



COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

The Honorable KP George
County Judge

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE
GRANT FY 2020**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FORT BEND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

TOP PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

1. Equipment – General
2. Body-Worn Camera
3. Less-than-Lethal
4. Communications

PROJECT OVERVIEW

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing large counties in the nation, with an estimated population of 811,688 as of July 1, 2019. This distinction has put great demand on the county to provide services to its growing constituency. The priorities set forth in the solicitation include many practices that are currently in place here in Fort Bend County. They also reflect a need for more resources, and additional methodologies and equipment. 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 agencies. The proposed budget for this grant consists of purchases for equipment that directly relates to officer safety, community safety outreach and program efficiency.

The law enforcement agencies within Fort Bend County all work together to provide the best protection and service to our community. Each agency participates in the annual Community Public Safety Plan that seeks to identify priorities and gaps in law enforcement service. Participating departments and personnel in the Fort Bend Law Enforcement Equipment grant include the Constables' and Sheriff's Offices, environmental enforcement division, prosecution and defense personnel, juvenile probation detention officers, and the Fire Marshal. During the grant period, these funds will provide necessary equipment to increase operational efficiency and improve the safety among all personnel in the performance of their duties as well as the safety of the community at large. These improvements will also enhance the enforcement of their duties to help meet the gaps found in providing service to a growing population.

The Constables' Offices are requesting body worn cameras, less-than-lethal weapons, radios, and equipment for rapid incident response, traffic enforcement, and inclement weather conditions. The Sheriff's Office is seeking communications equipment for its Public Information Office, which plays a crucial role during disaster events and emergencies. The District Attorney's investigators will utilize computer equipment to aid in investigation gathering and prosecution. The Environmental Enforcement Division is requesting lighting equipment to aid in nocturnal investigations.

The Juvenile Probation Department's detention officers are best able to perform their duties when they can safely and reliably communicate in their facilities. The Fire Marshal is requesting a portable firearms training simulator in order to allow officers to train despite the budgetary and physical limitations caused by the pandemic.

Fort Bend County's system to keep track of the data for the proposed purchases from this grant occurs through its applicable county policies and procedures for procurement of all supplies, materials, equipment and services required or used. The Purchasing Department works in concert with the County Auditor to ensure the proper expenditure of grant dollars. This system of checks and balances correlates to accurate and efficient reporting of all grant measures and deliverables.

In conclusion, the entire community benefits when officers can perform their duties in the safest and most efficient manner possible. The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant has been instrumental in making this possible for the county's law enforcement providers as well as the citizens of Fort Bend County. We appreciate the opportunity to apply for the FY 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.