


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A FEDERAL STIMULUS (ARRA) GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS IN THE COURT SERVICE UNIT, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF

ISSUE: Consideration of a federal stimulus (ARRA) grant application for funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program for public safety projects in the Court Service Unit, the Police Department and the Office of Sheriff.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize staff to:

- (1) Submit a grant application (due May 18, 2009) to the United States Department of Justice for \$323,939 in federal stimulus funding under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program for the attached list of public safety projects;
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The City of Alexandria has been allocated \$323,939 in federal stimulus funding under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for public safety projects. No City match is required. The funds are proposed to support projects and activities managed by the Court Service Unit, the Police Department, and the Sheriff's Office, as detailed in the attached chart.

The grant guidance was released on March 6, 2009. Applications are due on May 18, 2009. The JAG program requires the City to make its grant application available for review by its governing body not fewer than 30 days before the application is submitted. We are submitting this docket memorandum with the planned grant expenditures to Council to fulfill this requirement. The actual application must be submitted electronically.

DISCUSSION: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) is administered by the United States Department of Justice. Stimulus funding is available to

local jurisdictions under this program for activities and projects that will prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system. Funds from this program can be used for technical assistance, training personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice. Funds may also be used to support security enhancements or equipment for criminal justice or public safety agencies.

The City's Stimulus Public Safety Work Group, made up of representatives from the Police and Fire Departments, the Court Services Unit, and the Office on Women, has reviewed a series of projects that were submitted by these departments for possible ARRA funding. The Work Group has developed a list of 14 recommended projects that it believes meet significant City needs, addresses the goals of ARRA, particularly in terms of providing jobs, and is consistent with the requirements of the JAG grant program.

Eight of these projects involve improvements to the Court House, in large part to address security concerns that were identified in a security audit requested by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court.

Projects for the Police Department include the acquisition of a Firearms Diagnostic Unit for firearms training; a Fingerprint Vacuum Chamber for recovering latent prints; a (computer) server used for crime data that is needed to replace one that is nearing capacity; and Tactical Ballistic Blankets that will provide protection against handgun and rifle fire to police officers in high risk situations. Two of the projects will require the services of contractors for installation, testing, maintenance.

Two projects will be implemented by the Court Services Unit. The first of these will provide funding for the Seaport Foundation to initiate (1) a new "green" math curriculum program for vocational and technical math, and (2) an educational program to enhance math and computer technology skills. Both of the Seaport Foundation projects will make youths who participate in them more employable. The Court Services Unit is also seeking funding to hire a contractor who will be responsible for creating a structure to better organize its existing Mentoring Partnership Program. When the contractor's work is completed, the structure will allow a part-time volunteer to coordinate the Mentoring Partnership Program.

Additional detail on each of these projects is provided in the attachment to this memorandum.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost estimates for the proposals of the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, and the Court Services Unit total \$323,939. This grant requires no City match.

The proposed court house and Police Department projects are expected to be completed within 180 days of the grant award. Court Service Unit projects will likely continue throughout the two year term of the grant.

ATTACHMENT: ARRA Public Safety Group Proposal Listing, JAG Local Government Solicitation, City Allocation: \$323,939

STAFF:

David P. Baker, Police Chief
Lisa Baker, Director, Office on Women
Lillian Brooks, Director, Juvenile and Domestic Relations, Court Services Unit
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director
Dana Lawhorne, Sheriff
Adam K. Thiel, Fire Chief
George Delimba, Department of General Service
Claire Dunn, Office on Women
Lenny George, Deputy Chief, Sheriff's Office
Tim Gleeson, Deputy Chief, Sheriff's Office
Brian Grenadier, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office
James Lynch, Fire Department
Ryan Touhill, Office of Management and Budget

