



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Council Session

## Item E8

**Public Hearing on Application for Edward Byrne Memorial  
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) 2005**

Staff Contact: Kyle Hetrick

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Captain Robert Falldorf, Police Department

**Meeting:** April 12, 2005

**Subject:** Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) 2005

**Item #'s:** E-8 & G-20

**Presenter(s):** Kyle Hetrick, Chief of Police

## Background

The Grand Island Police Department and Hall County Sheriff's Department are eligible to receive Justice Assistance Grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005. This grant money replaces the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant money we have received in previous years. This year, a combined amount for both agencies of \$34,581 has been awarded and can be spent over a four year period. The Grand Island Police Department will serve as the fiscal agency on this grant. The Hall County Sheriff's Department will be a disparate agency and will receive \$8,645, leaving the Grand Island Police Department with \$25,936.

## Discussion

There is a federal mandate that requires a public hearing regarding the application process and disbursement of the JAG funds. \$17,291 from the grant funds awarded to the Grand Island Police Department is tentatively allocated to purchase Panasonic Tough Book laptop computers for patrol vehicles. The remaining \$8,645 from the grant funds awarded to the Grand Island Police Department is tentatively allocated to the Central Nebraska Drug Court for operational costs. All funds awarded to the Hall County Sheriff's Department (\$8,645) as the disparate agency are tentatively allocated to purchase equipment for Sheriff's Department vehicles.

## Alternatives

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Approve the application and suggested disbursement of JAG funds.
2. Send to committee for further discussion.
3. Table for more discussion.
4. Take no action.

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council approve the application and suggested disbursement as presented.

### **Sample Motion**

Approve the application and suggested disbursement of Justice Assistance Grant funding.

## Justice Assistance Grant Program Narrative

City of Grand Island  
Grant #2005-F4387-NE-DJ  
Grant Period: 5-1-05 to 5-1-09

Program #1: Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase – City of Grand Island, Police Department.

The City of Grand Island is proposing to purchase four (4) Panasonic Tough Book Model 29 laptop computers within the first year of the grant to be installed in marked patrol cars within the Grand Island Police Department. There is a constant need to improve the sharing of Public Safety information between the Hall County Emergency Management Center, local/county/State law enforcement agencies, and the local/county fire departments within Hall County. This program will assist with this coordination of effort.

Program #2: Central Nebraska Drug Court – Including Hall County and the City of Grand Island.

The City of Grand Island is proposing to spend a portion of awarded money within the first year of the grant period to assist with costs associated with the Central Nebraska Drug Court Director's Salary. Part of the director's salary in the past, which is approximately \$37,000 per year, was paid out of Byrne grant money. The Justice Assistance Grant money will replace the loss in revenue of the Byrne money.

The Central Nebraska Drug Court is a multi-phase, judicially supervised program with comprehensive treatment services. Eligible offenders will be non-violent, chemically dependent, and willing to enter the drug court voluntarily. This court is post-adjudicatory and upon successful completion of the Drug Court Program the defendant may withdraw his/her plea and no sentencing / conviction will be imposed.

Only traditional efforts are being made to combat the drug epidemic in this area at this time. It is believed that the Central Nebraska Drug Court is

needed due to increase of drug -related crimes and the inability of our current system to reduce substance abuse or criminal activity.

Each participant will be expected to participate in the Drug Court for a minimum of 18 months and comply with personalized plans that lay out expectations regarding treatment, support groups, educational groups, drug testing, employment, education, and court hearings. In response to the obvious needs in Hall County, the Central Nebraska Drug Court recognizes that local judicial and enforcement agencies have united to provide alternatives to incarceration and attempt to reduce substance abuse in this area.

Program #3: Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase – Hall County Sheriff’s Department (Disparate Agency).

The City of Grand Island is proposing to allocate a portion of the awarded funding to Hall County. These funds will be used by the Hall County Sheriff’s Department within the first year of the grant period to purchase corner strobe lights for twenty (20) of their marked patrol vehicles. This purchase is designed to greatly enhance visibility of the patrol vehicles when responding to all emergency situations. The Hall County Sheriff’s Department routinely assists the Grand Island Police Department and Nebraska State Patrol and also is the sole law enforcement provider for several small communities within the County.

Justice Assistance Grant  
Budget Narrative

City of Grand Island  
Grant #2005-F4387-NE-DJ  
Grant Period: 5-1-05 to 5-1-09  
Total Direct Award: \$34,581

**Program #1:** Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase – City of Grand Island, Police Department.

Purchase four (4) Panasonic Tough Book model 29 laptop computers at \$4,322.75 each for a total of \$17,291.

**Program #2:** Central Nebraska Drug Court – Including Hall County and the City of Grand Island.

Provide \$8,645 toward the Central Nebraska Drug Court Director's salary to support and implement the continuation of the program.

**Program #3:** Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase – Hall County Sheriff's Department (Disparate Agency).

Provide \$8,645 to Hall County for the Hall County Sheriff's Department to purchase corner strobe lights for twenty (20) marked patrol vehicles at a cost of \$432.25 for each vehicle.