

TAB 9

POINT PAPER
AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)

April 6, 2009

Problem: City Commission authorization is required for staff to apply for and accept grant funding.

Background: On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) with funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and to support youth mentoring.

The City of Palmetto has been allocated \$116,255 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Applications must be submitted not later than May 18, 2009. The Police Department has identified eligible expenses for which they would like to utilize this funding, to include the software associated with electronic report and form writing/submission, and field access to database queries.

The total cost for the software is \$100,003. The Police Department proposes utilizing the balance of the grant (\$16,252) to purchase Tasers.

Alternatives:

1. Authorize the submission of the application as described above.
2. Take no action.

Recommendation: Staff recommends alternative #1, the Commission's authorization to apply for this grant.

Budget Impact: The JAG grant will have no negative impact on the budget.

**Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
(JAG) Formula Program: Local Solicitation**

C DFA #16.804

**Overview of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance
Grant Program**

This grant program is authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) (the "Recovery Act") and by 42 U.S.C. 3751(a).

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 Recovery Act places great emphasis on accountability and transparency in the use of taxpayer dollars. Among other things, it creates a new Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board and a new website – Recovery.gov – to provide information to the public, including access to detailed information on grants and contracts made with Recovery Act funds.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. JAG funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.