



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 19, 2008**

DATE: June 25, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorize the County Manager to accept \$23,027 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) under the FY 2008 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the County Manager to accept \$23,027 in federal FY 2008 JAG program allocations from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

ISSUES: The County Board appropriated these funds as a part of the FY 2009 budget; this board report authorizes the County Manager to accept the federal FY 2008 JAG program grant.

SUMMARY: The Police Department has been allocated \$23,027 in federal funds under the FY 2008 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The funds will be used to purchase TASER's and protective coveralls. There is no local match requirement for this grant.

BACKGROUND: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program (42 U.S.C. 3751(a)) is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.

DISCUSSION: Established to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of law enforcement activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs to provide law enforcement agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most.

The Arlington County Police Department will use the funds received through the FY 2008 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to initiate its Police Equipment Enhancement Program. A portion of the 2008 JAG funds will augment existing funds for the replacement of chemical protective coveralls, issued to all officers, which have reached their expiration date. The

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: M. Douglas Scott, Chief of Police

Department has already replaced some coveralls with funds received under a Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection Program (LETPP), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) grant and with funds from an FY2006 JAG grant. These coveralls are an essential piece of an officer's personal protective equipment (PPE) package, which they are required to have with them at all times while on patrol.

Additionally, the 2008 JAG funds will be used to purchase 17 conducted energy devices (TASERs) for use by uniformed patrol officers while on duty. Each TASER comes with a 4 year warranty covering all maintenance. The Department currently has only 30 TASERs available for use by all patrol officers. Since there are not enough devices for each officer, the devices must be checked out and returned before and after each shift. The shortage of TASERs is exacerbated during shift changes since most of the available TASERs are already on the street and not available to officers going out on patrol which takes away an effective less than lethal force option. The Department also anticipates that it will need to replace some of the older TASERs in its inventory that are at or near the end of their serviceable life since repairs are cost prohibitive.

The FY 2008 Justice Assistance Grant funds allocated to the Arlington County Police Department will be used to purchase the following equipment in support of the Police Enhanced Equipment Program:

Item	Unit	Cost	Quantity	Total
PPE, Tychem Coveralls	Police Department	\$43.27	100	\$4,327.00
TASER, X-26	Operations Division	\$1,100.00	17	\$18,700.00
TOTAL				\$23,027.00

The Police Department must provide the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) with a statement that the grant application was made public and an opportunity to comment was provided to citizens and neighborhood or community organizations to the extent applicable by law or established procedure makes such an opportunity available. In addition, funds that are not allocated by the end of the grant period must be returned to BJA.

FISCAL IMPACT: Under this award the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance will provide \$23,027 in grant funds. The County Board appropriated these funds as a part of the FY 2009 budget. The operating cost of a TASER is limited to the purchase of TASER cartridges and batteries which is approximately \$50 per TASER. The Department currently covers the operating cost and will absorb the \$850 in additional operating costs for the new TASERs. The life expectancy of a TASER is directly related to total usage, proper handling, and storage; the purchase price includes a extended warranty that covers all maintenance costs for a period of 4 years. The protective coveralls have a shelf life of approximately 5 years at which time they will need to be replaced. There is no local match required.

Subject: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) - FY2008 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program