



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors **Meeting Date:** January 20, 2022

Staff Contact: Jerome Tushbant, jtushbant@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding the submission of an application for grant funding in the amount of \$149,690.49 from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program. (Jerome Tushbant, jtushbant@carson.org)

Staff Summary: This grant would provide funds to purchase operational and investigations equipment for the Carson City Sheriff's Office ("CCSO") to enhance forensic and investigative capabilities.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:** Consent

Proposed Motion

I move to ratify submission of the grant application as requested.

Board's Strategic Goal

Safety

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

Award of this grant is on a "first come, first served basis", so time was of the essence. Based on timing, CCSO submitted the grant application as soon as the grant opportunity was discovered, and ratification by the Board of Supervisors is now requested for a grant application submitted to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program to secure funding for the purchase of multiple items in an effort to enhance digital forensic, evidence and tactical capabilities of the department. These items include a mobile camera platform, interdiction density meter for detecting hidden contraband, an inspection pole video camera, a license plate reader camera, a drug-identifying laser, a mobile cellular phone downloading device, self-contained breathing apparatus for drug interdiction and digital evidence management tools and training. This is a reimbursement grant with 0% match by the City, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance with quarterly grant reporting requirements for one year.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes

If yes, account name/number: Grant Account 2752005 500675 - Grant Number to be determined

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: This grant has no match; if awarded, budget would be augmented to add both revenues and expenses.

Alternatives

Do not ratify submission of the grant application and/or provide alternative direction.

Attachments:

[NORMID-Application-and-Overview.pdf](#)

[NORMID-Budget updated.pdf](#)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____	1) _____	Aye/Nay
	2) _____	_____

(Vote Recorded By)

NORTHERN AND MIDDLE STATES RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Program Overview and Application

Overview of Funding Opportunity

Small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies in the northern and middle region of the United States represent a significant portion of this nation's law enforcement. The large geographical area, coupled with the general challenges of limited staffing, equipment, training, and technical assistance, make the need for additional resources critical for the success of these agencies.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program is a new initiative designed to provide resources through subawards to small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies located in the northern and middle regions of the United States. This initiative will support efforts in addressing precipitous increases in all types of crime unique to this region, to include human trafficking, sexual assault, extortion, gang activity, murder, drug trafficking, and other forms of violent crime.

Program Purposes

The purposes for the subawards under this program are to:

- Improve the agency's investigative, intelligence, and/or interdiction capabilities.
- Enhance information sharing, including investigative and intelligence data sharing with other agencies.
- Enable agencies to participate in projects within the northern and middle region of the United States.
- Assist in projects/initiatives unique to an agency or its region.
- Improve dedicated communications capabilities.
- Provide specific technical assistance, such as hardware/software, specialized equipment, and peer assistance.
- Provide support for real-time crime centers or intelligence centers that are either established or in development.

Available Funding

Funding will be made available to law enforcement agencies within the northern and middle region of the United States through a reimbursed subaward process. Agencies may request up to \$150,000 in funding for equipment and items that support the program purposes outlined above, including, but not limited to, the items listed below:

- K-9-unit support, (e.g., K-9s, K-9 and handler training, K-9 maintenance, and K-9 unit vehicle modifications)
- Computers/laptops and peripherals (communications cards are not covered)
- In-car video camera systems
- Automated license plate readers
- Moving radars
- 3D scanner systems
- Narcotic/explosive detection equipment
- Videoscope inspection systems
- Evidence collection/processing kits
- Driver's license scanners
- Records management systems
- Computer-aided dispatch systems
- Citation, crash, and mapping systems
- Other items, as requested

Agencies should **only request funding for the specific amount needed** to obtain the requested item(s). Requests cannot exceed \$150,000 per agency. Agencies may submit one or more applications. However, the combined requested amount cannot exceed the \$150,000 cap. For example, a group of interdiction teams from one law enforcement agency can only request \$150,000 combined for the entire agency.

What Is Not Funded

Standard-issue items normally provided by a law enforcement agency during its mission are not included in this program, as well as some specialty purpose items. These include:

- Vehicles (including all-terrain vehicles)
- Weapons
- Uniforms
- Riot gear
- Vests
- Radios, as well as radio communications towers
- Unmanned aerial vehicles (also known as UAVs or “drones”)
- Body-worn cameras (BWCs) (funding is available through BJA’s BWC microgrant program)
- Any other standard-issue items

Eligibility and Requirements

To be considered for this program, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a small, rural, or tribal law enforcement agency located within one of the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, or Wyoming.
- Serve a population size of 100,000 or less.
- Have an application that meets one or more of the program purposes listed earlier.
- Only request eligible items (items listed in the “What Is Not Covered” section should not be requested).
- Have permission from the agency’s governing authority to receive this award.
- Be able to provide necessary training to personnel to use and implement the purchased resources, if applicable.
- Be able to comply with post-award reporting requirements.

Applicants must meet the above eligibility requirements; submit a completed application; and provide timely follow-up documentation, if requested.

