

For comments or suggestions concerning this grant proposal please email Cassandra Bonds at Cassandra.Bonds@CharlotteCountyFL.gov or send a letter to Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Budget and Administrative Services Department, Fiscal Services Division: Grants, Suite B-109, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1068

**U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs' (OJP)
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)**

Funding Application Announcement

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program
FY 2023 Local Solicitation**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Part 1 – Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) – Law Enforcement Vehicle Push Bar:

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) vision is for Charlotte County to remain one of the safest and most enjoyable places to live and visit in the State of Florida and in the nation. In addition, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office strives to provide safe roadways for the residents and visitors of Charlotte County. Law enforcement equipment which would expand response options and benefit the members of the County of Charlotte, are push bars/bumpers for law enforcement vehicles.

Often vehicles involved in crashes obstruct county roads, state roads, and the interstate for lengthy amounts of time prior to tow truck services arriving. During these waiting periods, members of the Sheriff's Office are working in a dangerous environment while directing traffic around these obstructions. Law enforcement vehicles equipped with push bars/bumpers would have the capability to clear obstructions from the roadways immediately, thus reducing the likelihood that members of the community would be injured or killed during these situations.

Another benefit of having push bars/bumpers on law enforcement vehicles is to have the ability to engage and stop a vehicle that is fleeing from law enforcement. Vehicles that are fleeing are pursued at a high rate of speed until the offender either voluntarily stops or crashes. Law enforcement vehicles equipped with push bars/bumpers would allow law enforcement officers to apply precision immobilization techniques. Therefore, the equipment would assist in resolving pursuits in a safe and more controlled manner.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program has allocated funds to the County of Charlotte. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will receive \$18,103 of those funds. The funds will be used to purchase law enforcement vehicle push bars/bumpers. Each push bar would cost approximately \$915.00. The goal is to purchase 20 push bars/bumpers amounting to a total of \$18,300. The difference created between the cost of the equipment and the allocated amount of \$18,103 is \$197. CCSO would cover the excess cost from the general fund.

The procurement process would be initiated in January 2024 by first issuing the purchase order for the equipment. The equipment would be received and installed between the months of February through June 2024. The intended date for using the equipment in the field would likely be in the months of July through September 2024, after which the grant closeout would be completed.

Timeline January 1 through September 2024:

January – June 2024	July – September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement Process started 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin use of equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment received and installed 	

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office has been a recipient of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) for several years. Prior experience will allow CCSO to achieve this goal and meet all reporting requirements. The Fiscal Grant Management Analyst is responsible for the management of this grant and will therefore coordinate with the Charlotte County Fiscal Services Division to complete financial and performance reporting as required. The Finance Director will be responsible for the financial management of the grant in our financial system. The management of this grant will be possible with this proposed plan.

Part 2 – Punta Gorda Police Department (PGPD) – PGPD Rifle Training Project:

The Punta Gorda Police Department is requesting funding from the BJA DOJ JAG Program FY 2023 Solicitation for the PGPD Rifle Training Project. This project is intended to provide officers of the Punta Gorda Police Department with the tools they need for effective and efficient rifle

training. This training is imperative for when it comes to responding to hostage/barricaded subject situations, active assailant situations, and other situations involving armed subjects. This project will allow officers to experience real life training scenarios using simunitions rifles that will prepare them for real time incidents. Currently, the Punta Gorda Police Department trains for active assailant incidents with simunitions handguns. This provides officers with a real feel firearm during a real-life training simulation. However, typically, in an active assailant situation Punta Gorda Police officers would respond to these types of incidents with rifles. However, the Punta Gorda Police Department does not have the simunitions equipment required to train this way with rifles. The goal of this project is to procure two rifles and simunitions conversion kits. The rifles will be converted into simunitions training rifles and cerakoted blue. They will be used during real life scenario training drills. These drills involve training in an empty school with a role player(s) wearing safety pads as the "assailant". The converted rifles will eject a marking training cartridge, just as a real rifle would shoot ammunition. The officers will practice receiving an active assailant call from dispatch, walk through the school clearing it while looking for the role player. The marking cartridges will allow the officers to see where the simulated rifle shots hit. This type of training will ensure that all officers responding to active assailant incidents, or any other type of incident involving rifle response, are well trained and ready to respond.