




BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Sheriff-Coroner
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: October 15, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner (805) 681-4290 
Contact Info: Lieutenant Garrett Te Slaa, (805) 681-4108
SUBJECT: Bureau of Justice Assistance Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2024-25

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Sheriff's Office to submit an application with the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance for the fiscal year 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), for the award period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with an anticipated award of \$105,024; and
- b) Determine that the above recommendations are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the project is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to authorize the Sheriff's Office to apply for an anticipated award of \$105,024 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). If approved, the Sheriff's Office will use the funds for the purposes of maintaining, training, and equipping the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad (Squad).

This JAG project will positively impact our local communities by providing updated equipment for the Squad.

If the grant is awarded, the Sheriff's Office will return to the Board with the completed grant application, grant conditions, a budget revision, a Certifications and Assurances form signed by the Chief Executive of the Applicant Government, and associated Interlocal Memorandums of Understanding with local allied agencies for review and acceptance of the grant.

Background:

Santa Barbara County has received JAG funds for more than 25 years. The Local JAG program is a formula grant that is awarded to local governments, and administered by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The JAG grant supports a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and enhance the justice system. The allocation formula favors high density municipalities, which is corrected by the use of a "disparate funding" provision. Within the proposed FY 2024 funding, the cities of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, and the County of Santa Barbara were identified as a disparate jurisdiction, requiring a joint application between the three entities. The cities of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria have agreed to enter into an MOU with the County of Santa Barbara and submit a joint "disparate" application. In addition, the City of Lompoc has agreed to pool its allotted JAG funding and join the single JAG application for the entirety of Santa Barbara County.

The County Law Enforcement Chiefs (CLEC) historically worked together to develop the allocation plan for the JAG funds, as well as other grants and asset forfeiture revenue. In 2024, CLEC member agencies affirmed their commitment to the Squad and agreed to a JAG funding allocation plan that will assist in continuing the operation of the Squad by purchasing and updating equipment during FYs 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. In essence, the proposed JAG funds will be administered by the Sheriff's Office, which will utilize the funds for maintaining, training, and equipping the Squad. The Sheriff's Office has agreed to submit the sole JAG application for Santa Barbara County and will be responsible for completing reporting requirements mandated by the grant administrator (DOJ – OJP/BJA).

The Squad is Santa Barbara County's only public safety bomb squad. The Squad was formed in 1971, in response to domestic bombings that were occurring around the country. The Squad is responsible for the safe disposal of actual or suspected explosive devices, deteriorated explosives, illegal fireworks, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and military ordnance. The Squad also aids local, state, and federal agencies and assists with dignitary protection of persons coming to the area. The FBI certifies each of the bomb technicians and oversees the national bomb technician program.

The goals of the Squad are to:

1. Investigate, render safe and dispose of suspected hazardous devices, explosives, explosive materials (as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives currently defines) and pyrotechnics ammunition within Santa Barbara County
2. Coordinate investigations with local, State and federal partners
3. Perform diagnostics and render safe procedures in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) events within Santa Barbara County
4. Conduct bomb crime scene investigations
5. Collect and preserve evidence
6. Provide technical support to special operations, dignitary protection and special events

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office will administer the combined JAG funding for the county and all applicable cities within the county, and will serve as the sole point of contact for the DOJ – OJP/BJA grant administrators.

Performance Measures:

The majority of the funds are expected to be used to complete an update to the explosive storage containers that are required in order to safely store the associated volatile chemicals, powders and evidence. This update will allow the Sheriff's Office to maintain compliance with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) mandates for storage of explosives. It is necessary to replace this aging equipment to prevent accidental explosions and to maintain the security of volatile equipment. These containers have stringent federally-mandated standards and are expensive to purchase. The update to our storage containers began during the last fiscal year with funds from previous year's grant awards. Award funds this year will also be utilized to upgrade infrastructure around the storage containers. Without grant funds the Sheriff's Office would not be able to make these purchases out of other revenues.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$105,024		
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 105,024.00	\$ -	\$ -

The maximum grant award amount of \$105,024 represents the requested amount that the Sheriff's Office plans to apply for. If the anticipated award amount is received, the Sheriff's Office will bring a budget revision to the Board to accept the grant funds, which will be used to fund equipment and training purchases.

Key Contract Risks:

The Sheriff's Office has been awarded this funding annually from the U.S. Department of Justice's BJA JAG for multiple years. There is minimal risk to the County.

Staffing Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) Minute Order to Lieutenant Garrett Te Slaa, Sheriff's Office.

Attachments:

None

Authored by: Garrett Te Slaa, Lieutenant. Sheriff's Office (805) 681-4148.