

Attachment A

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION

O-BJA-2022-171368

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Introduction:

The proposed use of the funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program will be to continue operations of the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad within the County of Santa Barbara by obtaining and updating equipment and providing training.

The Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad is the only public safety bomb squad in Santa Barbara County and thus is responsible for responding 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to all bomb squad related calls for service and requests for assistance from any law enforcement or fire agency in Santa Barbara County. The Countywide Bomb Squad responds to suspicious packages/items, suspected bombs and/or improvised explosive devices, bomb threats, dignitary protection-protective sweeps, works as a liaison with Vandenberg Space Force Base EOD unit on the recovery of military munitions and the dissemination of information in the form of public demonstrations and/or displays. In addition, the Countywide Bomb Squad provides assistance to tactical teams with various law enforcement agencies within Santa Barbara County as well as providing technical assistance and mechanical assistance to all fire agencies within Santa Barbara County.

The Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad works under the supervision and guidance of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), who oversees the Public Safety Bomb Technician program across the country. The FBI sets minimum standards for training and equipment and the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad must and currently meets those standards in order to maintain its certification as a Public Safety Bomb Squad in the United States.

As part of the proposed project, JAG Funds will be used to pay for the acquisition, support and maintenance/upgrades of critical equipment used by the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad while participating in, or otherwise supporting Bomb Squad operations. In addition, the funding will be used for training personnel to become bomb technicians. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office will administer the JAG funding and will serve as the sole point of contact for the DOJ grant administrators.

Project Identifiers:

Counter terrorism, equipment – general, hazardous material safety and terrorism preparedness.

Description of issues:

Santa Barbara County is a diverse medium-sized county, located in southern California and bordered by Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. Santa Barbara County has two major population centers at opposite ends of the county, the greater Santa Barbara area (south) and the Santa Maria Valley (north), along with smaller population centers within the central county area (Lompoc and Santa Ynez valleys). The City of Santa Maria is the

largest and fastest growing incorporated city within Santa Barbara County, with an estimated population just over 102,000. The Santa Barbara and Santa Maria population centers are separated by approximately 70 miles, and have significant socio-economic differences. As a result of the 2008 economic downturn and its lasting effects upon government funding, Santa Barbara County law enforcement agencies have downsized significantly. In order to minimize the extent of cuts to core law enforcement services within our communities (i.e. patrol), the most severe cuts occurred within law enforcement specialty assignments and investigative units. The Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad is one of those specialty units and a function of the Sheriff's Office. Due to the size of the county, it is necessary to equip two bomb squad response vehicles, one strategically placed in the north portion of the county and one strategically placed in the south portion of the county, so that response times can be minimized and dangerous or hazardous conditions mitigated. Equipping these two response vehicles have become more challenging as local funding has become increasingly difficult to obtain. Local JAG funding will enable the continued operation of the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad.

Project Design and Implementation:

Should JAG funding be authorized, the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad would use the funds as outlined below:

- The bomb squad currently has seven certified bomb technicians. We equip them with various pieces of equipment, to include full bomb suits. The bomb suits will protect the technician while they approach an unknown or dangerous package to complete render safe procedures. We would purchase one suit as they have a ten

year shelf life, per the manufacturer. Some of our current suits are outdated and we are obtaining bomb suits in a cyclical time frame to reduce the cost at any one time.

- The bomb squad currently conducts reconnaissance of unknown or dangerous packages. Some of these operations can have numerous packages and be in remote locations. We would purchase a portable xray system to be able to more safely and easily render these items safe.
- We would purchase a hand held chemical analyzer to assist the bomb technician in identifying unknown chemicals and powder that are part of an investigation. This equipment would provide the ability for dismounted bomb squad activities to support more tactical deployments. We currently have limited equipment that is assembled for this specific purpose. This will provide a safer environment for our bomb technicians, as well as our tactical teams to work in.

Capabilities and competencies:

The Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad is the only public safety bomb squad operating in the County of Santa Barbara. The Countywide Bomb Squad is staffed by six sworn law enforcement officers from the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office and one sworn law enforcement officer from the Santa Barbara Police Department. The Countywide Bomb Squad is accredited and certified by the FBI, who oversees the Public Safety Bomb Squad Program across the United States and who runs the Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama. This school is the only public safety bomb technician school in the United States and it is where all Public Safety Bomb Technicians get certified. The

Countywide Bomb Squad is managed by a Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Lieutenant and run by a Santa Barbara county Sheriff's Sergeant. The Bomb Squad Sergeant has been a member of the team for over 7 years and is designated as the spokesperson for the Countywide Bomb Squad on a national level. The Sergeant is also on an FBI Bomb Squad Task Force and has attended numerous bomb squad related trainings, exercises and conferences as a member of the Bomb Squad. The Countywide bomb squad responds to all areas within the county to assist all law enforcement agencies who request assistance with a bomb squad or hazardous devices situation. There is no fee involved to any agency in Santa Barbara County who requests the assistance of the Countywide bomb squad.

Use of funding:

The combined FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program funding will be utilized to continue the operation of the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad during County fiscal years 22/23 and through 24/25 (county FY is July to June). The JAG funds will be utilized to pay for the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad's acquisition of new and/or replacement equipment, upgrading / improvement of existing bomb squad equipment and training of personnel as bomb technicians.

The funding will be allocated as follows:

Fiscal Year 2022-2025 Local JAG Revenue Allocations:

- Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office \$113,363.00

- The Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office will utilize these JAG funds to pay for the Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad’s acquisition of new and/or replacement equipment and the upgrading / maintenance of existing bomb squad equipment and training for bomb squad personnel.

- **Source of funding allocation:**
 - Santa Barbara County: \$17,535
 - Santa Barbara City \$30,775
 - Santa Maria City \$45,933
 - Lompoc City \$19,120
 - TOTAL \$113,363

Data Collection and Reporting:

The Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office will insure that all Department of Justice required data collection and reporting will occur in a timely manner. To accomplish this, the Sheriff’s Office will assign an appropriately trained Sheriff’s manager to oversee the Local JAG project. In addition to insuring that all required reporting is accomplished in a timely manner, the Sheriff’s manager will also insure that all JAG grant, Department of Justice and OMB grant rules are adhered to.

The assigned Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad supervisor and Administrative Office Professional both have experience in collecting the information that is necessary to

accomplish the required JAG reporting. The Santa Barbara Countywide Bomb Squad will report all expenditures used to acquire, support, maintain or purchase new or replacement equipment to be used in support of the Countywide Bomb Squad. These data collection instruments can be modified to add or remove data collection points as necessary to ensure compliance with JAG Program requirements. The Countywide Bomb Squad supervisor and Administrative Office Professional will be responsible for collecting and collating the Countywide Bomb Squads generated activity data. The Countywide Bomb Squad supervisor will coordinate with the assigned Sheriff's Manager to insure the JAG programmatic reporting is completed in a timely manner, consistent with the requirements of the JAG program and the BJA "PMT" reporting tool.

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office will also insure that all Department of Justice required financial data collection and reporting will occur in a timely manner. To accomplish this, the Sheriff's Office will assign an appropriately trained Sheriff's Accountant to oversee the financial requirements of the Local JAG project. In addition to insuring that all required financial reporting is accomplished in a timely manner, the Sheriff's Accountant will assist the Sheriff's manager in insuring that all JAG grant, Department of Justice and OMB grant rules are adhered to.