

Program Narrative
City of Bridgeport
Cameras and Equipment
FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program

Statement of the Problem

The City of Bridgeport is seeking a four-year grant of \$148,212 from the FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program to fund costs associated with supporting and improving law enforcement response in Bridgeport, Connecticut. JAG funds will be used to purchase JAG approved equipment

The City of Bridgeport is the most populous and one of the most impoverished and densely populated cities in the state. Approximately 23% of Bridgeport residents live below the poverty line. The majority of residents 42% identify as Hispanic/Latino, 34% as Black/African American; 19% as White (non-Hispanic); 3% as Asian; and the remaining 2% into another category. Bridgeport is also one of the most violent cities in the state. A 2014 report from the Congressional Quarterly, based on FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Data, ranked crime in Bridgeport sixth highest in a national list of 252 cities of comparable size (100,000-499,000 residents). With approximately 145,000 residents living within Bridgeport's 15.97 square miles, its dense population means that violence and crime affects the lives of nearly every resident of the city.

The City of Bridgeport Police Department (BPD) is committed to improving its ability to protect its residents, visitors, and its police officers. For this reason, the City is seeking funding to purchase high quality video streaming cameras and mounting units, camera licenses, ballistic shields, stop stick kits, and stop the bleed kits.

Project Design and Implementation

The City of Bridgeport's Fusion center has been in operation for approximately 7 years and currently utilizes various software technology to monitor over 1200 Police and Board of Education surveillance cameras. The Fusion Center provides real time information to officers on patrol by identifying crime patterns, assisting with crime prevention, forensic investigations and evidence retrieval. Currently, there are 10 locations in the city that have been identified as high crime and main thruways that have no existing video surveillance cameras. Cameras will be placed at these locations for surveillance and license plate images which will then be collected,

organized, and secured in a database that is enhanced by a variety of analytical tools that will interconnect with the Board of Education and City based surveillance system. Through these additional cameras and integration with the currently existing systems, the department will further their ability to notify officers of vehicles involved in crimes and to any vehicles involved in any crimes in these locations.

The purchase of 10 Outdoor fixed dome cameras will provide a 360-degree view and contain multi-sensors. These cameras have the capability to stream videos in 20 frames per second with 4K high quality streaming video. The video will stream directly into the City's Fusion Center and will provide coverage in the identified high crime areas.

In addition, 10 LPR Bullet cameras will enable the department to capture clear license plate images day or night. This camera ensures that the required pixel density for license plate identification is captured. The purchase of these cameras will allow for the quick response of patrol officers in these high crime areas.

Additionally, ballistic shields will be purchased to allow officers to respond to active shooter situations. The shields will allow the officer to protect both themselves as well as victims.

The purchase of stop the bleed kits will allow officers to provide life saving aid to gunshot victims. These kits will allow officers to provide the necessary support to control serious bleeding and prevent further blood loss from the victims until they can be safely transported for medical attention.

Finally, the purchase of stop stick kits will allow the Patrol Division to quickly, safely, and effectively delate tires during a pursuit.

The BPD will follow the City of Bridgeport procurement policies, which require that the Department undergo a formal competitive bidding process for all purchases above a \$25,000 threshold. The Department will work with the City of Bridgeport's City Attorney's Office and Purchasing Department to begin the formal bidding process upon notification of grant award.

Capabilities and Competencies

The BPD works with several criminal/criminal juvenile justice agencies in Connecticut on various initiatives and programs. The department collaborates with the Fire Department,

Emergency Operations Center, Board of Education, hospitals and other health related groups. In addition, the BPD regularly hosts FEMA-funded Connecticut Operation by Response Agencies (COBRA) exercises, which bring together local and state Police Departments, the Bridgeport Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and Metropolitan Transit Authority police. These exercises, held at the Bridgeport Ferry Terminal, are used to assess, and enhance the capability of personnel to respond to serious incidents using scenario-based exercises.

Plan for Collecting Data Required for Performance Measures

The BPD is committed to providing performance measurement data and information to the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Department will assign a staff member to oversee the data collection and analysis process and will evaluate program impact using BJA's accountability measures. Accountability metrics reports will be submitted quarterly.