

For comments or suggestions concerning this grant proposal please email Debbie Thibideau at Debbie.Thibideau@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 2025 Local Solicitation**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Part 1 – Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) – Night Vision Scope:

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 safety to citizens and visitors by responding to and handling critical incidents. Law enforcement equipment, which would expand response options and benefit the members of the County of Charlotte, are night vision scopes for the SWAT Team.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program has allocated funds to the County of Charlotte. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office will receive \$14,618 of those funds. The funds will be used to purchase a night vision scope for law enforcement at a cost of approximately \$13,000. If the cost of the equipment exceeds the allocated amount, CCSO would cover the excess from the general fund.

The procurement process would be initiated upon approval of our request by issuing the purchase order for the equipment. The equipment would be received and installed between the months of by September 30, 2026

Part 2 – Punta Gorda Police Department (PGPD) – PGPD Special Response Team Equipment Enhancement Project:

The Punta Gorda Police Department serves a growing community within Charlotte County, Florida, and is responsible for responding to critical incidents including high-risk warrant service, violent offenders, and other high-threat situations. These incidents require specialized tactical capabilities that exceed the scope of standard patrol response.

The department is in the process of establishing a Special Response Team (SRT) to enhance its ability to safely and effectively manage high-risk incidents. While assigned personnel receive advanced training, the department lacks sufficient specialized equipment necessary to support safe and coordinated tactical operations.

Without proper tactical equipment, officers responding to high-risk incidents face increased risks to their personal safety, particularly during dynamic and potentially violent encounters.

Additionally, the absence of standardized training apparel limit team cohesion, identification and professionalism during both training exercises and operational deployment.

Funding through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program will allow the department to acquire critical equipment necessary to support the newly established SRT.

Requested equipment includes ballistic and protective helmets and standardized training apparel (training shirts) designed to enhance office safety, team coordination and operational effectiveness.

Protective helmets provide essential head protection during high-risk operations, including warrant service, barricaded subjects, and other tactical incidents where there is an elevated risk of blunt force trauma or ballistic threats. Standardized training apparel promotes team unity, improves identification during training and deployments, and supports safe, organized training environments.

The acquisition of this equipment will improve operational readiness, reduce risk to officers, and enhance the department's ability to respond effectively to critical incidents. This project will

strengthen the department's capacity to address violent crime and other serious threats while protecting both officers and the community they serve