



City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: APRIL 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorize the Department to Submit a Joint Application for the 2009
Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

Report in Brief

The Woodland Police Department, in its diligent efforts to identify and pursue other avenues for funding, seeks to submit a joint application along with the County of Yolo and the Cities of Davis and West Sacramento for the 2009 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program. The program would award the City of Woodland, via the Police Department, up to \$67,197 in grant funds. The Department plans to utilize these funds to support its Crime Prevention Program in order to mitigate the impact of one of the proposed FY 2010 reduction options. If approved and funded, the Byrne Justice Grant would help to maintain the Crime Prevention Program and its two full-time positions.

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize submission of a joint application and authorize the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding among the joint applicants, specifying the purposes for which the eligible allocations will be used as described herein.

Background

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). The stated purposes of the Recovery Act are: to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery; to assist those most impacted by the recession; to provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health; to invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; and to stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive State and local tax increases.

The JAG Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG Program funds can be used for a variety of efforts such as hiring law enforcement officers; supporting drug and gang task forces; funding crime prevention and domestic violence programs; and supporting courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives.

The City of Woodland has been specified by the JAG Program as a disparate jurisdiction, thereby necessitating the joint application for the City's grant allocation. A disparate allocation occurs when a city or municipality is scheduled to receive one and one-half times (150 percent) more than a county with concurrent jurisdiction, while that county bears more than 50 percent of the costs associated with prosecution or incarceration of the municipality's Part 1 violent crime. Multiple disparate allocations occur when multiple cities or municipalities are collectively eligible to receive four times (400 percent) more than the county. The disparate allocations for the joint applicants are listed in the table below:

Jurisdiction Name	Eligible Individual Allocation
County of Yolo	\$ 15,373
City of Davis	\$ 96,675
City of West Sacramento	\$183,841
City of Woodland	\$ 67,197
Total Eligible Joint Allocation	\$363,086

The Department proposes using its grant allocation to help fund the Crime Prevention Program. The City's current budget reduction options include program's complete elimination which would result in the layoff of two full-time positions. The grant allocation would equal an estimated 41% of the personnel costs for this program for FY10. The Department sees this as a foundational strategy in order to save these positions. Other strategies include organizational restructuring that may occur through the retirement incentives offered in response to City Council, employee and public comments on March 31. Equally important, this funding would enable the Department to continue some of its crime prevention efforts.

Discussion

Past JAG program funding allocations have been waived by the City for use by the County in its vertical prosecutions of major narcotics cases (specifically through the work of YONET in which the Police Department is an active participant). This waiver has proven to be more cost-effective for all the concerned cities given the relatively small amount (FY07 Woodland share: \$25,541); the funds were used more effectively by the County compared to having each city manage its own share.

This allocation made possible by the 2009 Recovery Act is more significant and bears consideration by each jurisdiction for individual management but with a common stated goal. The Department's Crime Prevention Program, staffed with two Crime Prevention Specialists, coordinates activities for the nearly 200 neighborhood watch groups in the City. In 2008, there were 42 meetings for new or renewed neighborhood watch groups. Program staff distributed more than 1,200 crime prevention brochures at more than 144 community meetings/events. Staff provided instruction, inspections, and car seats (as needed) to 139 residents. They also reviewed more than 115 development applications for design and security measures and reviewed 25 alcoholic beverage licenses. Program staff

oversees the Department chaplains and volunteers. The chaplains responded to 55 “call-outs” and the volunteers provided more than 535 volunteer hours.

Reductions in this program would significantly reduce the Department’s proactive efforts in preventing crime and would negatively impact its most visible and effective efforts in building and maintaining relationships with the City’s residents. This grant allocation would help bolster the funding needed for some of the personnel costs, thereby salvaging some semblance of its crime prevention efforts.

Fiscal Impact

The City is eligible to receive up to \$67,197 through the JAG program. The Department proposes use of this allocation to fund the Crime Prevention Program (specifically towards personnel costs). This is a one-time grant award and may be used for up to three years, should the Department or the City decide to use it for other purposes.

Public Contact

This item was included in the posting of the City Council agenda. This item was also posted in the Department’s website for public review.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize submission of a joint application and authorize the City Manager to sign a memorandum of understanding among the joint applicants, specifying the purposes for which the eligible allocations will be used as described herein.

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