

**FY 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, Local Solicitation.**

**PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

The City of Aurora is located west of Chicago along the Illinois East/West Tollway Corridor and has an approximate population of 209,000. The City spans approximately 39.33 square miles, and although traditionally considered to belong to Kane County, the city limits span the three additional counties of DuPage, Will, and Kendall. The City of Aurora, like many Illinois communities, continues to experience financial challenges, including funding for equipment, training, and technologies.

The Aurora Police Department is authorized for 318 sworn officers who provide professional police service to a diverse community with diverse needs. While our recruitment efforts continue, continued attrition combined with a national shortage of quality police candidates leaves us struggling to maintain minimum staffing levels during critical times.

**The City of Aurora's Police Department** is seeking to cover the renewals of monthly service fees for license plate readers. The license plate readers are used daily to identify offending vehicles involved in criminal activity, to locate offenders and to solve crimes. They have been used to help solve the gamut of crimes ranging from hit and run crashes to murder investigations. The cameras are strategically located near critical infrastructure allowing a quick response to crimes that may involve these targets. The City's jurisdiction includes: two major shopping malls (Fox Valley Mall and the Chicago Premium Outlet Mall), water treatment facilities, the Hollywood Casino, the downtown area, several \$100 million+ cloud storage facilities and numerous schools and bridges.

The primary objective in using these grant funds is to pay for the annual service fees for the license plate readers covering cameras, software updates, maintenance/storage and access to the license plate data. The funding will assist in the improved protection and safety of the City of Aurora's citizens and visitors.

**The City of Elgin Police Department** plans to use this award for equipment to purchase replacement cameras for existing units that are obsolete.

The City of Elgin Police Department began a citywide camera network system in 2014 with a single camera atop the Elgin Tower Building. Since then, we have increased to over 450

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cameras. Most of these cameras are in public areas of the community and have assisted Elgin Police staff with special event surveillance, traffic crashes, locating missing persons, and homicide investigations, to name a few. The cameras are visible to the public, making them aware that the location is under surveillance. Over time, camera technology has changed, and many cameras on the citywide network have become outdated and unsupported by the camera manufacturer. Additionally, as the City increases its network infrastructure, the department intends to add additional cameras to support its overall community service strategy.

Our disparate agency, the **County of Kane**, has communicated its intent to use its portion of the grant funds to continue to fund a "Lexipol Law Enforcement & Custody Manual and Daily InService Training Bulletin" Program. This organizational policy development program includes development tools, policy updates, and Daily Training Bulletins for public safety deputies, court security officers, and corrections officers. Lexipol offers up-to-date policy and procedure notifications, daily in-service training bulletins, and legal updates.

The County of Kane's goal for this project is to improve policy / procedures and to disseminate notifications to employees promptly while reducing risk and liability to the County of Kane. Thus, this would improve the police service to the citizens within the county.