As previously stated, it is imperative that the agency have the appropriate approvals from their governing body to accept an award under this program. Also, if selected, the agency must comply with post-award reporting requirements.

Post-Award Reporting Requirements: For BJA reporting purposes, award recipients will be contacted by a representative from the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) who will gather information regarding the implementation of the award and how it benefits the agency. This communication will help to promote successful implementations to the law enforcement field. Recipient agencies are required to submit responses to NW3C or allow a phone interview to be performed to share details of the implementation and identify any benefit to the entity and the administration of justice and public safety.

Review Process

Applications are pre-screened for eligibility and completeness. Applicants will be contacted to ensure that any missing information is completed prior to BJA consideration. Eligible and completed applications will be forwarded to BJA for review and approval.

As noted earlier, funding is available through a reimbursement process through subawards. Once all applications are received and screened and the application period has been closed, BJA will undergo a competitive review process. With law enforcement agencies from twenty-three states eligible for this program, the competitive review may take several months. Selected subaward recipients will then be contacted for follow-up documentation.

BJA is committed to ensuring a fair and open process for granting awards. Applying does not guarantee selection. BJA will evaluate each application to ensure that it fits within the scope of this program and is congruent with the items covered, applicant eligibility, and the availability of funding. BJA may require additional information from the applicant to make an award decision. Once all awards are selected, BJA will send a notification to the applicant agency of its decision to award or not award the funding.

NORTHERN AND MIDDLE STATES RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Application

Questions may be submitted using an online [Contact Us](#) form, sent by email to normid@nw3c.org, or made by phone at (304) 988-5707 (specify Northern and Middle States Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Program). Applicants may apply using this form (see submission options on the next page) or through an [Online Application](#).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Organization Name: _____
Applicant Organization Website, If Applicable: _____
Applicant Jurisdiction: _____
Size of Agency/Department (*number of personnel in the agency or department requesting resources*): _____

PRIMARY CONTACT (for matters related to this application)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Job Title: _____ Department: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

PURPOSE OF APPLICATION

What issue is your agency or community facing that you hope to resolve through this award? (*Use an additional sheet of paper, if needed.*)

Which program purpose(s) does the agency's application support? (*Check all that apply.*)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improves agency investigative and/or intelligence capabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Assists in a project/initiative unique to the agency or region (specify): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhances information sharing, including investigative and intelligence data sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Agency project/initiative: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improves dedicated communication capabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Region project/initiative: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provides specific technical assistance, such as hardware/software, specialized equipment, or peer assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Provides support for real-time crime centers or intelligence centers that are either established or in development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enables participation in projects across the region | |

DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST

Check the category of equipment the agency is requesting. As a reminder, items normally provided by a law enforcement agency during its mission, as well as some specialty items, are not included in this program. For example, vehicles, weapons, uniforms, riot gear, vests, radios/radio communications, UAVs, BWCs, and other standard-issue or specialty items will not be issued under this request.

**Northern and Middle States Law Enforcement Grant
Attachment "A"**

Friday, October 1, 2021

Carson City Sheriff's Office Submission

Organized Alphabetically

Total of Grant Request \$ 146,690.49

Item	Description	Cost
Contraband Interdiction Kit "Density Buster"	Purchase an interdiction kit which includes the following items: density meter, 2-Way Articulated "FV" Fiberscope, with fuel-proof Tungsten armor, built-in power supply and LED lighting, Digital Camera/Video Recorder with focusing lens, Personal Tool Kit, Calibration Block, Laser Rangefinder, Telescoping Inspection Mirror with Flashlight, and a Heavy-Duty Expandable Steel Inspection Probe Kit. This kit will be used on traffic stops and during highway interdiction operations. Often times when conducting vehicle interdiction for drugs, a canine will alert or intelligence will be present about the presence of contraband in the vehicle, but it simply cannot be located as it is hidden too well. This kit can be used to see into vehicle voids like headliners and tires, detect hidden compartments, and locate ultra-hidden and secretive contraband.	\$ 15,499.00
Data Pilot Mobile Phone Examination Device	The investigations unit currently has one of these devices and uses it frequently to download suspect, victim, and witness cellular devices for criminal evidence and intelligence purposes. This device is used to support the Investigations Division and any other agency or division which requests it. It has been used to support Patrol units, other investigative units, probation units, and intelligence units. However, a second one is needed as it is common to have to download contents from multiple phones or multiple locations. When completing phone examinations, time is typically of the essence, so availability of an additional device can be critical for safety and legal issues. Availability of a second device would shorten download times and increase flexibility of downloading multiple phones simultaneously or across multiple locations.	\$ 1,995.00
Data Storage	Existing digital forensics equipment, along with additional equipment included in this request require substantially higher amount of digital storage for evidence. This will supplement existing evidence storage to achieve this goal. Purchase a 36 TB storage device to maintain digital evidence downloads. This device is (2) 18 TB hard drives that store a copy for redundancy.	\$ 1,499.00
Digital Forensics Desktop Computer	This computer would be used by the Investigations Division and Crime Lab to process cellular phones and other digital evidence. Currently, CSI has a computer for this purpose, but the specifications do not allow for advanced crime lab analysis of digital evidence and reconstruction. This computer would allow CSI to process multiple devices at once, accommodate the new 3D crime scene scanner imagery, process drone imagery and photography, and complete crime scene reconstructions. This request is to provide funding for a replacement computer in the Investigations division. Two computer workstations are employed that are used for forensic mobile device extractions and associated processing, to include cellular tower mapping. These functions require optimal processing speeds and power by the computers, and the computer to be replaced has difficulties in sustained use for these purposes. A computer designed for gaming is the suggested configuration by all forensic software manufacturers due to improved processors, memory, graphics cards, and the ability to perform multiple, simultaneous functions. Additionally, the Crime Lab has recently acquired a 3D scanner for crime and traffic scene documentation and diagramming, and processing the scan projects presents a heavy workload for the computer, thus necessitating an improved gaming-style computer setup for this use as well. No maintenance cost.	\$ 4,459.99

