

GRANT APPLICATION

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

FY 2022

JAG Lawrence Police Department

Purchase of Equipment (Marked Patrol Vehicle) to Support and Enhance the

Lawrence Police Department's Existing, Multi-faceted Approach to

Reducing Violent Crime

for the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts

Submitted to:

US Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs

By:

Lawrence Police Department
City of Lawrence, Massachusetts

August 9, 2022

Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

REDUCING VIOLENT CRIME - Purchase of Equipment to Support and Enhance the Lawrence Police Department's Existing, Multi-faceted Approach to Reducing Violent Crime

Proposal Narrative

Description of the Issue: If awarded, the City of Lawrence by and through its Police Department intends to utilize the FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds to provide equipment to support our law enforcement programs. **Specifically, these funds would be used for the purchase and build out of a marked police cruiser.**

Lawrence Mayor, Brian A. DePena and Police Chief Roy P. Vasque, with the support of the Lawrence City Council, have made a concerted effort to both improve the quality and increase the number of marked police cruisers that the Officers of the Lawrence Police Department have access to on a daily basis to better serve and protect the residents of Lawrence. Our goal would be to expand our fleet by adding an additional cruiser, a 2022 Ford Interceptor which would be purchased and built out (i.e. painted and outfitted with lights, sirens, interior barrier between front and back seat, etc...) using these grant funds. This purchase would be part of a larger, multifaceted approach to reducing violent crime.

The grant award is anticipated to occur in October 2022. Presuming that occurs, the timeline for this proposal is as follows: It is anticipated that the state and local compliance work relating to this grant would occur in October – December of 2022 (i.e. obtaining city council vote and mayoral approval to allow for the expenditure of grant awarded funds) and the actual procurement would begin in January – March of 2023. This would include verifying vendors on

state contract or seeking bids and entering in to contracts with vendors and other procurement related tasks. Presuming that there are no delays due to current motor vehicle shortages, if the vehicle is purchased by March 2023, the anticipated build out of the vehicle would then following in the next quarter, April – June 2023. However, even with delays in the purchasing process, we are confident that the purchase and subsequent build out would be completed well before the grant completion date of September 30, 2025.

The City of Lawrence has some unique challenges that our Police Department works hard to serve and protect on a daily basis. This geographically small city is densely populated. According to 2020 Census Data, there are over 89,000 people living within an area of just 6.9 square miles. This is an increase in population of over 11% from 2010. Lawrence is unlike any of the other cities in Massachusetts and presents the "perfect storm" of urban challenges which, according to latest census data includes:

- High rates of chronic unemployment, ranking number one in Essex County, and almost twice the state average particularly among young males;
- One of the highest rate of teen pregnancy and unwed mothers in the state;
- High levels of homelessness and opioid addiction;
- The City's population is 45.7% foreign born with over 78.2% of the population speaking a language other than English at home;
- The percentage of people living under the poverty level (16.8%) exceeds the state average of people living in poverty (9.4%) by over 150%;
- Median family and per capita income in Lawrence is more than 40% below the state average;
- A geographically small city (6.9 sq. miles) with population densities well above state average. Lawrence has almost 13,000 residents per square mile which is over 13 times the state average;

- Roughly 80% of the homes in the City are multi-family dwellings, combined with one of the lowest rates of owner occupancy in the state.

Each of these challenges existed in the City for many years and each has been demonstrated over and over as a factor contributing to a high crime rate. The confluence of these challenges has regrettably been accepted for too long as a fact of life in the City of Lawrence. The normal challenges that Lawrence faces (as outlined above) are compounded by the stress of the recent COVID-19 Pandemic and are further compounded by the fact that the city is still not fully recovered from the multiple gas explosions and fires that occurred on September 13, 2018, displacing thousands of city residents for months on end and having a serious long term impact on city infrastructure including streets and utilities. The City of Lawrence is still recovering, both economically and psychologically from that event.

Despite these challenges, the Police Department for the City of Lawrence is comprised of a dynamic group of men and women who are dedicated to serving their community. The Lawrence Police Department is the only "minority majority" police department in the Commonwealth, with 58% of our Officers identifying as minorities. The Officer to Resident ratio is low. Currently we have 152 Sworn Officers for the entire city which is much lower than the recommended ratio.