Attachment A

**ARRA Public Safety Group
Proposal Listing
JAG Local Government Solicitation
City Allocation: \$323,939**

No.	Proposal Title	City Dept.	Proposal Description	Amount	Sub-Totals	Stimulus Effects of the Project
1	Reconfiguration of Courthouse screening post	Sheriff	Removal of current visitors' booth in the Courthouse. Extension of the current Plexiglas barrier that separates ingress and egress. Secure screening area with a waist-high wall. Install bulletproof glass on the new wall from the waist-up to a height of seven feet. Enhance Courthouse security.	\$30,000	\$30,000	ARRA Benefit: Purchase of bullet-resistant panels and storage lockers. Hire contractors to reconfigure the screening post; relocate the welcoming desk; install lockers in the closet area of the screening post.
2	Bulletproof/Resistant Windows	Sheriff	Install bulletproof/resistant windows at all Courthouse first floor windows to protect Judges and staff from potential attack from an outside source	35,489	65,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase of bulletproof/resistant windows. Hire contractors to remove old windows and install the bulletproof windows
3	Firearms Diagnostic Unit (FDU)	Police	This equipment is a stand-alone live fire system that would allow the APD range instructors to evaluate the shooting skills of APD officers. The FDU focuses on four key elements: fall of shot, trigger pressure, line of sight, and posture. The entire completed session, with instructor commentary, can be reviewed immediately or exported to video DVD for shooter review at a later time.	18,000	83,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase of computer system with touch screen, heads-up line-of-sight camera, point of impact camera, shooter camera, and trigger monitor for firearms. Contractor services for set-up and instruction.
4	Alexandria Mentoring Partnership Coordination	Court Service Unit	To provide contractor assistance to the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership Program to assist the Program in recruiting, training and supporting mentors to aid at-risk youth. The contractor will be charged with creating a structure to better organize the Program and to continue the process of recruiting and follow-up on volunteer mentors	50,000	133,489	ARRA Benefit: Hire a part-time contractor (20 hours/week).
5	Courtroom Bench Insert	Sheriff	Install a ballistic type insert/panel concealed inside Courtroom 2, General District Court (GDC) bench to provide added protection to Judges and trial participants and observers.	5,000	138,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase protective panel. Engage contractors for installation.
6	Repair and/or Replace Courthouse PA System	Sheriff	Replace the Alexandria Circuit Court Public Address (PA) system that is inoperative thereby providing effective notice throughout the 4 th floor of the Courthouse for emergency and other situations.	7,000	145,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase PA system. Procure contractor services for installation, testing, and maintenance.

4

**ARRA Public Safety Group
Proposal Listing
JAG Local Government Solicitation
City Allocation: \$323,939**

No.	Proposal Title	City Dept.	Proposal Description	Amount	Sub-Totals	Stimulus Effects of the Project
7	Fingerprint Vacuum Chamber	Police	Enhance the crime investigation capability of the APD through the acquisition and operation of a Cyanoacrylate Vacuum Chamber to detect latent fingerprints. Fumes from cyanoacrylate ester adhesives ("Super Glue" and similar adhesives) develop latent prints on multiple surfaces including metal items such as guns, knives, and posts. A vacuum creates the pressurization to control the temperature of the fuming agent.	45,000	190,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase vacuum chamber, which will require factory labor to manufacture.
8	Courtroom Barrier	Sheriff	Install a permanent barrier between the public and the Judge in Court Room 2, GDC	5,000	195,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase protective barrier. Engage contractors for installation.
9	Seaport Foundation and BE THE GAME Programs	Court Service Unit	Expand the Seaport Foundation math curriculum offered to at-risk youth that currently links student classroom learning in basic math and algebra to vocational and technical math. The Program would be expanded to include future "green" technology in the building trades (\$20,000). Purchase <i>BE THE GAME</i> software to provide at-risk youth the capability to enhance math and computer technology skills by creating computer games. The same technology used in creating computer games is used in other high-technology occupations including, for example, virtual medical surgery (\$15,000). Both programs provide youth with challenging after-school programs while preparing them for real-world job experiences.	35,000	230,489	ARRA Benefit: Many of our students do not have the necessary skills to enter training or apprenticeship programs needed for jobs in the green economy. These programs teach important math and technological skills in a non-traditional and targeted way to give at-risk youth knowledge and skills that they will need to move on and begin to learn a trade or get into the technology field. Providing skills now to these youth establishes the foundation for future job opportunities and production of income.
10	Multi-Database Server	Police	Purchase, implement and deploy a second server to house the diverse APD applications for crime, incident tracking and critical data management. The capacity of the current server will soon be exceeded given the growing volume of computer applications	14,000	244,489	ARRA Benefit: Procure server from US company, which will require labor to manufacture.
11	Security Cameras and Monitors	Sheriff	Install security cameras and monitors at bailiff workstations and lock-up control for the Circuit and General District Courtrooms thus enhancing overall Courthouse security.	34,000	278,489	ARRA Benefit: Procure cameras and monitoring system. Engage contractors for installation, testing, maintenance

Attachment A

ARRA Public Safety Group
Proposal Listing
JAG Local Government Solicitation
City Allocation: \$323,939

No.	Proposal Title	City Dept.	Proposal Description	Amount	Sub Totals	Stimulus Effects of the Project
12	Witness Stand Move	Sheriff	Install separate witness stand in Court Room 2, GDC away from the bench.	5,000	283,489	ARRA Benefit: Purchase materials for witness stand. Engage contractors for construction and installation.
13	Digital audio equipment	Sheriff	Install digital audio recording equipment in all Circuit Court Rooms and enhance accuracy of documentation of Court sessions.	5,450	288,939	ARRA Benefit: Purchase digital audio equipment for four court rooms of the Circuit Court. Engage contractors for installation, testing, and maintenance of equipment
14	Tactical Ballistic Blanket	Police	Provide a protective barrier to APD officers in high risk situations including security, perimeter defense, explosive clearance usage and other personal shield and vehicle transport applications.	\$35,000	\$323,939	ARRA Benefit: Procure "blanket" from US company, which will require labor to manufacture.

9