

**Item Title:** Appropriate Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds for the Wake County Sheriff's Office (WCSO)

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept and appropriate \$55,336 in the Grants and Donations Fund for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners approves all new revenues and appropriations during the fiscal year.

**Background:** The Office of Justice Programs within the US Department of Justice offers funding opportunities by awarding formula grants to support law enforcement activities in state and local jurisdictions and to implement programs that improve the criminal justice system. One grant program is the JAG grant program. The Wake County Sheriff's Office and the Raleigh Police Department apply annually for JAG funding. The City of Raleigh and Wake County have a Memorandum of Agreement that outlines each party's participation in and responsibilities under this grant. Pursuant to this agreement, the City of Raleigh, as the lead agency, will receive the proceeds of the grant.

The Wake County Sheriff's Office intends to use the funds to purchase radar units, drones and ballistic shields for its law enforcement officers. The WCSO requests the Board of Commissioners accept and appropriate all funds, including federal grants for the approved 2019 JAG award.

**Board Goal:** This Board action supports routine County business.

**Fiscal Impact:** WCSO will receive \$55,336 from the grant award. This action will appropriate the funds in the Grants and Donations Fund for WCSO use according to the 2019 JAG grant award.

**Additional Information:**

WCSO proposes to purchase radar units, drones and ballistic shields with the grant funding.

Radar units will be mounted in patrol cars to measure the speed of nearby vehicles to determine whether they are going faster than the posted speed limit. These units provide a scientific measurement of a vehicle's speed, and they are an important tool

in conducting speed enforcement to enhance motorist and pedestrian safety.

Drones are useful in daytime and nighttime search and rescue missions because they provide an aerial view of the landscape and allow officers to see subjects who may be obscured by heavy vegetation or other barriers that prevent them from being seen by those on the ground. Drones can be a valuable tool to locate missing persons, spot active shooters, and seek out hazardous devices. Drones can also be utilized in day-to-day operations to analyze crime scenes, assist in 3D mapping of traffic crash scenes, and find suspects who have escaped custody. The viewing and video recording capabilities of drones have helped to reduce the amount of time officers spend on searches and seizures as well as obtaining additional information for ongoing cases and testifying in court. Currently, WCSO has two drones available for use and six (6) certified drone operators.

The WCSO also plans to purchase ballistic shields to help protect its law enforcement officers from bullets during incidents in which sufficient cover is not available and/or riot shields would not offer adequate protection. These shields are used in many different situations, such as barricaded subjects, high-risk vehicle stops, and the approach of suspects considered to be armed and dangerous. Because the protective material they are made of breaks down over time, ballistic shields have an expiration date and must be replaced every few years.

As soon as the 2019 JAG funds are properly set up in the City of Raleigh's financial system and a Memorandum of Understanding and a subaward agreement are signed by the City of Raleigh and Wake County, then the Wake County Sheriff's Office will be sub-awarded its agreed-upon share of the funding. These funds will be available to the Wake County Sheriff's Office on a reimbursement basis after sufficient and proper documentation has been received by the City of Raleigh regarding the expenditures that have been made.

**Attachments:**

1. JAG MOU
2. Budget Memo