Our Department has adopted several different strategies to combat violent crime. From the very high tech use of a vast city wide camera system that has improved our city's closed case rate (Lawrence has one of the most expansive city wide camera networks in Massachusetts outside of Boston) and the anticipated adoption of Shot Spotter gunshot detection technology that we will be implementing in the near future, to very low tech solution of keeping our young people off of the streets by hosting multiple open gyms several nights a week, where our young

people are able to play sports including volley ball and basketball in safe environment while interacting directly with our Officers in a fun and positive way, to partnering with local not-for profit agencies like the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club and other similar agencies who provide services for our at-risk and proven risk youth and young adults. These efforts are part of a larger, multifaceted approach to combating violent crime in our city.

Lawrence partners with the DEA, the FBI, the Massachusetts State Police as well as numerous other state and federal agencies on several of our violent crime prevention efforts. Similarly, we partner with our local school department, the state's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the state's Department of Public Health, the Office of Health and Human Services as well as seven different not-for-profit agencies located within the city in our violent crime prevention efforts with our youth and our young adults who are either at risk or are proven risk individuals. These programs provide recreational opportunities as well as access to education, employment and mental health services. We believe that this broad, multi-tiered approach is one of the reasons that our crime rate remains in check.

As part of this effort, we recognize that it is vital to provide our officers with the tools they need to do their work on a daily basis, and part of that effort is to provide them with vehicles that are safe and reliable. In that regard the department has made a concerted effort to upgrade our fleet. The addition of this cruiser/marked police vehicle will further the efforts outline herein to combat violent crime. Many of the tools that we use to fight violent crime are not readily visible. Our city-wide cameras are marked, but they tend to blend into the background. Similarly, our Shot Spotter technology and our prevention efforts and youth outreach are things that go on in the background. But having a marked cruiser in the area is a physical, visible reminder to our law abiding residents that the Police are there to support them,

and to those residents or interlopers who are intending to commit violent crime, it is a reminder that our officers are close by and are ready, willing and able to prevent or respond to whatever problems or issues they are intending to cause. The tried and true “presence” of clearly marked police cruisers traveling throughout each sector of the city has its own important benefit and deterrent effect on violent crime.

Currently, the Lawrence Police Department actively tracks our Part 1 Crimes. We have the capacity to provide this data as part of the PMT reporting system and we are very willing to share it. We use this data to develop hot spot mapping and we provide this information to our officers on a daily basis so that they are well informed as they patrol. Our detectives use this data to examine current and past trends in order to resolve current situations as well as anticipate future incidents. Our crime analysis reviews criminal activity both on a year to date basis as well as a day-to-day, month-to-month and annually. While Part 1 Crimes includes both violent crime and property crime, during the term of this grant, the Department is committed to tracking our violent crime and reporting it as part of the PMT process.

The Lawrence Police Department will follow local city ordinances regarding the expenditure of grant funds. The Department will obtain the necessary city council vote and mayoral approval prior to making any expenditure of these funds. Similarly, in procuring this vehicle and performing the related build-out work, the Department will follow the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Law, c. 30B. The purchase will be made through a vendor on a Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ statewide contract, or we will follow the requisite process for obtaining bids and quotes as required by state law.

Funds from the Fiscal Year 2022 JAG Grant will be drawn-down on a reimbursement basis. The City of Lawrence will assign the "JAG Lawrence Police Department Purchase of Cruiser" a unique project number; all deposits, interest (if any) and withdrawals will be made to that project number in the City's official record keeping system (MUNIS). Concurrently, the Police Department will keep record of all activity on the project number assigned by the City. This project will begin when funds are awarded, and continue through the exhaustion of funds but no later than the grant completion date, September 30, 2025.

Geographic Area Affected Worksheet (SF-424-Question 12)

| Grantee location(s) (i.e., office location of principal investigators or contractors): | |
|---|---|
| Agency name: Lawrence Police Department | State: Massachusetts Place (city or county): Lawrence Zip code: 01840, 01841 |
| Agency name: | State: Place (city or county): Zip code: |
| Agency name: | State: Place (city or county): Zip code: |
| Sites affected (i.e., locations where the program was implemented, evaluation was performed, or research data collected): | |
| How affected: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Program implemented <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Nonevaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | State: Massachusetts Place ¹ (city or county) Lawrence Zip code(s) ² : 01840, 10841 |
| How affected: <input type="checkbox"/> Program implemented <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Nonevaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | State: Place (city or county): Zip code(s): |
| How affected: <input type="checkbox"/> Program implemented <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Nonevaluation research <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | State: Place (city or county): Lawrence Zip code(s): |

Note: If more room is required, photocopy and attach additional worksheets.

