

COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FY 2023

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Fort Bend County remains one of the fastest growing

large counties in the nation with an estimated population of 889,146 as of July 1, 2022. From

April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022, the population increased by almost four percent. As population

rises in Fort Bend County, so too does crime. For example, 2023 YTD, compared to the same

reporting period in 2022, Robbery has increased by 25.3%, and use of a firearm when

committing a robbery has increased by 48.3%.

The increase in population, and hence crime, has amplified demand on the county to provide

additional and expanded services to its growing constituency. Fort Bend County has historically,

as well as this year, 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 2023 JAG grant

include the Constables' and Sheriff's Offices, prosecution personnel and juvenile probation

detention officers. 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 radio equipment and accessories, a speed trailer that will collect traffic count data and speed data throughout the day, mobile automated fingerprint identification systems, AED's, and M-FAK first aid kits, as well as other first aid supplies, which provides quick access to emergency essentials during a crisis incident.

The Sheriff's Office requests Headrest Individual First Aid Kits and trauma shears to address the emergency first aid and trauma care needs of law enforcement officers, who put themselves in harm's way every minute they are in uniform, as well as mobile automated fingerprint identification systems.

The District Attorney's Office will use the requested mobile data terminals and portable radios to better enable investigators to be mobile and provide quick access to critical information as they perform timely and comprehensive investigations. The Juvenile Probation Department is requesting 2-Way Radios, batteries and clips, to be used by Detention staff for rapid communication and response in the event of an emergency or calls for assistance.

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.

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 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.