

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program**

**FY 2023 Local Solicitation**

**Program Narrative for Category 2 - Eligible Allocation Amounts of \$25,000 or More**

**Proposal Abstract**

The City of Greenville Police Department will use JAG funds to purchase a remote-controlled robot and related accessories to perform tasks like gathering audio and/or video information, communicating with subjects, or manipulating objects in inaccessible or dangerous situations, thereby reducing the risk to responding officers and encouraging the safe outcome of potentially volatile situations.

**A) Description of the Issue**

The City of Greenville is in the northwest corner of South Carolina and is centrally located between Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina, in an area commonly known as the “Upstate.” Approximately 72,095 people live in the city, however, its daytime population—the number of people coming into the city for work, entertainment, or shopping during a typical workday—is estimated to be more than 139,000 people. The Greenville Police Department (GPD) has been the primary provider of law enforcement services for the City of Greenville since 1845 and has been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since March of 1995. GPD provides a variety of public safety services, including mobile patrol, crime prevention, crime investigations, warrant details, and traffic enforcement for the City of Greenville.

The GPD SWAT team and/or the GPD Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) respond to an average of 15 critical situations (incidents considered to pose a serious risk to officer and public safety) each year. These situations, which range from barricaded suicidal subjects to hostage situations,

require police officers, frequently members of GPD's SWAT team or CNT, to enter or approach unsafe environments to assess and respond to the incident, deliver mobile phones or other items to barricaded subjects, attempt to communicate with potentially violent subjects, or gather critical intelligence. In these situations, it is common for five or more officers to place themselves in jeopardy to accomplish their objective.

A remote-controlled robot equipped with the capabilities to gather critical information about the incident scene, manipulate objects, and facilitate two-way communication with barricaded subjects would reduce the need to expose officers to risks in these unknown or dangerous situations in the future. Currently, GPD's suite of law enforcement technology does not include robotic technology, and apart from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), many other local law enforcement agencies also lack access to this vital technology. GPD is proposing to use its FY23 local allocation to purchase a new remote-controlled robot and related accessories for deployment in inaccessible or dangerous incidents to safeguard officers' lives, enhance public safety, and reduce the frequency of direct encounters between officers and dangerous subjects. GPD is prepared to invest additional funds from its operating budget to maintain and update the robot as needed throughout the four-year project period and beyond. Additionally, GPD will ensure designated officers are properly trained on using the new technology.

## **B) Project Design and Implementation**

The proposed project will allow GPD to acquire a new, remote-controlled robot for use in a variety of dangerous or inaccessible emergency incidents that pose a risk to officer safety. The robot will enhance GPD's ability to obtain critical and accurate information about dangerous situations without the need to directly expose responding officers to the hazardous situation. The

new robot also will position GPD as a valuable resource for other area jurisdictions responding to critical incidents.

GPD anticipates accomplishing the following goals with the acquisition of the new, remote-controlled robot and related accessories:

- Improve police officer safety.
- Improve emergency incident response and capabilities.
- Enhance communication between negotiators and barricaded subjects.
- Reduce the frequency of direct encounters between officers and subjects in critical situations.

The goals will be achieved using the following objectives:

- Conduct research to determine features needed for a remote-controlled robot for effective use in emergency incidents.
- Work with the City's Purchasing Division to procure a robot and related accessories.
  - The Purchasing Division ensures cost effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency and compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and City policies is achieved during the procurement process.
- Review training needs for the new technology.
- Conduct training as needed and deploy the robot.
- Track usage of the robot using existing reporting mechanisms.

The project's implementation will begin with the acquisition and deployment of the new robot. GPD expects the deployment will occur within six to nine months of the grant award. As noted earlier, JAG funds will be supplemented with funds from GPD's operating budget to

maintain the robot and related accessories throughout the four-year project period. Additionally, GPD will provide all necessary training to assure proper use of the new technology.

**C) Capabilities and Competencies**

Though the implementation and execution of this project is insular to GPD's jurisdiction, GPD does regularly coordinate efforts with other law enforcement agencies in the state, including the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, South Carolina Highway Patrol, Travelers Rest Police Department, Greer Police Department, Mauldin Police Department, Simpsonville Police Department, and Fountain Inn Police Department. If approved, GPD will use this project to enhance those agencies' capabilities and competencies upon request for assistance.

**D) Plan for Collecting the Data Required for this Solicitation's Performance Measures**

GPD is National Incident-Based Response System (NIBRS) compliant. Specific performance data that demonstrates the results of the work carried out under the award will be facilitated through GPD's Administrative Division. Similarly, this same system will be used to evaluate and track the extent to which the robot is used (including when it is used to assist other agencies) and to help gauge improvements in officer safety and capabilities in emergency incident response.

**Budget Summary**

<b><u>Budget Category</u></b>	<b><u>Federal Request</u></b>
<b>A. Personnel</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>B. Fringe Benefits</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>C. Travel</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>D. Equipment</b>	<b><u>\$40,718.00</u></b>
<b>E. Supplies</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>F. Construction</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>G. Contracts/Consultants</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>H. Other Costs</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>I. Indirect Costs</b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b>Total Program Costs:</b>	<b><u>\$40,718.00</u></b>

**Budget Detail Worksheet and Budget Narrative**

**A. Personnel            \$0.00**

Name and Position	Computation	Cost

No funds requested.

**B. Fringe Benefits    \$0.00**

Name and Position	Computation	Cost

No funds requested.

**C. Travel                \$0.00**

Item	Computation	Cost

No funds requested.

**D. Equipment            \$40,718.00**

Item	Computation	Cost
Remote-controlled robot	1 @ \$40,718	\$40,718

A new, remote-controlled robot will be used by the Greenville Police Department (GPD) to reach inaccessible or dangerous situations that pose serious risk to officer and public safety to conduct reconnaissance or manipulate objects in lieu of exposing officers to unknown dangers to perform the same tasks. This new technology will protect officers' lives, improves capabilities in emergency incident response as well as bolster GPD's capabilities to assist other jurisdictions with critical incidents.

**E. Supplies    \$0.00**

Item	Computation	Cost
<b>Total</b>		

No funds requested.

**F. Construction    \$0.00**

Name of Contract/Consultant	Services Provided	Computation	Cost
<b>Total</b>			

No funds requested.

**G. Contracts/Consultants    \$0.00**

Name of Contract/Consultant	Services Provided	Computation	Cost
<b>Total</b>			

No funds requested.

**H. Other Costs    \$0.00**

Item	Computation	Cost
<b>Total</b>		

No funds requested.

**I. Indirect Costs    \$0.00**

Item	Computation	Cost
<b>Total</b>		

No funds requested.