



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS  
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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**Item:** Public Hearing on Interlocal Agreement with Cascade County regarding the 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:** Conduct public hearing and approve the Interlocal Agreement with Cascade County to purchase Air Cards for Mobile Data Terminals

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**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/deny) the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Great Falls and Cascade County to purchase Air Cards for the Mobile Data Terminals with the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program funds.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, and calls for the vote.
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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the City Commission approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Great Falls and Cascade County, 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.

**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.)