



TO: John McDonough, City Manager

FROM: Eden Freeman, Assistant City Manager

DATE: May 29, 2014 for submission on the Agenda of the June 3, 2014 City Council Meeting

ITEM: Consideration of Approval of Application for Allocation under FY2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Grant Program.

Background

The Byrne JAG Grant Program provides funding to support all components of the criminal justice system, ranging from multijurisdictional task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. Awards are available both directly from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) (if the applicant is eligible to receive more than \$10,000) or through the State Administrative Agency (SAA) appointed by the Governor.

The FY14 award marks the fourth direct award to the City from BJA. Allocation amounts are determined by a formula based equally on the population and part one crime statistics within a jurisdiction. For FY14, the City's total allocated award is \$16,499, an increase of \$1,115 over the FY13 award of \$15,384.

The solicitation requires that the application be made available for review by the applicant's governing body (City Council) no less than 30 days before the submission of the application and that the public have an opportunity to comment on the proposed use of the funds. Funds can only be used to directly benefit the jurisdiction in which the applicant is based.

Discussion

For the FY2014 Byrne JAG Local Allocation, the City proposes to utilize our allocation (\$16,499) to purchase four (4) mobile hand-held radios for use by the Sandy Springs Police Department. This will help the Department meet the FCC's January 2014 compliance requirement. This proposed use of our FY2014 Byrne JAG allocation is in direct support of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's stated program area of "law enforcement programs."

*City
Manager*

Alternatives

Council could choose not to authorize the submission of this application. However, if this is the outcome, the City will forfeit the direct allocation of funds and perhaps endanger any future awards under this program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval and submission of the application.

Attachment

1. Application

City of Sandy Springs, Georgia
P25 Compliant, Interoperability Radio Project

2. Project Abstract

With all of the successes experienced by Sandy Springs since incorporation, there remain areas of need to improved public safety communications. For the FY2014 Byrne JAG Local Allocation, the City proposes to utilize its allocation (**\$16,499**) to purchase four (4) hand-held radios for use by the Sandy Springs Police Department (Department). These radios will be utilized as part of the newly designed North Fulton Regional Radio System. The radios will aid the Department in reaching the FCC's January 2017 Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) compliance deadline, as well as improve communications and interoperability between the City and neighboring jurisdictions. The radios will be integrated into current policing protocols, which are under the supervision of the Chief of Police. Officers will be trained to operate the equipment properly.

3. Program Narrative

Home to 99,770 residents (US Census Estimates, 2013), the City of Sandy Springs is the second-largest city in metro Atlanta and the sixth largest city in the State of Georgia. Sandy Springs is a diverse community, with a population that is 65% White, 20% Black and 14% Hispanic. The daytime population swells to over 200,000 due to the concentration of major companies and businesses headquartered in Sandy Springs, including Newell Rubbermaid, UPS, First Data, AirWatch and Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), the owners of the New York Stock Exchange.

Charged to serve and protect the City's residents and visitors, the Sandy Springs Police Department is comprised of 127 sworn police officers. It is a small, streamlined full-service organization with only 13.1 officers for every 10,000 residents, compared to the national average of 17 officers per 10,000 residents (2012 Uniformed Crime Report Statistics, FBI). Public Safety is a top priority for the Mayor and City Council. While the City has been able to outfit its officers with the appropriate gear and equipment, the Department has struggled with its dependence on Fulton County's public safety communications system. Currently, the communication capability of Sandy Springs, as well other neighboring cities in North Fulton, is tied to the abilities of Fulton County's public safety communications system, which is a hybrid digital and analog system that is not P25 compliant. This system is antiquated and has outlived its useful life-span, as Motorola no longer makes replacement parts. When the system breaks, Fulton County resorts to used equipment retailers to find the necessary components.

In addition, radio coverage of the current system in North Fulton County is less than ideal. Complete outages occur on a monthly basis, and usually last 5-6 hours. On a weekly basis, transmissions are lost due to interference. These radio outages and lost transmissions occur because of bad channels, bad control boards, and other system-wide failures that do not allow the system to function as it should.

