

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2016 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Police Department has received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2016 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, 2016.

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 that the City 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 and the Story County Sheriff's Office through this grant offering is \$10,862. **This year the two law enforcement agencies propose to use the funds in a project to expand law enforcement access to the local public safety network.** The public safety network provides mobile dispatching, vehicle location, communications, report writing and data management functions. The network already includes the Ames Police Department, the Story County Sheriff's Office, Story County Conservation officers, and Iowa State University Police. Expansion of the system to additional law enforcement agencies within the County would benefit all agencies by providing coordinated dispatching and vehicle location information, improved communication between the agencies concerning response to criminal activity, and more effective county-wide criminal data accessibility. Agencies that will connect to the network include the Nevada, Story City and Huxley police departments.

Access to the public safety network requires in-car mobile data terminals and mounts, a device and data service that allows connectivity from the vehicle to the public safety network, and the mobile dispatch, mobile report writing and records software. **The grant will provide the SunGard software necessary to connect additional vehicles to the system.** Funding from each additional agency accessing the public safety network will be required for hardware and connectivity costs. **Ames will not be connecting additional vehicles to the network at this time.**

Other emergency response agencies, including the Ames Fire Department and Mary Greeley Medical Center, already utilize the mobile dispatch and vehicle location functions of the public safety network.

There is no match requirement with this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Story County to apply for grant funding under the 2016 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. This application will help provide for enhanced communications coordination between all law enforcement agencies within Story County.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.