Program Narrative
City of Bridgeport
LPR and Cameras Systems
FY20 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program

Statement of the Problem

The City of Bridgeport is seeking a four-year grant of $143,306 from the FY20 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 upgrade, and purchase JAG approved equipment, purchase Mobile Data Terminals and a Use of Force/ Decision Making training simulator.

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 (38%) identify as Hispanic/Latino, 32% as Black/African American; 23% as White (non-Hispanic); 3% as Asian; and the remaining 4% 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 nearly 147,000 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 license plate reader cameras for high crime locations, licensing and installation for cameras, a server and viewing stations.

Project Design and Implementation

The City of Bridgeport's Fusion center has been in operation for approximately 5 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 Amber and Silver Alerts in their area.

The purchase of 10 AXIS Outdoor Megapixel PTZ cameras multi-sensory fixed dome cameras will provide a 360-degree view with high quality streaming video directly into the City's Fusion Center. This camera will provide coverage in the identified areas that currently do not have surveillance. Licensing and installation costs included in price.

In addition, 10 AXIS LPR Q1700-LE 1080q 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 capture and can capture an image up to a range of 328 feet during the daytime and up to 164 feet during the nighttime. The purchase of these cameras will allow for the quick response of patrol officers in these high crime areas. Licensing and installation costs included in price.

A Dell LPR Surveillance Engineered 16 Core Server will be a custom-built server purchased to run the license plate reader programing. The server will process information as it relates to vehicles, color and make, disseminate the information, while compiling a data base which will be able to conduct searchers of data in real time.

The Dell Viewing Stations will be able to transmit data in high speed to the 12 wall viewing monitors. In addition, they will have the ability to rapidly move images from one screen to another in real time, while integrating the video images and the plate reader images that pass through the intersections at a high rate of speed.

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 BPT 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.