

RECOVERY ACT



The City of Punta Gorda is applying for a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As part of the process, the proposed application is to be made available to the public for comment. The application is listed below for public review. Should you wish to comment about the application, please contact City Manager Howard Kunik at citymgr@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us or (941) 575-3302.

Program Narrative (Attachment 1):

The City of Punta Gorda grant proposal is designed to significantly enhance the effectiveness of our Criminal Justice System through the purpose area of ***Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs***.

The City of Punta Gorda will be totally responsible for all funds received and expended from this grant. All funds received will remain with the City and all expenditures will be paid directly by the City. All related accounting records will be received and maintained by the City. A unique and totally separate project will be set up in the City project accounting system to track all receipt and expenditures of funds for this grant so they are not commingled with funds from any other source.

This grant proposal relates to the purpose area of ***Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs***. With the advent of improved information technologies, law enforcement officials have been able to process information and data more efficiently than ever before. In order to leverage the benefits of improved information technology, this grant will be used to purchase in-car digital video recording equipment for Punta Gorda Police Department patrol cars (four units).

Over the last 42 months of the Punta Gorda Police Department's In-Car Video/Audio program, the use of analog videotapes has become increasingly problematic. As the videotapes were recycled back into use, a consistent degradation of quality has been observed. Upon playback, analog videotapes have shown signs of shadowing, a phenomenon which produces ghost images on tapes that are recycled consistently. The inability to produce effective recordings has been a factor in several recent cases that could have had a more favorable outcome or at least been easier to prove had digital in-car video recorders been available. The State Attorney's Office of the 20th Judicial Circuit strongly urges the collection of video evidence in criminal prosecutions. Adequate electronic tape erasure devices are thousands of dollars, new tapes are expensive, and with the continued law enforcement migration to digital technology, fewer vendors are willing to service analog video systems using 20-year-old analog technology. Additionally, daily administration and management of the analog videotape

system has become cumbersome and inefficient. The rotating cycle of analog tapes has resulted in continued depositing, logging in, transferring, erasing, and recycling of these tapes by various agency personnel. For management to access and view a recording, the actual tape must be retrieved from evidence manually and the Evidence Custodian must either sign-out the tape or copy it for administrative review. This labor-intensive system is both inefficient and unnecessary when compared to digital technology and in a time when resources are extremely thin, increasingly problematic.

With the conversion to digital recording technology, officers making traffic stops and responding to in-progress calls will be able to record details of their activities more accurately and create a lasting record of events that will ultimately protect the officer and the municipality. Current digital systems provide a platform for individual officers to upload the recorded data to a designated network server. The server then provides a virtual storage system in which administrators with authorized access can retrieve and view the recording immediately. The digital recording is pristine, clear, and can be transmitted within seconds.

In 2007, the Punta Gorda Police Department embarked upon a project to convert from an analog in-car audio/video recording format to a digital audio/video recording format for marked police patrol units that is made in the United States of America. The project has continued but has been hampered by lack of available general revenue funding and a reduction in sales tax revenue. Approval of grant funding for this project will help **to stabilize the local government budget, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive local tax increases.**

This project will continue to provide for the Punta Gorda Police Department's conversion from an analog in-car audio/video recording format to a digital audio/video recording format for marked police patrol units. The conversion program was begun in 2007 and this project will continue department efforts. The project will provide for the purchase and installation of four (4) digital in-car video systems which, when coupled with previous purchases will result in more than 50% of the department's marked police vehicle fleet being equipped with digital in-car video systems.

The hardware will provide digital audio/video recording capability and is fully compatible with software that was previously purchased as part of the conversion program. The project will also enable the department to seek funding sources for the future acquisition of digital recording equipment for uniformed patrol personnel.

Upon approval of this grant application, the four (4) digital in-car video systems can be purchased and installed within 180 days. This timeframe can be met as the department and the manufacturer/vendor have a pre-existing relationship from the earlier system purchases, the procurement process already accommodates this manufacturer/vendor, and the manufacturer/vendor is an American company thereby facilitating rapid customer service response and enabling the department to meet one of the stated goals of the Recovery Act; namely **“preserve jobs and promote economic recovery”**.

