

-COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE-
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : July 1, 2015

TO : Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors

FROM : Steven Kreklow, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget

SUBJECT : 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

REQUEST

Retroactive approval to apply for and accept Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 is requested.

BACKGROUND

JAG funding is awarded to municipalities based upon the average annual number of Part 1 violent crimes reported by the unit to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Since Milwaukee County bears the cost of prosecution and incarceration that arise out of Part 1 violent crimes, the DOJ has declared Milwaukee County a disparate jurisdiction and therefore eligible to share in the funding awarded to municipalities located within Milwaukee County.

On May 12, 2015 the Department of Administrative Services-Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget (DAS-PSB) was notified by the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) that it had released applications for the 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). DAS-PSB was notified that the deadline for the application was June 26, 2015, prior to the scheduled July cycle Committee meetings but after the deadline for the June cycle. Rather than request a special public meeting ahead of the deadline, DAS-PSB is requesting retroactive authority to apply for the JAG Grant and to hold the public hearing and review for the application during the regular July cycle meetings. The JAG Grant application allows for the public hearing to be held after the submission of the application.

In order to mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB submitted the grant application on June 26, 2015. Then, the public hearing and review of the application can occur on July 16, 2015 and/or July 23, 2015 depending on which Committee receives this referral.

The funding also requires the qualifying localities to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the administration and distribution of funds. Milwaukee County is not eligible for a direct grant award from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The following is a list of municipalities that are eligible for funding and their award amount:

Municipality	Award Amount
MILWAUKEE	\$798,165
WEST ALLIS	\$20,548
TOTAL	\$818,713

The total allocation of \$818,713 represents a reduction of 65,194 or 7.4 percent from the FY 2014 version of the grant. Since 97.5% of all the local funds are earmarked for the City of Milwaukee, no attempt was made to extract funding from any municipality other than the City of Milwaukee. After communication with Milwaukee Police Department, it was agreed that funding would first be allocated to fund the Community Justice Council Coordinator position housed at the Public Policy Forum at a cost of \$92,997, with Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee County each receiving one-half of the remaining amount. The net award to the City of Milwaukee is then \$705,168. Of that, Milwaukee County will receive \$352,584 or 50% of the City of Milwaukee's net award.

Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2015 JAG grant as it has for the prior year JAG grants.

Matching Funds Requirement

The JAG grant does not require a local match.

Trust Fund Requirement

The JAG funds, which are forwarded to the County and pursuant to grant guidelines, must be held in a separate trust account.

Spending Plan

The spending plan is attached. Three requests were received from Milwaukee County offices or departments, one from the District Attorney to continue the Community Prosecution Program, one from the House of Correction for various equipment, and one from the Sheriff's Office for various equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

In order to strengthen the collective ability of local jurisdictions to combat violent crime, it is recommended that DAS-PSB be retroactively authorized to apply for and accept JAG funds. In addition, a separate trust fund must also be authorized and established to meet grant requirements and to deposit the grant monies that will be forwarded to the County.

FISCAL NOTE

Approval of this request will result in total 2015 JAG funds of \$818,713 being provided to the following localities:

Municipality	Award Amount
MILWAUKEE COUNTY	\$352,584
MILWAUKEE*	\$352,584
WEST ALLIS	\$20,548
TOTAL	\$818,713

*MPD requests total \$134 below DOJ award amount

This grant does not require a local match; however, staff time is required because Milwaukee County will be the fiscal agent for the grant. DAS-PSB, upon verification that expenses submitted for reimbursement are consistent with the approved joint spending plan, will transfer the funds to the appropriate departmental account from the trust account where the funds will be held. In addition, DAS-PSB, upon verification that expenses submitted for reimbursement are consistent with the approved joint spending plan, will make payment to the municipalities from the trust account where the funds will be held.

PREPARED BY:

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Steven Kreklow

Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Department of Administrative Services

pc: Chris Abele, County Executive

John Chisholm, Milwaukee County District Attorney

David A. Clarke, Jr, Milwaukee County Sheriff

Michael Hafemann, Superintendent of the House of Correction