

County of Mendocino
2020-2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (BJA) Justice Assistance Grant
(JAG)

Video Redaction and Information Technology Equipment Upgrade

Program Narrative

Applicant Name: Mendocino County

Title of Project: Video Redaction and Information Technology Equipment Upgrade

Brief Description of Problem to be Addressed: Mendocino County plan to use JAG grant funds to pay for two projects that will help us address the following problems regarding our aging information technology software and hardware.

The first problem concerns our ability to comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 748, which was effective on 7/1/2019. Pursuant to AB-748, Law Enforcement agencies have 45 calendar days to release video and audio recordings relating to a critical incident and Public Records Act requests. The current technology and programs used for handling the preparation of video and audio recordings for critical incidents and Public Records Act requests is very labor-intensive and takes hours or days to complete. This is on top of other duties for Sheriff's Office staff as there is not a current position in the department that only handles these types of requests.

The second problem addresses the fact that technology is outdated almost instantly upon installation of new equipment and gear. Keeping computer equipment current, up to date and working properly for law enforcement personnel is an ongoing project. Making sure the technology is working properly can mean the difference between life and death for Sheriff Deputies on the front lines who depend on the information at a quick pace when detaining suspects and checking backgrounds etc.

Targeted Area and Population: Mendocino County is a very large county geographically. It covers 3,878 square miles of mostly rural, mountainous, forested land. Land rises at the highest peak 6,958 feet down to sea level along the rugged north coast. It has 87,628 residents spread throughout the county, with the largest populated areas centered around Ukiah (county seat), Willits (north county) and Fort Bragg (central coast). Our two projects serve the entire county and all residents as the information received and used via the technology employed by the County's Sheriff Office is used to protect all residents in every corner of the county.

Goals and Objectives: In line with the current social and community expectation, the goal of the first project is to release video and audio recordings relating to a critical incident or Public Records Act request in a timely and appropriate manner.

The objective of the second project is to identify IT equipment that needs to be replaced or updated and bring the equipment into compliance for the safety of law enforcement personnel and the public.

Project Strategy Description: The first project's strategy is to streamline the process for redacting and releasing video and audio recordings related to critical incidents and Public Records Act requests. The County Sheriff's Office IT department will purchase a video redaction program that was specifically designed by WatchGuard, the same company the Sheriff's Office uses for in-car cameras and audio recordings. The redaction software is designed to be utilized with the cameras and microphones being used by Sheriff Deputies on patrol.

The County Sheriff's Office IT staff, annually, inventories its computer and equipment. Older units or problem units are identified, logged and considered for repair, update or replacement. A supplier is researched, identified and a quote is requested. Once received the project is then entered into the County procurement process with the County Central Services Agency for completion. Once units are received they are deployed according to the inventory list prepared earlier.

Significant Partnerships: The County works with the Sheriff Office, the County Central Services department, the State General Services department and the supplier.

Anticipated Outcomes: By using the requested redaction software, the first outcome anticipated is that personnel will save hours of work in completing requests for video and audio recordings, therefore saving money and time for the Sheriff's Office and County.

The second outcome anticipated is to have fully functioning computer technology, up to date and reliable for law enforcement use in the course of the business of protecting the public we serve.

Data Collection: Progress and data will be reported on a quarterly basis through the performance metrics on the BJA's Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).