In accordance with the grant requirements, the following performance measures have been identified:

Required Measures:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data the grantee provides for 3-month reporting period	Description (Plain language explanation of what exactly is being provided)
Recovery Act: Preserving jobs	Number of jobs saved (by type) due to Recovery Act funding. This application is for technology improvement and does not involve the hiring or retention of personnel.	a) How many jobs were prevented from being eliminated with the Recovery Act funding during this reporting period? b) How many jobs that were eliminated within the last 12 months were reinstated with Recovery Act funding?	An unduplicated number of jobs that would have been eliminated if not for the Recovery Act funding during the three-month quarter. Report this data for each position only once during the grant. A job can include full time, part time, contractual, or other employment relationship.
Recovery Act: Creating jobs	Number of jobs created (by type) due to Recovery Act funding. This application is for technology improvement and does not involve the hiring or retention of personnel.	How many jobs were created with Recovery Act funding this reporting period?	An unduplicated number of jobs created due to Recovery Act funding during the three month quarter. Report this data for each position only once during the grant. A job can include full time, part time, contractual, or other employment relationship.

Other:

Objective	Performance Measures	Data the grantee provides for 3-month reporting period	Description (Plain language explanation of what exactly is being provided)
Amount of funds expended on equipment/supplies during the reporting period	The purpose of this output measure is to document the extent and type of equipment and supplies purchased with JAG dollars. Appropriate for grantees in all purpose areas that use JAG dollars for system improvement. Report the amount of JAG funds used to purchase equipment or supplies. The entire grant amount of \$20,151.00 will be expended on equipment and supplies.	Amount of funds awarded to purchase equipment or supplies	All seven BJA purpose areas
Types of equipment/supplies purchased with JAG dollars during the	The purpose of this output indicator is to measure accountability. Appropriate for grantees	Indicate the types and amount of equipment/supplies purchased with JAG	All seven BJA purpose areas

reporting period	in purpose areas that use JAG funds for system improvement. Report the types of equipment purchased with JAG funds during the reporting period. The types of purchased in-car video systems will be reported in accordance with this performance measure.	funds during the reporting period	
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Budget Narrative (Attachment 2):

Four (4) digital audio/video recording systems which includes:

Operating Capital Outlay:

- Digital audio/video recorder
- Front and rear seat cameras
- Wireless microphone with case
- Rear seat microphone
- Antennas
- Compact Flash storage media
- Two-year hardware warranty

Total for OCO: approximately \$19,100.00 approximately

Expenses:

System Installation - \$500.00 approximately

Shipping & Handling - \$120.00 approximately

Additional Compact Flash storage media - \$450.00 approximately

Project Total - \$20,170.00

Total covered by award - \$20,151.00

Any additional costs exceeding the award amount will be covered by the Punta Gorda Police Department.

Review Narrative (Attachment 3):

Applicants must include in this attachment documentation regarding the following requirements:

- Include the date that the JAG application was made available for review by the applicant's governing body. This governing body notification must occur no less than 30 days before submission to BJA. – **The digital in-car conversion project, along with the decision to pursue funding through federal grant programs, was approved by City Council on January 7, 2009. On April 9, 2009, the City Manager approved the application for funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.**
- Include a statement that the application was made public and that, to the extent of applicable law or established procedure, an opportunity to comment was provided to citizens and neighborhood or community organizations. – **The application was posted on the City website with instructions for residents to contact the City Manager if they wished to provide comments.**
- If the applicant is part of a disparate jurisdiction, include the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which has been executed and signed by each jurisdiction's Authorized Representative, outlining each jurisdiction's allocation and indicating which jurisdiction is serving as the applicant/fiscal agent for the joint funds. – **Not Applicable**

Abstract (Attachment 4)

Applicants must provide an abstract which includes the applicant's name, title of the project, the goals of the project, a description of the strategies to be used, major deliverables, and coordination plans. The abstract must not exceed one-half page, or 400-500 words.

Applicant Name: Punta Gorda Police Department

Point of Contact: Troy M. Bettencourt
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tbettencourt@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us

Project Title: Digital In-car Video Conversion Project

Project Goals: This project will continue to provide for the Punta Gorda Police Department's conversion from an analog in-car audio/video recording format to a digital audio/video recording format for marked police patrol units. The conversion program was begun in 2007 and this project will continue department efforts.

The project will provide for the purchase and installation of four (4) digital in-car video systems which, when coupled with previous

purchases will result in more than 50% of the department's marked police vehicle fleet being equipped with digital in-car video systems.

The use of in-car video cameras has been shown to reduce department liability, allow for better prosecutorial outcomes, and to thoroughly investigate complaints against officers. The advantages provided by the digital format include cost savings, reduced storage requirements, more efficient administrative management, and higher clarity video.

As the conversion program is already underway, research has already identified the particular in-car video system desired by the agency which will facilitate rapid procurement, installation, and deployment of the systems. Upon receipt of notification of grant approval, it is anticipated the systems will be purchased, delivered, and in use within 180 days.