

City of Los Alamitos

Agenda Report Consent Calendar

September 8, 2009
Item No: 8C

To: Mayor Troy Edgar & Members of the City Council
Via: Jeffrey L. Stewart, City Manager
From: Todd W. Mattern, Chief of Police
Subject: Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Summary: Under the 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG), the City of Los Alamitos is eligible to receive \$10,784 in federal funding to assist law enforcement efforts in the prevention and/or reduction of crime.

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement to Transfer Funds for FY 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

Background

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice grant funding to state and local jurisdictions. Since the 2009 JAG is authorized under the Recovery Act, it is intended, in part, to preserve jobs and stabilize State and local government budgets, thus minimizing reductions in essential services. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, including multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention, domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. The funding must be used to improve or enhance law enforcement specific programs in any of the following seven purpose areas:

1. Law enforcement programs;
2. Prosecution and court programs;
3. Prevention and education programs;
4. Corrections and community corrections programs;
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs;
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and,
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

The 2009 JAG combines the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and utilize justice funds where they are most needed. A complex formula is used to calculate the state allocations with a requirement to "pass through" approximately 40%

to local governments. The number of violent crimes reported to the FBI and the state's crime expenditures are also factored into the formula. It should be noted that with the new formula, Los Alamitos is eligible for this funding for the first time since fiscal year 2002-03.

The 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program requires a single unit of county government to function as the applicant and fiscal agent to apply for, receive, and administer the funds on behalf of all eligible sub-grantees. The County of Orange, through its Sheriff's Department, will serve as the applicant/fiscal agent for the funding. Due to the reporting requirements that accompany this grant, the County has implemented a 9% administration fee for the 2009 JAG funding.

The County of Orange is eligible for \$3,959,880 in local JAG funds in 2009, for which 32 jurisdictions and the County are eligible. In a collaborative effort, the participating agencies agreed to utilize \$349,079.65 of the total funding to supplement the Orange County Pro-Active Methamphetamine Laboratory Investigative Team (PROACT). Since local agencies do not have the resources, specialized training, or safety equipment necessary to conduct the investigations required to combat clandestine methamphetamine laboratories, this multi-jurisdictional team functions as the sole "proactive" effort against the lab operators and traffickers within and having nexus to Orange County.

The remaining distribution, \$3,254,411.15 will be utilized by the County and 32 cities to meet their respective independent objectives for the grant.

Discussion

The City of Los Alamitos will receive \$10,784 of the JAG funds to be utilized in fiscal year 2009-10. Operating on a reimbursement basis, the grant will provide funding for some of the part-time services which were reduced as a result of the current fiscal situation. The fiscal year 2009-10 police budget for part-time personnel was reduced by \$106,480 (approximately 3 Full-time Equivalent) from the adopted fiscal year 2008-09 budget, impacting service levels in patrol, investigations and support functions. This funding will lessen the impact of those budget reductions by augmenting service levels in these areas.

Specifically, part-time hours will be increased by .33 to .43 FTE (Full-time Equivalent) to be distributed as follows:

- a. 10.522.1003 - Increase hours for Reserve Officers in patrol by 260 to 446/year;
- b. 10.523.1003 - Re-establish hours for part-time investigator up to 260/year; and,
- c. 10.526.1003 - Increase hours for part-time police service aide up to 285/year.

As stipulated in the grant, the JAG funds are held in a trust account, which has been established by the County. Reimbursement must be requested from the County and quarterly reporting is required.

Fiscal Impact

The base JAG allocation for Los Alamitos is \$13,313; however, deductions in the amounts of \$1,331 for PROACT and \$1,198 for administration fees reduces the net award to \$10,784 for grant related part-time staffing.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Todd W. Mattern
Police Department

Jeffrey L. Stewart
City Manager

Approved By:

Nita McKay
Assistant City Manager

Attachment: 1) Agreement to Transfer Funds for FY 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program