

FY 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County

Project Narrative

Description of the Issues

The City of Hattiesburg is submitting an application on behalf of the City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2019 Local Solicitation. The title of the project is “City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County Byrne JAG Program FY 2019.” The City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County are seeking to use funds for the purchase of equipment to improve the existing capabilities of the Hattiesburg Police Department and Forrest County Sheriff’s Department.

The City of Hattiesburg will purchase a Rescue Phone and Coda Netgun. Acquisition of the Rescue Phone will allow police negotiators to communicate with barricaded suspects and record the event. Due to the increasing number of standoff situations, it is imperative to be prepared with adequate technology to gain control of these events. The Coda Netgun will allow the Hattiesburg Police Department’s Animal Control Division to humanely capture animals. The Coda Netgun is a tool used to immobilize an animal without causing harm, by projecting a net over the animal. The balance of the items not covered by grant funds will come from the city’s general fund.

The Forrest County Sheriff’s Department is currently seeking to update its existing capabilities through the upgrading of current equipment by expanding the vehicle pool with the purchase of an SUV police cruiser and the acquisition of graphic software. The goal is to specifically increase the capabilities and effectiveness of Forrest County Sheriff’s Investigative Department. The purchase of an additional police cruiser will further improve the ability of Forrest County to meet the needs of its officers and victims, along with improving community relations and policing for county residents. While Forrest County is currently researching graphic software options, the goal is to acquire software that will allow for the virtual depiction of crime scenes and aid in attaining NIBRS compliance. The balance of the cost of the items not covered by grant funds will come from the county’s general fund.

The following project identifiers are associated with the proposed project activities: Computer Software/Hardware, Conflict Resolution, Crime Laboratory, Crime Prevention, Equipment – Tactical, Policing, and Vehicles – Police (SUV).

Project Design and Implementation

The Hattiesburg Police Department guides its priorities and funding strategy through an evaluation of the needs of the department. The need that is most pressing is the one that is addressed first, while under the direction of the City of Hattiesburg Mayor and City Council. Forrest County Sheriff’s Department under the direction of the Forrest County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department coordinate priorities during the budget review process and outline long range plans.

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Capabilities and Competencies

The Hattiesburg Police Department works with other local and state agencies on criminal justice and juvenile justice efforts. Forrest County Sheriff's Department has collaborative partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions within the county (City of Hattiesburg and City of Petal) along with agencies such as the 12 Net Narcotics Team, DEA and other law enforcement entities.

Plan for Collecting the Data Required

The City of Hattiesburg Grant Coordinator will gather, track and document the data required for performance measures. This individual will also enter all the data into BJA's Performance Measurement Tool. The City of Hattiesburg Accounting Division will gather the financial information for reporting purposes.