Night Vision Surveillance Devices	These devices would allow Detectives assigned to the Special Operations section (Special Enforcement and Gang Unit) to conduct surveillance and gather intelligence/information at night. These devices can also assist in search and rescue operations during nighttime. They are hand-carried or head-mountable and amplify ambient light in order for the human eye to be able to see at night. SET does not currently have this ability without support from SWAT. This cost would allow for the purchase of (5) devices.	\$ 12,102.50
Portable License-Plate Reader (LPR) Camera	Purchase of a portable LPR camera would allow the Investigation's Division to deploy an LPR camera to problem areas, special events, or high-traffic areas to record license plate numbers and images into the existing system. This is a complete standalone unit and does not require external support from the vendor, Vigilant, or an exterior power source as it is solar power. The Carson City Sheriff's Office is already employing Vigilant technology on patrol vehicles. This item would supplement that ability.	\$ 9,000.00
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	The Investigations Unit has operational capability and responsibility for drug laboratory interdiction, which can present hazardous materials problems. We had access to SCBAs through the Nevada National Guard. However, through changes of command and rules governing use of military property for civilians, we no longer have shared access to their SCBAs. Purchasing them would provide access to us for this purpose and provide us with vital life-safety equipment. This cost would provide (6) units for use.	\$ 23,400.00
SQLite Forensic Toolkit	This acquisition device would allow the Crime Lab to perform deep-dive investigations of mobile devices. Current forensic software tools parse extraction data which is presented in a viewable format, but data that is fragmented or otherwise unsupported by the tool remains in SQLite databases that can be queried and possibly present additional information. Knowledge of how mobile devices store information is imperative to verify data presented by the software tools. This funding for the software and associated training will allow for a comprehensive examination of mobile device data, rather than relying on forensic tools to parse such data and potentially miss important information.	\$ 595.00
SQLite Forensic Toolkit - Training	These funds would provide for funding for training to use the above item, travel, hotel, and per diem for one employee.	\$ 5,750.00
Transcend Vantage Mobile Camera and Communications Platform	This would provide Deputies and Mental Health Support Personnel with the ability to search structures for dangerous persons and hazards, as well as communicate with suspects for negotiations purposes, while providing stand-off distance and intelligence on suspect actions. The use of this equipment enhances the ability to buy time, create distance, and communicate in order to avoid use of force. This device can also be used to conduct surveillance search the undercarriage of vehicles at checkpoints. The package, as priced above, includes all accessories needed to run the device. There are maintenance costs as required to keep the device operating to replace parts. However, Washoe County (our sister agency to the north) currently uses this device and reports high-reliability and little need for maintenance. No maintenance cost.	\$ 29,500.00
TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer	The TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzer by Thermo Scientific allows officers to quickly identify suspected narcotics in the field. Traditional methods to presumptively identify suspected narcotics required the officer to open the packaging and test a small amount of the sample. This method has since been discouraged due to possible exposure risks when handling suspected fentanyl or other substances posing an inhalation or transdermal absorption hazard. The TruNarc utilizes Raman spectroscopy (LASER) technology to identify an unknown substance and can be used through many types of packaging. This form of testing is also less subjective because it relies on the analyzer finding a similar spectrum inside its integrated library of known substances, rather than a human interpretation of a color reaction. This cost also includes \$2850 for 100 packages of special solution to test black tar heroin, which is prominent in our area.	\$ 29,640.00

Zistos Pole Camera / Inspection Device	This is a device which can be placed into a structure or other confined area to locate hidden suspects and victims. Similar to the mobile camera platform listed above, it would permit Deputies to increase standoff time and distance, while providing information; all of which can prevent the use of force. This is a highly-versatile tool and the camera can also be used for surveillance from a covert position and inspections of cargo and vehicle undercarriage.	\$ 13,250.00
--	--	--------------