ames Police Department and the Story County Sheriff's Office 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, and to then apply for and participate in the grant.
2. The City Council can not approve an agreement between the Ames Police Department and the Story County Sheriff's Office to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2009 JAG Program.

**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 funding from a JAG grant. 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.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving an agreement between the Ames Police Department and the Story County Sheriff's Office 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, and to then apply for and participate in the grant.