

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2010 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2010 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Applications are due by June 30, 2010.

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 \$34,689, and the Police Department proposes to use the funds for equipment purchases. Building on the program already established by the department, a portion of the grant funds would be used to upgrade and expand the in-car digital video recording system. The department would also purchase an outdoor portable video recording system. The department has been able to borrow a similar unit from a state agency in the past and has proven its usefulness. The grant would also allow the department to purchase 7 ballistic shields for use in tactically challenging situations. Finally a smaller portion of the grant would be used to purchase 14 new technology flashlights that recharge to full capacity in 90 seconds. Six of those 14 flashlights would be allocated to the Sheriff's Office for their use. There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an agreement with the Story County Sheriffs Office to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2010 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and authorize application for that grant.
2. Do not approve the agreement with the Story County Sheriffs Office or the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance 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.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving an agreement with the Story County Sheriffs Office to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2010 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and authorizing application for that grant.