

# **FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant**

## **City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County**

### **Project Narrative**

#### **Description of the Issues**

The City of Hattiesburg is applying on behalf of the City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2021 Local Solicitation. The title of the project is “City of Hattiesburg and Forrest County Byrne JAG Program FY 2021.” 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 two (2) Watch Guard 4RE/VISTA server and camera systems. Acquisition of the Watch Guard 4RE integrated systems will enhance the ability of the police department to provide video evidence for investigations and include the related hardware, software, installation, and technical services. The servers will improve the evidence data storage and retrieval capabilities of the 4RE in-car video system and integrated body-worn cameras. 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 by acquiring a radar speed trailer consisting of a speed limit sign, LED display, solar panels, batteries, GPS receiver, cellular transceiver, and cellular service for remote data retrieval. The radar speed trailer will improve public safety by slowing traffic, and its portability will allow it to be easily moved to different locations to accommodate changing priority areas. 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: Body-Worn Cameras, Computer Software/Hardware, Conflict Resolution, Equipment – Video/Audio, Officer Safety, Policing, Traffic Enforcement.

#### **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.

#### **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

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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.