



Item: Public Hearing, 2012 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Interlocal Agreement.

From: Great Falls Police Department

Initiated By: David Bowen, Chief of Police

Presented By: David Bowen

Action Requested: Conduct Public Hearing on the recommended use of the 2012 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Interlocal Agreement.

Public Hearing:

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, calling three times each for opponents and proponents.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:
 "I move the City Commission (approve/disapprove) the use of the 2012 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and authorize the City manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement."
 2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.
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Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Interlocal Agreement between Cascade County and the City of Great Falls for expenditure of the funds, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement . The Interlocal Agreement calls for the Cascade County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Great Falls Police Department (GFPD) to expend the funds as agreed to purchase mobile video equipment for the agencies. The CCSO will receive compatible mobile video cameras and a server, while the GFPD will receive compatible mobile video cameras.

Background: Congress allocated funds to be dispersed under the Justice Assistance Grant Program, established within the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), US Department of Justice.

The 2012 Justice Assistance Formula Grant has been announced and an application for funding has been entered into the grant system. This grant requires that the City share the proceeds with Cascade County based upon a mutually agreed upon Interlocal Agreement. Staff from the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department has agreed that the funds this year should be used to

provide Mobile Digital Cameras, VHF radio/technology upgrades, Mobile Data Terminals and Mobile Data Terminal Air Cards that are compatible with current equipment used in each Department.

The current total Justice Assistance Grant allocation is \$30,036. Cascade County receives \$7,520 and the City of Great Falls receives \$22,516. This is a requirement of the Federal Government because Cascade County/Great Falls are considered disparate jurisdictions and must share the funds in compliance with an Interlocal Agreement. Cascade County has accepted the Interlocal Agreement and signed it in preparation for City Commissions review and approval. Both departments have been using JAG funds for several years to pay for upgrades of mobile data equipment, air cards, mobile digital cameras for patrol vehicles, and radio equipment.

For several years the Great Falls Police Department has been working on its radio system so it can participate in a interoperable radio system. Some funds were held over from the 2011-2012 budget to start the transition from Ultra High Frequency (UHF) to a Very High Frequency (VHF) system. This grant will allow the Department an opportunity to supply additional technology that will help expand the system once it is installed. In addition it allows the Department to expend funds to expand other communication methods such as the mobile data terminals (MDTs) in police vehicles, air cards for the transmission of information from MDTs, and video cameras for police vehicles which improves the ability for officers to document activity that can be preserved as evidence.

Significant Impacts:

This grant will provide mobile video equipment, MDT and air cards, and or VHF radio equipment for both agencies.

Citizen Participation:

Public Comment

Workload Impacts:

The equipment will allow street officers the ability to video record activity as it takes place, and communicate with other entities.

Concurrences: The Cascade County Sheriff's Office and Cascade County Commission concurs with and has executed said Interlocal Agreement.

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact will be positive because it will provide unmatched funding to purchase equipment for both agencies. The City of Great Falls is the receiving entity and agrees to perform all required reports and the police department staff agrees to purchase all the agreed upon equipment and distribute it.