

## Abstract

The Bloomington Police Department and Monroe County Sheriff's Office are disparate law enforcement agencies applying jointly for Recovery JAG Funds for specific objectives related to improved police services to the citizens of the City of Bloomington and of Monroe County, Indiana.

This project has been identified as the *2009 JAG Mobile Data Upgrade and Vehicle Replacement Project*.

Overall, this program seeks to upgrade an existing Mobile Data Terminal system for the Bloomington Police Department through the purchase of new laptop computers and related equipment. This upgrade will replace existing equipment in eighteen (18) police vehicles and fully equip three (3) additional vehicles and three (3) Motorcycle Units recently put into service. Two (2) handheld MDT units will be used for a proposed Downtown District where non-traditional patrol methods will be utilized. In addition to the equipment upgrade and replacement, a new software program known as Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) and MapTrak will be purchased to provide enhanced efficiency in the dispatching of calls for service. This software program automatically selects the police vehicle closest to the call being dispatched and will improve officer safety due to the ability to visually monitor the location of officers on patrol. Two (2) computer servers will allow for a change in operating systems from the two currently in use with the present MDT system. This change to one operating system will provide greater functionality and interface between Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), the MDT system and the proposed AVL and MapTrak options. Further, this change will allow future expansion to take place for such things as other GIS options.

Another component of this program involves the purchase of two (2) new 2010 Ford Fusions for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. These vehicles will also require the purchase of a police radio and related emergency equipment so that they may be put into service as fully-functioning patrol vehicles. Currently, the fleet of thirty (30) police units has an average of 117,000 with one vehicle having 196,800 miles. These vehicles will offer better reliability and provide additional officer safety for those officers providing police services within Monroe County, Indiana.

## Justice Assistance Grant Program Narrative

This grant application is being submitted for purposes of meeting specific law enforcement objectives within Monroe County, Indiana. Grant applicants are disparate organizations comprised of the two largest law enforcement agencies within Monroe County in terms of calls for service, personnel and area of jurisdictional responsibility. The Bloomington Police Department provides police services within the jurisdiction of the City of Bloomington which is the county seat of Monroe County. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office provides police services throughout Monroe County, Indiana. The total grant application is for \$209,379.00.

The Bloomington Police Department seeks grant funds to upgrade an existing Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) system currently available in patrol cars. Mobile Data Terminals allow officers to make inquiries from a laptop computer in their vehicles on driver's license information, vehicle license plate information, stolen vehicles and other property, and receive information on dispatched calls for service. While upgrading the current system with grant funds, additional police units will be outfitted with the MDT system to cover all patrol vehicles currently in operation by the Department. In addition, police motorcycles acquired and put into service will be added to the system.

Specifically, The Bloomington Police Department seeks funding in the amount of \$172,341.00 to outfit twenty-one (21) police vehicles, three (3) Motorcycle Units and provide two (2) handheld MDT units. Within the figure provided for police vehicles are three (3) that require complete outfitting with this new equipment. Of those three, two have been designated as Canine Units (a program recently implemented by the Department) and one is a Mobile Command Unit that responds to incidents as part of a multi-jurisdictional Emergency Response Team. The two handheld MDT units are requested as part of a plan for a future Downtown District where officers will utilize non-traditional patrol methods.

The figure provided is for new laptop computers, power supplies, radio modems, software licenses, AVL device (AVL system explained below), printers, computer servers (see below), mounting equipment required and installation of all equipment.

In an effort to further upgrade the overall system, an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system and MapTrak capability will be added. The AVL system provides a Dispatcher with the police vehicle that is closest to the call for service being dispatched and indicates which closest police unit should be sent to the call. The MapTrak system allows officers to monitor the location of all officers working via their laptop computer. This feature has an obvious benefit to overall officer safety. It can, also, provide officers with routing information to a call for service through the GPS feature included with the AVL system. Also, the routing information provided to an officer can include street closings or other obstacles that would interfere with an officer's chosen route to a call. The two (2) computer servers included will be for migrating the current dispatching system from a Linux operating system to a Windows-based operating system. This change will bring the system in line with current industry standards offering more functionality for the system interface between Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), the MDT system and the proposed AVL and MapTrak options requested as part of this grant. It will allow for future expansion for other GIS options and in becoming the ESRI standard from server to workstation to MDT.

