

ITEM#: 12
DATE: 07-13-21

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

BACKGROUND:

On June 8, 2021, the Ames Police Department received notice that it is eligible for grant funds through the 2019 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

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. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with 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 is \$15,932.00. **This year the two law enforcement agencies propose to use the funds to continue a project which enhances the capabilities and expertise in mental health and wellness. Additionally, a portion of the funds would be used to replace outdated and malfunctioning department Tasers.**

If awarded, grant funds will be used by the City to:

1. Support an extension of the concepts of the City's Healthy4Life program targeting employee health improvements and focusing these concepts specifically on the 24/7 law enforcement environment. The project increases contact between participating members and a coach, expands the scope of the interaction to include work related stress and provide professional direction to achieve health and wellness goals.
2. Two individuals of the Ames Police Peer Support Team will attend a national mental health crisis intervention conference designed to provide advanced training on issues affecting mental health. These individuals will also provide support to help advance the Officer Wellness Project as well as provide support to individual law enforcement personnel who need assistance in coping with demanding duties of the law enforcement profession.

3. The Ames Police Peer Support Team will continue to partner with a local mental health provider to assist the department in supporting employees in work related stress and physical and emotional wellness. The provider would act a consultant to the team during team meetings and critical incident debrief sessions. The provider would also facilitate individual wellness sessions with team members and other staff who wish to improve emotional wellness.
4. Purchase six Tasers (including holsters, battery packs, and cartridges) to replace outdated and malfunctioning equipment.

The grant requires that the Mayor sign a certifications and assurances document indicating that the City will abide by the grant terms and conditions. There is no monetary match required for this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. A. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Story County to apply for grant funding under the 2021 Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

B. Authorize grant application.
2. Do not approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Story County and do not authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant application.

CITY 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, as described above.