

**EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT  
FY 2012 PROGRAM**

**EQUIPMENT FOR FORT BEND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***PROGRAM NARRATIVE***

**OVERVIEW**

The priorities set forth in the solicitation include many practices that are currently in place here in Fort Bend County. For example, our Department of Behavioral Services works diligently using evidence-based programs and practices to provide effective treatment. Our judicial system continuously improves upon reentry programs to reduce recidivism with the addition of specialty courts. With these practices currently in place our county government has historically utilized the JAG program to purchase eligible (and non-budgeted) equipment, supplies and services for the county's criminal justice departments. The budget for this grant consists of purchases for equipment, supplies and services, all of which are directly related to criminal justice investigation, prosecution, officer safety and collaboration.

Participating departments include behavioral health services in regards to the director's efforts in the criminal justice system, the fire marshal's office, the sheriff's office, the county's four precinct constables' offices and the investigation division of the county attorney's office.

Our behavioral health department works closely with our court systems and law enforcement departments to provide services that reduce recidivism (mental health court, drug court, etc.). The law enforcement agencies within Fort Bend County all work together to provide the best protection and service to our community. The use of these JAG funds will provide necessary equipment for communication, training and safety among all criminal justice agencies.

**SPECIFICS**

**Behavioral Health Services – Law Enforcement – Counseling**

- a. (1) \$15,600 – Part-time personnel salary

The Department of Behavioral Health Services is unique to our county and provides necessary coordination for individuals with mental illness at risk of involvement or involved with the criminal justice system through collaboration among the courts and with the jail and law enforcement offices. The services provided by this department have increased steadily since its inception in 2007, and now has a need for a part-time assistant to work with the director in meeting the program's goals. Among the program's efforts is providing

training to law enforcement personnel, attorneys and first responders and other county entities on identification of mental health disorders and intellectual development disabilities as well as interventions. This training and other services enhances the capabilities of law enforcement personnel and provides increased safety for the community at large.

**Fire Marshal – Law Enforcement – Prosecution and Court**

- a. (1) 60" Class LED 1080p 120Hz HDTV
- b. (1) Wall mounting bracket and cable
- c. (1) Motorola portable radio bank re-conditioner/charger
- d. (2) 5-Drawer lateral file cabinet

The Fire Marshal's office will purchase equipment to allow personnel to view evidence tapes and also offer video training. The radio bank re-conditioner will allow the office to maintain the batteries for the portable radios in house. Additional storage space is needed for case files and inspection files.

**Sheriff's Office – Computer Software**

- a. (1) AT&T Cell phone air time
- b. (1) AT&T Laptop air card
- c. (3) Shield – Level III A – Ballistic
- d. (2) Portable Radio XTS5000
- e. (1) iPad Apple 32G
- f. (2) Mount/module antenna for portable license plate reader
- g. (2) Gloves – Kevlar

The Sheriff's Office is buying an annual contract of cell phone and laptop air time for communication, investigation coordination and officer safety. The ballistic shields, portable radios, iPad computer and module antenna equipment are all for enhanced officer safety in the performance of their duties and for enhanced criminal investigations.

**Constable Precinct 1 – Law Enforcement – Prevention and Education**

- a. (1) 60" Class LED 1080p 120 Hz HDTV
- b. (1) Wall mounting bracket and cable
- c. (1) Laptop computer

Constable Precinct 1 endeavors to provide on-going training for deputies, which is essential for their safety as well as public safety. In addition, continued training is necessary to meet the requirements of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. The laptop computer and flat screen television will be installed in the patrol room for video and power point training methods.

**Constable Precinct 2 – Law Enforcement – Prosecution and Court**

- a. (2) Flashback 2 In-car video system

Constable Precinct 2 is purchasing the in-car video system for the enhancement of effective criminal investigations and information gathering. This information can subsequently be used as evidence in court proceedings. The video system also provides for enhanced officer safety.

**Constable Precinct 3 – Law Enforcement – Prevention and Education**

- a. (1) EZ Child ID Kit (Children Identification Unit)
- b. (2) Itronix GD8000 Mobile Data Computer

Constable Precinct 3 provides fingerprint identification data for families with young and school-aged children through requests from Homeowner's Associations, PTA groups in schools, civic organizations and childcare and educational facilities. The request for this service has increased exponentially over the past five years with the increase of reported missing children each year. The self-contained unit allows for pertinent information to be captured and then a printout and/or a CD provided to a parent or guardian. The use of the device will enhance public safety and community relations with the Constable's office as well as law enforcement in general. The in-car computer system will replace an older Motorola model that is no longer functional and cannot be upgraded with new and improved software, such as GPS tracking and enhanced memory function.

**Constable Precinct 4 – Law Enforcement – Prosecution and Court**

- a. (3) Portable radio

Constable Precinct 4 is purchasing portable radios for deputies to replace an outdated model in the current inventory. The radios are necessary for officer coordination and communication as well as officer safety.

**County Attorney – Law Enforcement – Prosecution and Court**

- a. (2) First VU Mini DV Camera
- b. (2) Camera holder converter
- c. (2) SD cards 8G

The Fort Bend County Attorney's office manages the Peace Officer Commission, consisting of five officers including three environmental law enforcement officers working in the community. The cameras and accessories will be used for environmental inspections and citations to provide officer safety as well as records for investigations.

In conclusion, Fort Bend County has many criminal justice departments working together to provide the best for our community. The Edward Byrne Memorial JAG funds will help make the jobs of so many in our county safer and more efficient. Fort Bend County criminal justice providers as well as Fort Bend citizens appreciate this opportunity for funding.