

2012 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant

Attachment 1: Program Narrative

The Town of Stratford Police Department will utilize its 2012 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to build upon efforts to improve the Department's ability to conduct proactive policing. Previous JAG grants have been used to upgrade administrative, crime analysis and patrol technology, including PC and MDT replacement, and implementation of GIS-based crime mapping. The Town of Stratford Police Department will utilize its 2012 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to achieve the following objectives:

Objective 1: Implement iWatchStratford Program

The SPD will use its fund to purchase and maintain the iWatch smartphone application and implement an iWatchStratford community awareness and involvement program. iWatchStratford was born out of conversations with representatives from the Bridgeport (CT) Police Department, who implemented their iWatch program last year with great success. Bridgeport and Stratford are geographic neighbors, and certain sections of our Town share many of the same socioeconomic and crime characteristics as Bridgeport, which is Connecticut's largest and poorest city. It has also stemmed from a growing need to better engage residents in community policing to help the department's limited staffing resources prevent and address threats to neighborhood safety.

While our officers routinely speak with residents and community groups about public safety issues, the iWatch app for smartphones (iPhone, Android and Blackberry phones) will provide citizens with a tool to be a part of a community awareness program that educates the community about suspicious activities and criminal behaviors. Citizens are provided a convenient reporting tool (up to 5 different ways) to provide tips and leads to police concerning crime that affects their communities straight from their phones. The

program will allow Stratford residents to harness the communication capabilities of the internet and social networking sites to report crime tips and leads and increase our community-wide effort to reduce crime.

Residents will download a free app into their phone and upon opening the program would be taken to screen that explains how you to report a crime using 5 different methods:

- "Call Time Line," which gives police a text message of your voice call
- "Call 911," which automatically dials 911 and notifies the police of your location if a phone has embedded GPA location data.
- "Send a Text Tip"
- "Email an anonymous tip," and
- "Email a complete tip," where you can also send photos and videos to police.

Residents can also use the app to get instant notifications on their phones or by email on school closings, road closings, most wanted criminals and weather alerts. The department will also provide community workshops to teach residents how to use the app, as well as post a tutorial on the Town's website and work with local media to announce the availability of the app. The app will also be particularly helpful within Stratford's schools, as students can often provide information to help law enforcement with drug enforcement, curbing underage drinking and preventing off-campus fights/violence that they might not normally provide if there wasn't an anonymous way of sending that information.

Objective Two: Maintenance of GIS Crime Mapping System

Funds will also be used to continue to support the Department's GIS crime mapping capabilities. Currently, the Department utilizes the Crime Reports system that allows the Department to engage in proactive policing activities that anticipate crime and disturbances. Prior to our 2009 ARRA JAG grant, our Departmental approach was primarily reactive and responsive, and did not have the capacity to collect, analyze and use data in a way that can predict and anticipate crime and quality-of-life trends. Our current Crime Reports GIS mapping system allows the Department to access historical data on locations to assess

threats & trends, & informs deployment of personnel and resources effectively and in a cost efficient manner.

Statement of Need

Up until recently, the Stratford Police Department has had very limited access to data to inform policing activities, both in the field and at headquarters. The system used did not allow for information to be accessed on demand or updated easily and quickly, and crime analysis was virtually non-existent. As a result, our policing activities and philosophy were predominantly reactionary and crisis-oriented, and did not allow for the kind of shift towards an analysis-based, proactive and problem-solving policing oriented approach. We have also lagged behind other local jurisdictions in engaging residents in community policing and creating partnerships that can help the Department protect public safety even more effectively.

However, with the receipt of ARRA and regular JAG funding, the SPD has been able to make significant strides towards improving our technological capabilities in this area. We are now using GIS based crime mapping, have updated our fingerprinting and computer technology, and have implemented a new CAD/RMS that will take our department into the 21st century. Use of this grant will build on on-going technology improvements to make this shift as effective as possible for both the short and long-term.

Budget:

iWatch application license and user fees (2 years):	\$10,058
Crime Reports yearly user fees:	\$3,100/year x 3 years= \$9,300