

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program FY 2015 Project Narrative

The City of Harrisonburg is soliciting federal funding through Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to further improve its capabilities in training, Geo-Mapping for community service initiatives, logistical planning for major events and large-scale operations, and effective incident scene command. The City, through the Harrisonburg Police Department, will purchase \$13,315.00 worth of equipment to support the mission of the Department in the areas outlined above. As a result of this project, the City will enhance the ability for multiple groups to provide training and planning sessions in multiple locations of the Public Safety Building.

The City, and specifically the Public Safety specter, have continued to move towards technological operations through advancements in equipment, software, and cloud-based solutions. The Police Department has outfitted two of the four available training/conference rooms with Smartboards to help with training/planning/scene command. In order to diversify and provide technological access in the other two rooms, the HPD seeks to use grant funding through this Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to purchase mobile equipment to be used in these rooms or in other offices as needed.

The HPD plans to purchase through this program two InFocus MondoPad M-Touch 57-inch tablets at a cost of \$10,728.16. These giant tablets give officers and commanders the ability to present, annotate and collaborate with other participants in the room and off-site. The tablets act as an integrated Multi-Touch display, Windows PC, Digital Interactive Whiteboard and video-conferencing device. They can be controlled by and shared with other notebooks, tablets or smartphones through the use of Apple TV and the InFocus mobile app. Funding would also be used to purchase two Apple TV's (cost \$140.00), two iPad Airs (cost \$1,114.00), mounting hardware for one of the MondoPad units (cost \$318), and a mobile cart for the second unit (cost \$1,015.00).

During the Accreditation process for the Police Department, the City purchased software to help maintain policy and procedural instruction, and to issue training and testing through web-based programs. Officers are able to hold group or individual training, but currently have to wait for rooms with equipment to become available.

The Department has also purchased social media mining software, to help gain leads and insight during priority investigations. There are only two locations in the building currently where they would be able to share this tool on a large screen for the entire investigative unit to view as a group.

During 2014 and 2015, the Harrisonburg Police Department added 5 new sworn officer positions, and initiated a Geographical Policing Initiative. District boundaries were put in place and officers from each shift, specialty units and investigators each were assigned a Geo area for which it is their responsibility to patrol, identify hotspot areas, strategically plan solutions to curb crime and improve the quality of life for the community. Geographical Policing groups currently hold meetings to develop strategic plans based on intelligence received from the Department's Crime Analyst. They would benefit from being

able to view satellite maps and hotspot layers as a group. The officers would better be able to hold community meetings and give presentations with the extra equipment.

Finally, the Public Safety Building is designated as a State Emergency Operations Center, with existing MondoPads on the 5th floor Emergency Communications Center, and the 3rd floor Fire Department. The Police Department occupies the ground, 1st, 2nd and 4th floors and would be able to connect with the other MondoPads during EOC operations, better allowing the department directors and scene commanders to communicate and inter-operate.

The ability to live-share images, operations plans, web-based programs, and interactive maps greatly increases the ability of staff to run crime scenes from a distance; collaborate and train without requiring travel into the office; and expand options for project management sessions, geographical policing initiatives, crime analysis and emergency operation collaboration.