

# **CITY OF PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant (JAG) Program Local Solicitation**

### **Opportunity ID# O-BJA-2024-172239**

#### **Non-Lethal Law Enforcement Equipment and Enhanced Background Investigations Project Narratives**

The City of Palm Bay Police Department continually strives to find new or alternative law enforcement equipment options including for areas pertaining to de-escalation and non-lethal. One of the additional uses of JAG Funds within the FY2024 JAG grant solicitation, is for the purchase of humane remote restraint devices that enable law enforcement to restrain an uncooperative subject without inflicting pain. This request is to utilize JAG funding to procure ten (10) units of "The WRAP" Safety Restraint system. The implementation of the "The WRAP" Safety Restraints will significantly enhance public safety measures with a humane, non-lethal tool when dealing with an aggressive subject. The main goal of incorporating "The WRAP" Safety Restraint is to offer a secure and efficient way of controlling and restraining individuals while reducing the risk of injury to both the officers and the individuals involved. This system will contribute to the professionalism and effectiveness of our patrol officers while ensuring the safety and well-being of the communities we serve. Funding was approved through the FY2021 JAG grant to purchase an initial amount of six units that are being utilized in the Uniform Services (Patrol) Division. The FY2024 JAG funding will be utilized to procure an additional ten (10) units to allow each of the sixteen (16) patrol squads to be assigned a unit. The collection of data for this portion of the 2024 JAG program will include the number of WRAP systems purchased along with the name of the officer/supervisor being issued the equipment for use on patrol.

Another approved use of the FY2024 JAG funds is for efforts to mitigate the current crisis in law enforcement recruitment and retention. The City of Palm Bay Police Department is currently experiencing over two dozen vacancies for sworn law enforcement positions. The exhaustive background process to identify and evaluate potential candidates is manually handled by two full time background investigators, one of which also serves as the primary recruiter for sworn law enforcement positions. The funding from the FY2024 JAG grant will be utilized to procure a cloud-based background investigations software that will allow the process to be modernize and the evaluation of candidates to be speed up significantly. This enhanced background investigations program would then allow the Investigators to focus their efforts towards identifying the highest quality candidates and proactively recruiting and retaining an inclusive, diverse, expert, and accountable law enforcement workforce that reflects the community it serves. The collection of data for this portion of the 2024 JAG program will include the number of background investigations the software is able to assist with and the number of successful candidates that are on-boarded during the grant period.