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¹ Place information is required unless the entire State is affected.

² Zip code information is required unless the entire county or city is affected.

BUDGET

BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Marked Police Cruiser: (2022 Ford Interceptor, Black) | \$33,702 | |
| Build-Out*: | \$13,791 | |
| Painting: | \$950 | (Paint 4 doors white, Paint roof white) |
| Graphics: | \$695 | (Logo, Vehicle # to Roof and Fin) |
| Light Bar: | \$2,195 | (Multi Color 44" VALOR LED Light Bar) |
| Siren | \$1,178 | (Siren with 17 Button Controller) |
| Divider | \$1,880 | (Rhino Utility Prisoner Transport System) |
| Gun Vault | \$780 | (Loft Gun Vault) |
| Radio Drawer | \$2,975 | (Rhino False Floor & Radio Drawer) |
| Installation | \$3,138 | (Labor/Installation) |
| TOTAL | \$47,493 | |

*NOTE: it is anticipated that the Build Out as described above would be done by one Vendor at one-time. Pricing provided is per quote from Vendor pursuant to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Statewide Contract #PSE01 (Public Safety Equipment.)

**NOTE: This application does not have any cost sharing commitment by the applicant nor is there a formal match aspect to this award.

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Budget Narrative

BUDGET GOALS: If awarded, the City of Lawrence by and through its Police Department intends to utilize the FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds to provide equipment to support our law enforcement programs. Specifically, these funds would be used for the purchase and build out of a marked police cruiser.

BUDGET REVIEW/BREAKDOWN:

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Marked Police Cruiser: | \$33,702 | (2022 Ford Interceptor, Black) |
| Build-Out: | <u>\$13,791</u> | |
| TOTAL | \$47,493 | |

It is anticipated that the Build Out as described above would be done by one Vendor at one time. This work will include the painting the 4 doors and roof white, and adding graphics and vehicle # on the roof and rear fin, as well as the installation of light bars, siren, speaker, and console, computer equipment, cell partition, loft gun rack and vault as well as the prep for a front mounted radio and antenna.

While it is noted that costs or expenses beyond the award amount of \$47,493 (if any) for the purchase and/or build-out of the cruiser would be paid for by the city of Lawrence through its

Police Department with general fund dollars, this award does not have any match requirement or match commitment by the applicant, nor is there a formal cost sharing aspect to this award.

PURCHASING COMPLIANCE:

This project will begin when funds are awarded, and continue through the exhaustion of funds, but no later than the grant completion date, September 30, 2025.

In making this acquisition, the Lawrence Police Department will follow our local city ordinances regarding the expenditure of grant funds, and we will obtain the necessary city council vote and mayoral approval prior to making any expenditure of these funds. Similarly, in procuring this vehicle and performing the related work, we will follow the procurement laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Law, c. 30B. The purchase will be made through a Vendor on a Commonwealth of Massachusetts' statewide contract, or we will follow the requisite process for obtaining bids and quotes as required by state law and enter into a written contract with the Vendor. Similarly, the build out work will be done by a Vendor on a Commonwealth of Massachusetts' statewide contract, or we will follow the requisite process for obtaining bids and quotes as required by state law and enter into a written contract with the Vendor.

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Research and Evaluation

Independence and Integrity Statement

The Program described by the City of Lawrence by and through its Police Department for funds sought through this FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is designed to provide equipment to support our law enforcement program as part of the Department's existing, multi-faceted approach to reducing violent crime.

This Program does not entail research and/or research and development, nor does it include any research activities involving human subjects.

The collection of any data relating to this Program will be within our existing Part 1 Crime data analysis system. The statistics and data that will be used and analyzed under this Program and reported on in our PMT reports are readily available to the public and does not include the identity of private persons or individuals.

Review Narrative

On August 9, 2022, the City of Lawrence made its Fiscal Year 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program application available to the Lawrence City Council for review and comment.

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program application and an invitation for discussion on the use of funding will also be made available to the community through September 9, 2022. The City of Lawrence will make its Fiscal Year 2022 JAG application available to citizens for comment by publishing it on the City of Lawrence and Lawrence Police Department websites on August 10, 2022. The application will be available on both websites for a minimum of thirty (30) days.