

SHERIFF - CORONER



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

MARK TRACY
SHERIFF-CORONER

701 OCEAN ST., RM. 340
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

PHONE (408) 454-2985
FAX (408) 454-2353

Agenda: June 9, 1998

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COPS MORE '98 GRANT APPLICATION FOR A WIRELESS DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Dear Members of the Board:

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced the availability of \$200 million through its Community Oriented Policing, Making Officer Redeployment Effective (COPS MORE) '98 Program. The purpose of this highly competitive federal grant is to help law enforcement agencies become more efficient by providing **funding** for technology and equipment, which would allow officers to spend more time engaged in community policing activities. Application guidelines specifically encourage projects which use technology to improve law enforcement responsiveness to members of the community. Grant awards are for a maximum of seventy-five percent of program costs, based on expected efficiencies achievable through the program, and require a minimum twenty-five percent local match. Matching funds must be cash. The due date for the grant is June 12, 1998 and a copy of the completed application will be on file with the Clerk of the Board on June 11, 1998.

In making these grant **funds** available, the Department of Justice recognizes the benefits and efficiencies of technology to law enforcement agencies. We also feel strongly that the safety of responding officers and the community at large depends upon the officers' access to accurate information in a reliable and timely manner. Dispatching the closest available unit to the scene, checking information regarding license plates, drivers licenses, wants and warrants, as well as receiving timely site- and suspect-specific information are all necessary before an officer enters a home, stops a car or conducts a search. Officers need quick information when and where they need it for optimum response time to emergencies. We expect them to have the story straight before they respond, and we expect the fastest response possible. Unfortunately, this is not always the ease. With advancements in technology, the current voice-only method of dispatch and mobile communication does not provide the best possible service to the community. Officer safety is an issue, with officers frequently having to wait for air time, wait for routine data look-ups, often having to choose from proceeding without complete information or keeping the citizen waiting for service.

The Sheriffs Office has determined that our own officer response would be greatly improved by using these technology grant funds to develop a **wireless data communications system**, installing Mobile Data Computers (**MDC's**) in each patrol car. The Sheriffs Department has been working with and will continue to work closely with the County Administrative Office, Information Services Department, General Services Radio Communications and Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center to develop this system. An Executive Summary is attached.

The cost of implementing such a system is estimated to be \$689,000, and includes hardware, software and interface programming to link local and national databases, dispatch and the county mainframe, to patrol officers out in the field. Due to our county's geography, additions will need to be made to our current infrastructure, including receivers, transmitters and base stations, to insure that coverage of our key regions is consistent with our current radio dispatch system, estimated to be about 95%. Initially, remote areas will experience limited access with the mobile data computers, and will continue to rely on voice-only dispatch. We intend to build upon this core system using future grant funds, to provide county-wide coverage consistent with the current voice-only mobile communications system over the next few years. Approximately 85 Patrol Lieutenants, Sergeants and Deputies will access these fixed computers, in the Sheriffs fleet of 30 patrol cars.

The purpose of this grant is to increase Community Oriented Policing efforts, and the amount of the grant award sets the commitment level of redeployed officers. The Sheriffs Department is confident it can meet all federal redeployment requirements and efficiency levels associated with a maximum grant request of \$491,406, representing 7.13% of estimated program costs.

This competitive federal grant requires a local cash match of at least **25%**, and departments are encouraged to contribute local cash matches in excess of the minimum required for a more favorable consideration. The proposed local match amount for this wireless data communications system would be \$197,594, or **28.7%**, and consist of a mixture of funds, including the Sheriffs Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds (SLESF), in the amount of \$75,000 (10.9% of total program costs) over the next two years and \$122,594 from **funds** identified by the CAO for emergency communications systems, which are part of the Emergency Communications Center facility project budget, (17.8% of total program costs).

On-going costs for this program would include equipment and infrastructure maintenance, which would be budgeted through Sheriffs **funds** in **future** years and are not expected to be substantial. In addition, the CAO will work with the Emergency Communications Center to attempt to develop a mechanism to reduce dispatch costs in the future, which result from this more efficient communication system.

The Sheriffs Office is currently working to further define system details. The development of a wireless data communications system is a complex technical system. Some questions can not be answered without an investment of resources and time. Technical answers can't be defined until an initial commitment of funds is made and vendors and engineers are committed to the process.

A full package of information detailing system elements and budget will be presented to your Board before final grant acceptance.

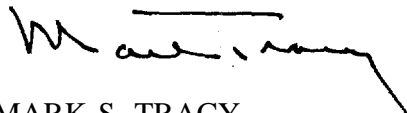
Law enforcement agencies county-wide recognize the importance of providing coordinated emergency service to victims of crime. Watsonville Police Department outfitted their fleet of police cars in 1997 and Santa Cruz Police Department are currently applying for the same COPS MORE '98 grant to outfit their fleet, **increasing the** level of standards for providing fast, efficient response to victims and families across the county.

