

COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

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U.S. DPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FY 2021

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
REQUEST FOR FY2021 FORT BEND COUNTY JAG PROGRAM

TOP PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

- 1. Equipment General
- 2. Communications
- 3. Community Safety Outreach
- 4. Less-than-Lethal

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. Additionally, a growth rate of 2.8% was projected for the year 2020. This population growth has put an increased demand on the county to provide additional and expanded services to its growing constituency. Fort Bend Count has historically utilized the JAG program to purchase eligible (and non-budgeted) equipment, supplies, and services for the County's various criminal justice agencies. The proposed budget for this grant consists of purchases for equipment that will support these initiatives and that directly relate to community violence intervention, technologies to support transparency, and effective communication among other areas.

Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies work together to provide effective protection and service to the community. Participating departments and personnel in the FY 2021 JAG grant include the Constables' and Sheriff's Offices, prosecution and defense personnel, juvenile probation detention officers, and the Fire Marshal. Throughout the grant period, the allocated funds will provide necessary equipment to increase operational efficiency, improve the safety among department personnel and the safety of the residents Fort Bend County, and improve community relations.

The Constables' Offices are requesting protective gear, less-than-lethal weapons and accessories, bicycles and bicycle equipment, and tent covers and tables for rapid incident response, de-

escalation efforts, a proposed bike patrol, community relations efforts, and adapting to inclement weather conditions, such as hurricanes and severe flooding. The Sheriff's Office requests two radios to allow for more effective communication during emergency calls and active criminal investigations, as well as to be able to better apprehend violent criminals.

The District Attorney's Office will use the requested document scanners and flash drives to more efficiently relay information to investigators as well as other law enforcement agencies. The County Attorney's Office is requesting a camera and lens to support its investigative offices.

The Juvenile Probation Department's detention officers are requesting transport restraints to ensure the safe transport of juveniles to court hearings and healthcare visits in addition to radios to allow for safe and reliable communication with the department's facilities. The Fire Marshal is requesting portable power stations, rechargeable lights, backpacks, and combat gauze. These items will assist the Fire Marshal with nighttime investigations as well as with administering necessary first aid.

Relevant, applicable county policies and procedures for procurement of all supplies, materials, and equipment and services will be enforced to track data for the proposed purchases. The Purchasing Department works closely with the County Auditor to ensure the proper expenditure of grant dollars. This cooperation between the Purchasing Department and the County Auditor's Office ensures accurate and efficient reporting of all grant measures and deliverables.

In conclusion, the items requested will support initiatives that will benefit the residents of Fort Bend County, as law enforcement officials will be able to more effectively and efficiently perform their duties and better reach the community in which they serve. The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant has been and will continue to be instrumental in fulfilling these goals. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to apply for the FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.