

PROGRAM NARRATIVE (ATTACHMENT 1)

**BJA FY09 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM:
LOCAL SOLICITATION**

CITY OF CHICOPEE

APPLICATION NO. 2009-G9239-MA-DJ

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has notified the Chicopee Police Department that we are eligible to receive a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) through their programs Division. The eligible allocation amount for this jurisdiction is \$44,244. The current financial crisis has had an adverse effect on the local budget. In order to stabilize the budget, the Mayor has ordered all municipal departments to freeze spending. The FY09 JAG grant is a valuable opportunity to purchase much needed law enforcement equipment during this difficult period. The Goal of our program is to improve the criminal justice system in the City of Chicopee.

Project # 1

Purchase Live Scan Electronic Fingerprint Identification System.

The Chicopee Police Department will use the grant funds to replace our aging electronic fingerprinting machine. The Chicopee Police arrest and book an average of 1800 people each year. For the past several years, the police department has been using a Live Scan Fingerprinting Identification System to electronically record and send the arrested person's information and fingerprints to the Massachusetts and national fingerprint/criminal records databases.

Our current Live Scan System is a vast improvement over the old ink and paper method of taking fingerprints. Now a suspect's true identity and criminal record are revealed in minutes instead of hours or even days. Nonetheless, the current system has severe limitations and it needs to be replaced for the following reasons:

- The machine is frequently down for repairs. The system's manufacturer no longer provides a maintenance agreement and they will only be able to maintain the system as long as parts remain available.
- It is very difficult, if not impossible, to capture a fingerprint on the current system if the subject's hands are damp, very dry, or contain contaminants.
- Fingerprints of some people with fine or worn friction ridges cannot be captured.
- Our current system cannot capture a person's palm print. Up to 40 % of prints found at crime scenes come from parts of the hand other than the fingers.

The newer system has the ability to quickly and accurately obtain fingerprints from persons that have worn, very dry, or moist fingertips. It also has the ability to capture the details of the person's entire hand – which allows for more suspect identifications. The upgraded Live Scan

System has fewer moving parts and a tougher platen surface; this newer system will require less maintenance.

Project #2

Purchase a Crash Data Retrieval System and a Laptop Computer.

The Chicopee Police Department investigates over 1500 motor vehicle collisions involving hundreds of injuries every year. In order to investigate the most serious of these collisions, the police department has four officers trained and certified in traffic accident reconstruction. Reconstructing a serious motor vehicle collision is an undertaking fraught with complexities. The accident investigator uses principles of physics, engineering and advanced mathematics in order to determine how a motor vehicle was operated prior to a collision.

The purchase of a crash data retrieval system will allow the investigator to conduct a more comprehensive and objective investigation. A crash data retrieval system allows the investigating officer to download and display information recorded on a vehicle's event data recorder (also known as an automotive black box). This information includes the vehicle's speed just prior to impact, whether the driver was wearing a seatbelt, driver braking or throttle before the crash, crash severity and other related data.

The additional purchase of a laptop computer will allow the accident reconstruction investigator to download and display data from the event data recorder during roadside investigations.

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/09JAGLocalSol.pdf>