The Sheriffs Office relies heavily on radio communication, and embraces this opportunity to provide Deputies with the technology and equipment it needs to provide increased safety and security to the community. We appreciate the support of the various County departments listed above to develop this exciting grant proposal and we are **hopeful** that the project will be reviewed favorably in the context of a highly competitive grant environment.

Therefore, it is RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Authorize the Sheriff-Coroner to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice for a wireless data communications system under the COPS MORE '98 Technology Grant Program.

Very truly yours,



MARK S. TRACY
Sheriff-Coroner, Santa Cruz County

- M E N D E D :



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grant Application Package
2. Executive Summary

cc: Auditor Controller
County Administrative Office
Information Services Department
General Services Department
Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center
Sheriff-Coroner

Executive Summary

The Santa Cruz County Sheriffs Office has a unique opportunity to significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its personnel through the implementation of a federal COPS MORE 98 grant to purchase high technology equipment. The focus of the grant project is to utilize laptop computers as both a device for enhanced personal productivity and for digital communication of vital information to field personnel. Laptop computers in each marked patrol vehicle will be connected to both the sheriffs office and Netcom computer systems via a radio **infrastructure** designed specifically for data communications. This data network will then permit field deputies to access dispatch information as well as Federal, State and Local systems. This direct access to automated information resources can provide field personnel with the capability and tools to perform tasks that today are either not possible or practical. The anticipated result is a higher level of efficiency and time savings. Realized time savings can then be redeployed into a variety of community oriented policing activities designed to impact crime, community conditions and the perception of safety.

Laptop Computers: Other law enforcement agencies that have considerable experience with the implementation of this type of technology have been contacted. The results of their projects have been studied to determine the advantages, disadvantages and implementation issues that they have discovered. The result of this effort has confirmed the expectations held by the sheriffs office, that significant benefit is achievable in Santa Cruz County by utilizing this technology.

Radio Communication: Preliminary discussions with members of county staff and private radio engineers have determined that sufficient and acceptable digital communication can likely be established by utilizing existing radio sites. Detailed radio coverage maps and other associated engineering efforts are currently in progress.

Project Costs: The cost to purchase the laptop computers and to establish the necessary radio and internal computer infrastructure, capable of permitting the laptops to operate in the field as expected, would be shared by the County of Santa Cruz and the US Department of Justice COPS MORE 98 funds. The fund distribution for the project is as follows:

Federal Grant Funds:	\$491,406	(71.3%)	
Local Funds:	\$197,594	(28.7%)	* a 25% minimum is required
Total Project Cost:	\$689,000	(100%)	

The implementation of this project will result in increased efficiency, better service to the community and enhanced officer safety. While the grant application process is very competitive, the County of Santa Cruz has a very good chance at being funded, as the physical terrain and demographics confronted by the Sheriffs office lend support for the benefit that can be achieved with the implementation of this type of system.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

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Office of the Director
1100 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Colleague: .

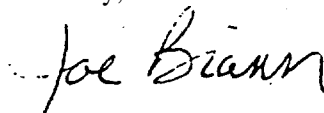
I am pleased to announce the availability of funds under the COPS MORE (Making Officer Redeployment Effective) 98 program. Up to \$200 million is available for the purchase of technology and equipment, and to procure support resources (including civilian personnel). Funds for overtime are not allowable under COPS MORE 98. COPS MORE 98 will enable interested law enforcement agencies to expand the time available for community policing by current law enforcement officers, rather than fund the hiring or rehiring of additional law enforcement officers. COPS MORE 98 grants are for one year.

This is the third year that the COPS Office has offered this grant program. Under last year's program, the COPS Office received more than 1700 applications for funding. We expect COPS MORE 98 to be an extremely competitive program. The COPS Office will only accept applications for COPS MORE 98 that are postmarked no later than May 29, 1998.

The Crime Act requires that local jurisdictions provide a 25 percent cash match of the total project cost under a COPS grant. Waivers of the local cash match requirement will be authorized only in cases of severe local fiscal distress. Some innovative and appropriate strategies for meeting the local cash match include: using funds under the Assets/Forfeiture Equitable Sharing Program; Housing and Community Development Act funds, or any other federal funds authorized to be used as a local match; State government funds, as well as donations from the private sector and non-profit organizations. Indian tribes may also use funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs or other programs for the match.

If you have any questions about the COPS MORE 98 application, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or your grant advisor.

Sincerely,


Joseph E. Brann
Director

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