

For comments or suggestions concerning this grant proposal please email Jerry Livingston at jerry.livingston@charlottecountyfl.gov, call 941-764-5502, or send a letter to Jerry Livingston, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Budget and Administrative Services Department, 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 2016 Local Solicitation**

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Part 1 – Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) – Traffic Enforcement and Intersection Monitoring:

In unincorporated Charlotte County, traffic-related incidents account for 26.78 percent (47,434 of 177,154) of the calls for service generated by the Sheriff's Office in 2015 (Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Computer Aided Dispatch Data; all 003, 004, and Traffic Stops). Given more than quarter of the calls for service worked by the Sheriff's Office pertain to traffic-related issues, Sheriff Bill Prummell has a Traffic Safety goal as one of his six goals. This goal states that the Sheriff shall "make the roadways of Charlotte County safe for those who use them," (Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan, pg. 8). To this extent, members are to develop strategies for his three objectives, which are:

- 1) "Enforce laws on county roadways, concentrating on intersections and roads historically identified as problematic;
- 2) Reduce traffic crashes and injuries related to traffic crashes and fatalities; and
- 3) Respond to citizen complaints regarding neighborhood traffic issues," (pg. 8)

With the number of motorists traveling on county roads expected to grow in the years to come, the ability to identify vehicles being driven by motorists who violate Florida's traffic laws is important. With improved technology in a radar's capabilities, it allows for a deputy to isolate the vehicle in question with improved accuracy than with traditional equipment, especially since Charlotte County has experienced an increase in traffic for a variety of reasons, one being the construction. There have also been complaints of reckless drivers speeding and weaving in and out of traffic, putting other motorists at risk and even causing traffic crashes.

In order to continue his Traffic Safety initiative, the Sheriff intends to purchase four light-centric radars and moving radar units to be used by Uniform Road Patrol members and the Traffic Unit, who can roam throughout the county or conduct operations where this equipment would be an asset. Seeing that 26.78 percent of calls generated by the Sheriff's Office involve traffic-related incidents, it is imperative our deputies possess the proper, emerging technology that can aid them identifying violators more efficiently.

Traffic enforcement has a direct, proportional relationship to highway safety. Traffic enforcement has been cited as the number one concern from the community to the Sheriff's Office. Therefore, in keeping with the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program identifiers of Traffic Enforcement and Radar Monitoring, equipment purchased with this allocation will support the Sheriff's Traffic Safety goal which should improve the quality of life for citizens of and visitors to Charlotte County.

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Part 2 – Punta Gorda Police Department (PGPD) – Use of Force Firearms Training Initiative:

The Punta Gorda Police Department increasingly faces challenges in maintaining proficiency in the area of force on force - scenario based decision making training. One of the reasons for this is limited access to the local pistol range. Due to the encroachment of residential development, the local sheriff's office is forced to limit the usage of the range primarily to their own personnel. This inhibits the Punta Gorda Police Department from receiving essential training because police personnel are only allowed to use the range under the sheriff's strict guidelines and direct supervision. This has created serious scheduling problems with both students and instructors and has proven to be costly due to travel distance and availability of alternative locations for firearms training. The agency would pay for any costs above the grant allocation.

Project Summary:

This project will provide the Punta Gorda Police Department the funds to purchase a use of force firearms training simulator. This necessary piece of equipment and software is a preferred method of training for real life scenarios that an officer would encounter during a typical shift. Due to current fiscal restraints in our training budget combined with our lack of access to an adequate firearms facility, this piece equipment and software will act as an ideal supplement to our training component.

The City of Punta Gorda has no funds available from the general revenue or operating budget to cover the cost of the use of force firearms training simulator. Without this grant, the Punta Gorda Police Department would not be able to make this purchase. Documentation of the equipment will be provided by requisition, invoice and cancelled check.