

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2011 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

On July 12, 2011, the Council authorized the Police Department to apply for the 2011 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The grant conditions required that the application be filed jointly with Story County, and the Council approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County for that purpose. The application and Memorandum of Understanding were then completed and submitted; and in early September the Department of Justice notified the Police Department that the grant had been awarded in full.

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.

Total funding available to the Ames Police Department through this grant is \$30,106. The Police Department proposes to use the funds for training officers in areas related to financial crimes and technology. After training, the Department will use grant funds to host a regional training opportunity for other officers. Funds will also be used to purchase computer hardware and software to support the programming to combat financial crimes. Examples may include a software program that links criminals and criminal activity in a "family tree" fashion, support for software that allows forensic investigation of seized computers, a larger capacity electronic storage device, GPS tracking devices for stolen computers, and camera systems for in-field and in-custody interview recording. **There is no match requirement with this grant.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the 2011 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and authorize the Police Department to participate in the program.
2. Do not authorize participation in this grant program.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Police Department has found the JAG grant program 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 outlined above.