



Item: Great Falls Police Department / Cascade County Sheriff's Office, 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Air Cards for Mobile Data Terminals

From: Great Falls Police Department

Initiated By: Captain Jeff Newton - Great Falls Police Department

Presented By: Chief David Bowen

Action Requested: Set Public Hearing for September 17, 2103 to consider Interlocal Agreement and recommended use of the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award – Air Cards for Mobile Data Terminals

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission set a public hearing for September 17, 2013, to consider the Interlocal Agreement and recommended use of the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds .”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation:

It is recommended the City Commission set a public hearing for September 17, 2013, to consider the Interlocal Agreement and recommended use of the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance grant (JAG) funds.

Background:

The Great Falls Police Department and Cascade County Sheriff's Office have begun the process of entering into an Interlocal Agreement in regards to the allocation of funds from the Justice Assistance Grant. The Interlocal Agreement identifies that these two law enforcement agencies have agreed to divide the funds for use in purchasing Mobile Data Terminal Air Cards.

The proposed funding allocates \$15,449 of the Justice Assistance Grant funds to the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, with the remaining funds of \$15,449 for the Great Falls Police

Department. The funds will be used specifically to purchase Air Cards, for existing Mobile Data Terminals, to include all relevant licensing and connection fees.

The purchase Air Cards will be crucial in ensuring both Law Enforcement Agencies can effectively communicate by radio and that the existing Mobile Data Terminals remain operational. Maintaining the Mobile Data Air Cards will provide the ability for effective, direct inter-agency communication and allow officers to obtain real time criminal justice information from their patrol cars, reducing the necessity to leave the field.

The purchase of Air Cards will further be instrumental in ensuring that officers from both agencies have the ability to collaborate and communicate with State agencies, dispatch services and each other. The communication capabilities facilitate more effective law enforcement activities, combined with an increase in officer safety. The ability to communicate effectively, and receive pertinent criminal justice related information contributes to increased effectiveness which directly benefits the citizens of our community.

Concurrences:

The 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award has been approved by the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Board of Cascade County Commissioners, and the Cascade County Deputy County Attorney. The City Commission has to approve the authorization to sign the agreement.

Fiscal Impact:

This grant has NO fiscal match requirements and the entire project is funded 100% by JAG grant funds.

Attachments/Exhibits:

Interlocal Agreement between the City of Great Falls and County of Cascade, Montana
Grant Application (Not available online; on file in City Clerk's Office.)