


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	24-083	Meeting:	March 4, 2024
	Agenda Item:	38	Roll Call:	24-0347
	Submitted by:	Dana Wingert, Chief of Police		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval to apply for the 2025 State of Iowa, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) grant issued by the State of Iowa Department of Public Safety, Office of Drug Control Policy. The grant does not require a match but encourages an investment from the agency should an award be granted.

SYNOPSIS:

The Des Moines Police Department recommends applying for the 2025 State of Iowa Byrne JAG grant award through the Office of Drug Control Policy. The application requests funding for the purchase of the Prepared 911 software. The requested software will work with existing programs in the Emergency Communication Center to update services such as the ability to receive translated text messages sent in another language, pinpoint callers' location through GPS, and the capability to receive and share live-stream video. These updates will provide more information for first responders to better serve the community. The City will meet the suggested match with the annual renewal cost of the software.

This funding opportunity is not associated with the City's annual application/award of Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Local Solicitation grant.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$16,500

Funding Source: Adopted Operating Budget Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, Page 214

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The 2025 State of Iowa, Byrne JAG grant issued by the State of Iowa Department of Public Safety, Office of Drug Control Policy application includes the proposed purchase of the Prepared 911 software program and is part of the Next Generation 911 platform. The software is compatible with current operational equipment and software and offers dispatchers additional capabilities to better serve the public.
- Many callers today use a cellular phone to contact 911. Text messaging to the Emergency Communication Center has increased by 36% over the previous year. The Center received almost 9,000 text messages in 2023, with some of these messages arriving in another language. In these cases, the dispatcher must contact a third-party translator and wait for the information. This delay may have a negative impact on the emergency.

- The addition of the Prepared 911 program would provide instant translation of the texts and a time-efficient means of collecting the necessary information. The program also includes the capability to pinpoint a caller's location through GPS if the caller is using a cellular phone. This provides first responders with more detailed information to support a timely response.
- Currently, the Center cannot receive or share live-stream videos. This capability is available through the Prepared 911 program. The videos will provide additional information to responders while they are enroute to enable them to assess the emergency and have a planned response upon arriving at the scene. The program does include a blurring feature to ensure privacy.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Possible acceptance of the grant award.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.