

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : August 21, 2020

TO : Marcelia Nicholson Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors

FROM : Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget

SUBJECT : 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

REQUEST

Retroactive approval to apply for, and accept, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2020; and to create a new trust fund (if awarded).

BACKGROUND

JAG funding is awarded to municipalities based upon the average annual number of PART 1 violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault etc.) 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.

Historically the DOJ releases grant solicitations for the JAG around early to mid-May. On July 9th, 2020 the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB) was notified by the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) that it had released applications for the 2020 JAG. DAS-PSB was notified that the deadline for the application was August 19th, 2020, prior to the scheduled September cycle Committee meetings, but after the deadline for the July cycle. The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors had a legislative recess in August. Rather than request a special public meeting ahead of the deadline, DAS-PSB is requesting retroactive authority to apply for, and receive, the 2020 JAG Grant and to hold the public hearing and review for the application during the regular September 2020 cycle meeting. It is anticipated that a notification of intent to award from the DOJ would occur in December or January. Acceptance of that intent to award must happen within 30 days of that notice per DOJ special condition.

In order to mitigate the risk of losing grant funding, DAS-PSB submitted the grant application on August 19th, 2020. Then, the public hearing and review of the application will occur at the Finance and Audit Committee on September 17th, 2020.

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 County	\$460,722 ¹
City of Milwaukee	\$347,652
City of West Allis	\$18,003
Total	\$826,377

¹ Includes the Wisconsin Policy Forum sub award of \$113,070 to fund the Community Justice Council Director as agreed to by both the COUNTY and CITY OF MILWAUKEE.

The total allocation of \$826,377 represents a decrease of \$106,882 or 12.46 percent from the FY 2019 JAG grant. After e-mail 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 Wisconsin Policy Forum at a 2020 cost of \$113,070, with Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee County each receiving one half (\$347,652) of the remaining amount.

Milwaukee County has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the 2020 JAG grant as it has for the prior year's JAG grants.

Below is the applied for expenditure plan for the County (\$347,652) and various outside organizations:

Organization	Item	Cost
DA	4 Community Prosecutors (6 months funding)	\$219,040
HOC	Racial Equity and Bias Training	\$50,000
Sheriff	Racial Equity and Bias Training	\$50,000
OAAA	JAG Collaboration and Planning w/ CJC Executive Members	\$28,612
WPF	Community Justice Director	\$113,070
MPD	Radios (59)	\$207,102
MPD	Taser Equipment	\$95,150
MPD	Motorola APX3000 Radios (10) (dignitary Protection)	\$25,000
MPD	Portable Fingerprint Technology	\$20,400
West Allis	Squad Car Docking Computers	\$18,003
		\$826,377

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.

Recommendation

In order to strengthen the collective ability of local jurisdictions to combat Part 1 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.

JOSEPH LAMERS 8/18/2020

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