A failing radio system coupled with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) January 1, 2017 deadline of being P25, Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) compliant, provided the necessary catalyst for the City and our neighboring North Fulton municipalities to create the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (NFRRA). The NFRRA, as authorized by state statute in 2013, is poised to build a new, P25 compliant digital radio system within the next two years.

For the FY2014 Byrne JAG Allocation, the City proposes to use its allocation (\$16,499) to purchase four (4) mobile, handheld radios for the Sandy Springs Police Department. The new radios, as part of the larger NFRRA radio system, will create a narrowband two-way radio system that:

- Offers increased voice and data functionality,
- Improves voice quality over extended areas of coverage,
- Provides secure communication,
- Allows for equipment migration, and
- Ensures interoperability.

Unlike a trunked channel system, TDMA compliant radios ensure that sufficient space is available for multiple users on a system, removing the requirement to upgrade to more channels as usage increases. This allows public safety communications users to take advantage of more efficient technology, while simultaneously reaping the cost efficiency benefits.

When Sandy Springs is supplied with new TDMA compliant digital radios, its ability to communicate, coordinate, and share resources (on a system that is unhampered by the current outages) will be operational on two fronts:

1. Communication will be possible between first responders in North Fulton County.
2. Communication will be possible between the first responders in North Fulton County and numerous jurisdictions in the Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The requested radios are in compliance with the *FY 2014 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants*, and will adhere to the technical standards set forth in the FCC Waiver Order.

The purpose of this project is to enhance emergency communications and interoperability between Sandy Springs and neighboring jurisdictions. The purchased radios will be integrated into current policing protocols, which are under the supervision of the Chief of Police. Officers will be trained to operate the equipment properly.

If approved, the City of Sandy Springs proposes to purchase and install the handheld, mobile radios within the second year of this grant award. The total cost of the equipment is approximately \$17,724. This cost has not been budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year. As such, the City intends to cover costs above the BJA allocation of \$16,499 through the Police Department forfeiture funds.

Sandy Springs is not located in a disparate jurisdiction; therefore, coordination with other local governments in the submission of this application is not required.

4. Budget and Budget Narrative

Cost Category and Description	Amount
Personnel <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0
Fringe Benefits <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0
Travel <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0
Equipment For the FY2014 Byrne JAG Local Allocation, the City proposes to utilize its allocation (\$16,499) to purchase four (4) mobile, handheld radios for the Sandy Springs police officers. The radios will improve emergency communications for officers within the City, as well as surrounding jurisdictions. This amount is only an estimate and the final cost may be higher. Expenses beyond the BJA award allocation would be covered from City funds through forfeiture funds.	\$ 17,724.00
Supplies <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0
Consultants/Contracts <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0
Other <i>No funds are requested in this category.</i>	\$ 0

The cost per radio is \$4,431 for an ASTRO 25 APX6500 digital mobile radio. The cost includes training by the vendor on how to set up and operate the equipment.

The City is requesting no administrative funds. It is anticipated the bids for the purchase of this equipment will be above the amount awarded. As such, the City will cover any cost difference through the use of forfeiture funds. As this project has not been funded in the City budget, City funds will not be supplanted to support this project.

5. Review Narrative

The City of Sandy Springs made this application available for review by the governing body, the Mayor and City Council, and the general public on Friday, May 30, 2014. The application is posted on the City’s website at www.sandyspringsga.gov. A public hearing on this application was held during the Council’s regular Council meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:00 PM. A certified copy of the meeting minutes, including public

comment is attached under “Additional Attachments” to this application. The section relevant to the Byrne JAG Public Hearing and Review by the Governing Body begins on page ____ of the Summary Minutes.

6. Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications

The City of Sandy Springs, Georgia has no pending applications for federally funded assistance for the proposed project and cost items included in the Budget and Budget Narrative.