

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2011 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has again received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2011 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Applications are due July 27, 2011.

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. It is thus appropriate for the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Story County for acquisition and use of the funds.

Total funding potentially available to the Ames Police Department through this grant offering is \$30,106. The Police Department proposes to use the funds for specialized training, software and equipment purchases. **In an effort to more directly address the issues of financial crimes, grant funds would be used to provide specialized training in areas of identity theft, credit card and financial document fraud, computer crime and scams. Similarly, a portion of the grant would be used to provide training on the most current technology advances available to law enforcement, including advances in radio and other wireless technologies, communications systems and computer forensics. Equipment and software purchases will be designed to support the training.** There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an agreement with Story County to develop and apply for grant funding under the 2011 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 approve the agreement with the Story County or the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant application.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

JAG funds have been used productively during the past few years to purchase equipment and provide training for our Police Department. 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 Story County to develop and apply for a grant funding under the 2011 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, and authorizing application for that grant.