

Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Local Law Enforcement Grant Program FAQ

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive
Office of Public Safety and Security

Office of Grants and Research



Posting Date: August 15, 2023

Q. Our intent was to apply for the Federal FY23 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program that was just released a week or so ago. Would we be eligible to apply for the OGR Byrne JAG as well?

A. If your department has been invited to receive a federal variable award from DOJ, you are eligible to apply for both, as long as you are not seeking funding for the same programming/equipment in each application.

Q. I was wondering if I can purchase a cruiser and upgrade it under this grant?

A. Upon further review of Byrne/JAG federal expenditure guidelines we can provide the following clarification regarding vehicle expenditures.

Prohibited Expenditure Category B:

The following items or matters are prohibited expenditures:

(A) vehicles (excluding police cruisers),

*For purposes of the “Prohibited Expenditure List,” a vehicle is considered a “police cruiser” only if it is used in the ordinary course for routine police patrol within the United States. Vehicles (including motorcycles, SUVs, pickup trucks, ATVs, and UTVs) used as “police cruisers” are **not prohibited** under JAG, and therefore may be acquired with JAG funds in the ordinary course, to the extent otherwise allowable under the award.*

Q. Would police station desk top computers fit in the technology section. Ours are getting old and are due for replacement?

A. While those are eligible items for purchase, this purchase may be considered as an operational need that could be funded within a department’s operational budget.

As with any request, it is strongly recommended that you provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the specific need for funding for desk top computers, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase cannot be funded from your operational budget.

Q. Can we replace our Livescan finger printer that is no longer serviceable?

A. Yes, that is allowable and would be considered a technology upgrade –

Technology Upgrades, Investigative Tools, and Protective Gear:

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*Applicants may address this by utilizing funds to upgrade a department's record management system, vehicle mobile terminals, purchase of license plate readers, surveillance cameras, electronic control weapons (e.g. Taser), *interoperable communications such as radios, and **tactical vests.*

Q. I understand that vehicles are not qualifying under this grant, but I was curious about a specialized off-road vehicle. We have an isolated beach area in town, that has a high usage during the day and is suffering from a vandalism issue. Because of the terrain our cruisers are unable to access most of this area, especially the areas of vandalism and the nesting areas that need to be protected. This beach area is also a breeding ground for a protected species of bird. Would the purchase of an off-road vehicle that could access these areas be allowed? Specifically, a four wheeled utility vehicle.

A. Please refer to prior question and response regarding vehicle expenditures.

Q. We are a small police department made up of roughly 17 officers and would like to purchase 3-4 ballistic shields. Is this allowable?

A. While ballistic shields are eligible items for purchase, it is strongly recommended that you provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the specific need for ballistic shields, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase is essential for your department.

Q. We are looking into applying for the JAG Municipal Law Enforcement Grant and wanted to confirm that training is an allowable budget category.

A. Yes, training is allowable. Please refer to page 4 of the AGF for further information.

Q. I was wondering if the Byrne Grant would fund replacement portable radios for my department.

A. Yes. Per the AGF –

Technology Upgrades, Investigative Tools, and Protective Gear:

*Applicants may address this by utilizing funds to upgrade a department's record management system, vehicle mobile terminals, purchase of license plate readers, surveillance cameras, electronic control weapons (e.g. Taser), *interoperable communications such as radios, and **tactical vests.*

Q. One of the departments initiatives currently is to purchase and cross train a K9 to be a Gun Dog and Officer Wellness dog. We will have a dog purchased and over the course of the next year, it will be trained with its handler to be an gun dog for our town, but also used regionally as there is a growing need for mutual aid requests in our area for firearms/ballistics K9's. Currently, we are lacking funding for equipment for the program which would include a kennel for the police station and kennel for an existing cruiser that would need to be upfitted. There would also be associated costs for climate control electronics for the dog and other various training aids. Is this something that would be applicable to apply for?

A. While those are eligible items for purchase, it is strongly recommended that applicants provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the

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specific need for this equipment, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase is essential for your department.

Q. Where do I find my UEI number?

A. You can find your existing UEI number or register for a new one here - <https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>

Q. Would cruiser dash cameras and parking lot surveillance cameras be considered allowable?

A. Yes. Per the AGF, cameras fall under Technology Upgrades, Investigative Tools, and Protective Gear priority areas:

*Applicants may address this by utilizing funds to upgrade a department's record management system, vehicle mobile terminals, purchase of license plate readers, **surveillance cameras**, electronic control weapons (e.g. Taser), *interoperable communications such as radios, and **tactical vests.*

While cameras are eligible items for purchase, it is strongly recommended that you provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the specific need for ballistic shields, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase is essential for your department.

Q. Can law enforcement agencies apply for multiple priority areas in one application?

A. Yes, you may apply for as many priority areas as you would like.

Q. Our agency is in need for portable radios and the cost to outfit 15 officers far exceeds the maximum amount awarded under the grant. My question is, is there an exception to the maximum award that would allow us to purchase new radios for 15 officers?

A. Unfortunately, there are no exceptions. You may apply for up to the maximum award amount, however your department would have to incur any costs exceeding the grant award.

Q. For potential purchases, do we need to provide official quotes with our applications? Or can we just articulate what we believe the costs associated with the purchase would be in the application?

A. Quotes are not required with submission. We ask reviewers to do the best they can at estimating the cost of each item in their application.

Q. Would the purchase of an emotional support dog for the department qualify for this year's Byrne grant?

A. Yes, the purchase of an emotional support dog would be considered allowable under this grant opportunity. It is strongly recommended that you provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the specific need for an emotional support dog, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase is essential for your department.

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Q. We are looking to apply for new mobile data terminals (RMS/Dispatch and CJIS access) for our police cruisers, and a vehicle repeater for the P25 800 state radio system. Do these items require the ICIP review?

A. Yes, these items would need the ICIP form.

Q. Under the priority areas one category is under combatting drug use, and states "conducting investigations". We are short staffed on detectives, our chief wants to know if we could apply to pay for a partial salary for a detective, or if not, can we use these funds for overtime for drug investigations?

A. Yes, personnel and overtime are allowable budget categories. Be sure to read OGR's overtime policy and other allowable cost categories located on pages 9 & 10 of the AGF for further information.

Q. We are applying for security cameras for an area of Hyannis that has experienced a lot of serious crime and some license plate readers that will help us to partner with our communities in MA to solve crime that is multi-jurisdictional. My question is – are the cameras and LPR considered Interoperable Communications Devices?

A. No, those items would not be considered interoperable communication equipment.

Q. Can law enforcement departments lease license plate reader cameras?

A. Yes. Leasing is allowable, however it cannot exceed the length of the grant period (1 year).

Q. Are funds from this grant eligible to purchase radio technical equipment upgrades such as 2-way radio communications? We have old and outdated portable radios and are looking to upgrade them for Officer Safety reasons.

A. Yes, you may apply for replacement radios. As with any request, it is strongly recommended that you provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation of the necessity for such equipment. By clearly describing the specific need for funding for radios, you will ensure that the reviewers recognize and understand why this purchase cannot be funded from your operational budget.