The request for funds incorporates many objectives of the Recovery JAG initiative by seeking to improve technology for law enforcement and allows for the purchase, installation and maintenance of the aforementioned equipment from vendors who are small business people which, therefore, preserves local jobs. The communication industry within Monroe County and surrounding counties is composed of mostly small, local

businesses. These small businesses have suffered from the recent economic downturn like most other businesses in the past few years. This past December the City of Bloomington Police Department issued a Request for Proposal to these local small businesses to service the Department's communication systems. Because of the economic difficulties these small businesses have been facing, the bids received by the Department were significantly lower than in past years—a trend which the Department believes will continue in the coming years. The lower bids are not the result of cheaper materials, but rather the need for these local businesses to obtain the Department's services at virtually any cost. It is the belief of this Department that the expenditure of \$172,341.00 on communication equipment will greatly strengthen the financial stability of Bloomington's locally owned and operated equipment vendors.

In addition to hopefully providing financial support to our local businesses, the Department also believes it will be able to save fuel and wear and tear on Department vehicles. With a heightened response time, and the ability to take the path of least resistance, the Department believes the vehicles will use less fuel and allow the vehicles to be used for a longer period of time. The Department will be able to measure the effectiveness of the new equipment, by tracking response times and fuel usage.

This proposal also promotes future environmental protection through a more efficient response to calls for service and increased functionality of the Motorcycle Units that are, inherently, more fuel efficient. This upgrade is not possible through the regular budgeting process due to the high cost of the equipment and software needed.

Equipment that is readily available for this upgrade, and the basic backbone already in place by the Department, ensures that the transition and implementation can occur quickly. It is estimated that all equipment can be purchased and installed within sixty (60) days upon receipt of the grant funding.

This upgrade and expansion to the current MDT system utilized by the Bloomington Police Department will enhance public safety for the community. All police vehicles will have access to the same technology which is beneficial to the officers and the City of Bloomington when the overall capability of the MDT system is considered as listed above. The opportunity for a more efficient response to calls for service through the AVL and MapTrak function can enhance officer safety and reduce the use of fossil fuel and the accompanying expenditures for fuel costs.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is seeking funds to replace two (2) police vehicles that have high mileage that would be more difficult to replace through normal budgeting procedures. In fact, vehicle replacement for this year has been suspended altogether due to the economic crisis and ongoing cuts from the 2009 budget.

The current fleet of police vehicles consists of thirty (30) units with an average of 117,000 miles and one vehicle with 196,800 miles.

Specifically, the request is to purchase two (2) 2010 Ford Fusions and equip those new vehicles with a police radio and other emergency lighting and equipment necessary to make it a functioning police vehicle. The amount being sought is \$37,038.00.

The purchase of these vehicles will assist the agency in providing continued police services to county residents and much safer vehicles for the officers who provide those services. The purchase of two new American Ford vehicles has a direct and positive impact on the depressed automotive industry. It should have a specific and direct impact on the Indiana automotive industry. The State of Indiana has a sizeable automotive industry; said industry is suffering greatly in the lack of new vehicles being purchased by the American public. The Department's purchase of two new vehicles will hopefully be one small step in this country's goal of helping to reestablish its longstanding and venerable automotive industry; hopefully, an even larger impact on those automotive manufacturing plants located within our own State.

In addition to helping to stimulate the distressed American automotive industry, the Department also believes the new vehicles will be more fuel efficient than what the Department currently utilizes. With vehicles that are more fuel efficient, the Department will obviously utilize less fuel. The Department will be able to measure the effectiveness of the new vehicles by tracking fuel usage.

Funds from the JAG Grant will be deposited into a separate revenue account established specifically and solely for the 2009 JAG Grant funds. Expenditures will be made from expense lines coded specifically for the 2009 JAG grant funds and will be paid separate from any other departmental purchases. Accounting reports will be available at any time via the Oracle Financials software. All revenues and expenses will also be documented in an Excel spreadsheet which is stored on a network server and backed up nightly. Excel files will also be copied to removable media which will be kept in a file with all other JAG Grant documents, ensuring no loss of information and that information is quickly accessible and easily interpreted by multiple employees.

#### Review Narrative

The City of Bloomington Police Department provided its local governing body, the City of Bloomington Common Council, with a copy of its fully completed Justice Assistance Grant Program Application on Friday, April 17, 2009; thirty-two (32) days prior to the May 18<sup>th</sup> application deadline. In addition the City of Bloomington Police Department published a copy of its fully completed application on the City of Bloomington's official website; said application was posted on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. A copy of the required Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bloomington Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department was provided to both the City of Bloomington Common Council and the public.