

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: March 5, 2019

TITLE: Authorization to Apply for Grant Funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2018 Local Solicitation Grant Application

Prepared by: Dale R. Mondary, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Authorize the Desert Hot Springs Police Department to submit an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2018 Local Solicitation grant application requesting allocated grant funds for \$15,572.00; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to sign any needed grant application documents and/or contract.

DISCUSSION

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program furthers the Justice Department's mission by assisting local efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence and enhance officer training.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds may be used for State and Local initiatives, technical assistance, data collection, training, personnel, equipment, forensic laboratories, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems that will improve or enhance such areas, as law enforcement programs. The City of Desert Hot Springs is allocated \$15,572 minus \$1,557 (10%) to Riverside County Sheriff's Department for management of the grant.

The City of Desert Hot Springs is one of the poorer cities in the entirety of Riverside County. According to the 2010 United States Census the median household income was \$32,883 with 28.6% of the population living below the federal poverty line. The Police Department is the lowest paid municipal agency in the Coachella Valley, 28% below the next lowest paid agency. Grant funding is critical for our training needs. We are currently funded for 33 sworn positions; we have 10 vacancies and 4 off on duty related injuries with no anticipated return dates.

We intend to use our funds for an Officer Safety Training Program and to Reduce Violent Crime as authorized in the JAG Grant Project Identifier List. We intend to use part of the grant monies for training for active shooter scenarios. The Department has never been able to attend or provide this type of training and without proper response tactics it will jeopardize officer safety. Our goal is to ensure and maintain officer safety and reduce on duty injuries. Additionally, we intend to use part of the grant to purchase equipment to legally extract information from seized cell phones and tablets. This will be instrumental in assisting us in gang related crimes that plague the City. We currently do not have the capability to collect this information.

Acceptance of the grant funding will require the Department to provide the U.S. Department of Justice with quarterly status reports regarding the use of the grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

Grant funding will reimburse for the cost of training and equipment. No additional funding or allocation is necessary. The funding if approved and received will be deposited into fund (245) under the grant revenue line item.

EXHIBIT(S) 1) Grant Memorandum 2) Budget Detail Worksheet 3) Interlocal Agreement