



Department: Police
Cost Center: 8002
For Agenda of: 8/24/2021
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Rick Scott, Police Chief
Prepared By: Melissa Ellsworth, Senior Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: FY 2021-22 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize staff to apply for a FY 2021-22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$14,077; and
2. If the grant is awarded, authorize the City Manager or designee to execute necessary grant documents and direct the appropriation of monies into the accounts required to administer the grant.

DISCUSSION

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to the State and local jurisdictions. JAG funds may be used to fund technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems.

The JAG Program is a non-competitive formula grant, and the funding allocation is based on the population and crime rate of the local jurisdiction. The amount available to the City of San Luis Obispo for 2021 is \$14,077. The department has applied for and received this funding for well over ten years. JAG Program funds must be used to supplement existing local funds for program activities and cannot replace or supplant funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. The grant application deadline was August 9, 2021; however, if necessary, staff can withdraw the request.

Proposed Use of Grant Funds

The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) responds to all SWAT callouts and team members have specialized communication and tactical skills used during emergency situations. CNT utilizes tools during crisis negotiations; as an example, a specialized piece of equipment used regularly is a "throw phone". A throw phone enables negotiators to engage in communication with someone in crisis while still maintaining a safe distance. The current throw phone was purchased 15 years ago and is extremely cumbersome and outdated.

The department is requesting grant funding to replace the current throw phone. Updated technology now offers wireless and rugged options for impact resistance and ease of use. Utilizing a wireless throw phone will be a significant advantage to the team, the current phone limits distance to 1,500 feet due to cables. Swift set up is also another advantage, as it currently takes about 30 minutes to set up the system whereas the new models can be set up immediately. This saves valuable time for negotiators. Other technology advancements also include enhanced video/audio capabilities and location data.

Policy Context

The recommended actions are consistent with the City of San Luis Obispo’s Financial Management Manual, Section 740 - Grant Management Policy. The policy states that Council will approve all grant applications in excess of \$5,000 and delegates receipt and contract execution to the City Manager.

Public Engagement

This item is on the agenda for the August 24, 2021, City Council meeting and will follow all required postings and notifications. The public may have an opportunity to comment on this item at or before the meeting.

CONCURRENCE

The Director of Finance concurs with staff’s recommendations.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report because the action does not constitute a “Project” under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: No

Budget Year: 2021-22

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$
State				
Federal – JAG Award	\$14,077			
Total	\$14,077	\$	\$	\$

City matching funds are not required for this grant. The City may draw down any or all JAG funds after acceptance of the award. To do so, an interest-bearing trust fund must be established in order to maintain the funds separate from the General Fund.

ALTERNATIVES

1. **Modify the staff recommendation.** Council may direct staff to apply for the JAG funds for a different purpose, as long as the use is consistent with the purpose areas described in this report.
2. **Do not submit a grant application.** Council may direct staff to not submit a grant application. The alternative is not recommended. The JAG Program is non-competitive, and the funds have already been allocated to the City upon application, as long as the use is consistent with the purpose areas described in this report.