



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Suzanne Sherman, City Manager

THRU: Mariano Augello, Chief of Police

DATE: October 17, 2024

RE: Consideration of submitting an application for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for Police Department equipment and software (\$30,546).

SUMMARY:

On September 4, 2024, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), within the Office of Justice Programs, opened the application process for the BJA FY 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program – Local Solicitation providing funding from the U.S. Department of Justice. The BJA JAG Program is designed to provide local governments, such as the City of Palm Bay, with additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice. The City of Palm Bay Police Department is a FY 2024 Local Allocation eligible recipient up to the amount of \$30,546.

The FY 2024 JAG program encourages law enforcement agencies to implement programs to mitigate the current crisis in law enforcement recruitment and retention. In line with this focus, the Palm Bay Police Department would be requesting to utilize \$15,000 of this grant allocation towards implementing the use of a cloud-based recruiting and background investigation software. These types of software programs would bring an enhanced vetting process to the Police Department and help produce the highest quality of candidates to serve the citizens of Palm Bay. Through the ability to quickly identify and vet potential candidates, the Police Department will be able to increase their recruiting efforts and prevent delays in on-boarding processes that are currently handled manually by the two current full time background investigators. The software will result in a future budget request to continue funding the software after the grant funding has been exhausted.

Another use for the FY2024 JAG funding would be used to purchase humane remote restraint devices that enable law enforcement to restrain an uncooperative subject without inflicting pain. Continuing a previous program implemented within the FY21 JAG grant, the Police Department will seek to purchase ten of THE WRAP Safety Restraint systems which allow law enforcement professionals to quickly gain the control needed to de-escalate potentially volatile scenes with a

less lethal option. The WRAP Safety Restraint systems were tested and evaluated by the Police Department during which time they were providing to be an invaluable tool for Patrol Officers as a non-lethal option for dealing with non-compliant individuals. The purchase would bring the total number of units for the department to sixteen (16) which would allow for one to be assigned to each Patrol squad across all four districts and four shifts. The Police Department will be requesting to utilize the remainder of the allocation, \$15,546, to procure these systems.

The funding cycle for the FY 2024 JAG program is October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2027.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Police

FISCAL IMPACT:

The anticipated fiscal impact in FY 2025 is a revenue of \$30,456 in General Fund Account #001-0000-331-2005 for the reimbursement of the recruiting and background investigation software and purchase of the less lethal restraints that were not previously budgeted within G/L Account# 001-5011-521-5403 (\$15,000) and G/L# 001-5011-521-5206 (\$15,0460). Any overage for the purchase due to inflation will be funded from within the Police Department's FY 2025 operating budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve the application for the BJA FY 2024 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) – Local Solicitation, and authorize the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to sign the FY 2024 Local JAG CE Certification form which is required to be included in the application submission.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City of Palm Bay FY 2024 JAG Program Narrative October 2024
2. City of Palm Bay FY 2024 JAG Budget and Narrative October 2024
3. FY24 JAG Local Allocations for Florida
4. Local JAG CE Certification