

APPLICATION FOR

		2. DATE SUBMITTED 07/14/2009	APPLICATION IDENTIFIER
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION Application Non-Construction	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE		STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER
	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY		FEDERAL IDENTIFIER
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Legal Name Starr County		Organizational Unit Sheriff's Office	
Address (city, state, and zip code) 100 E. 6th. Street Rio Grande City, Texas 78582-3550		Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application Eloy Vera (956) 716-4800	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) 74-6001976		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT County	
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION Revision		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY Bureau of Justice Assistance	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE Number: 16.804 CFDA Title: 16.804 - Recovery Act - Justice Assistance Grants - Localities		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT Purchase license plates readers.	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT The County Of Starr and Four (4) Municipalities.			
13. PROPOSED PROJECT		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S) OF	
Start Date: 07/01/2009	Ending Date: 07/31/2010	a. Applicant TX28	b. Project TX28
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$28,470	Program is not covered by E.O. 12372	
b. Applicant	\$0		
c. State	\$0		
d. Local	\$0		
e. Other	\$0		
f. Program Income	\$0	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT?	
g. Total	\$28,470	N	
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED.			
a. Typed Name of Authorized Representative Rene Fuentes		b. Title Sheriff	c. Telephone number (956) 716-4800
d. Signature of Authorized Representative		e. Date Signed	

Previous Editions Not Usable

Standard Form 424 (Rev 4-88)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

Attachment 1: **Program Abstract**

Applicant Name: *Starr County Sheriff's Office*

Project Title: Purchase Automated License Plate Recognition System

Amount Requested: \$28,470.00

Category VII: Supporting Problem-Solving Courts

We will be purchasing an Automated License Plate Recognition System for the purpose of decreasing the work load on the already over-burdened court system by giving prosecutors hard evidence to use when cases come to court. Further, our goal is to better maximize the use of officer time by reducing the time it typically takes to run a license plate. This system will automatically handle this process for the agency. This will accomplish better use of staff, thereby decreasing the amount of lay-offs and staff reductions due to current economic situations that face all municipalities across the country.

The Union County, New Jersey and surrounding county agencies have come together to implement this system to better serve and protect the citizens of our community. We feel that the addition of this system will greatly benefit the community and the agencies by dramatically increasing our effectiveness in the field to fight crime and support the court system. The goals of this project include increased effectiveness of officer time and greater safety, lessen the over-burdened court system by giving prosecutors the hard evidence they need to prosecute criminals and a substantial reduction in unsolved cases of stolen vehicles and the apprehension of more serious criminals.

Upon award of funds the agency will purchase the system from the vendor within 120 days of the receipt of funds. The systems come complete and will be installed and trained by vendor personnel as per the contract with the chosen vendor. The vendor will coordinate with the agency a timeline for the installation and training of the systems upon purchase.

Attachment 2: **Program Narrative**

Applicant Name: *Starr County Sheriff's Office*

Project Title: Purchase Automated License Plate Recognition System

Amount Requested: \$28,470.00

Category VII: Supporting Problem-Solving Courts

The court system is currently so over-burdened; it is a constant struggle for court cases to be heard and effective justice to be done with regard to the crime. Many times, defense attorneys can get their clients charges reduced or dismissed on the basis of a lack of hard evidence to support or an over worked District Attorney Office. Stolen vehicles can take longer to retrieve if ever due to the lack of available, effective man-power to track them down and the time justification to do so.

Information is one of the lifelines of public safety. There is no lack of available information; however, systems to properly capture and use data in a timely and effective manner are not always in place. As we learned in the after action reviews of 9-11, there was a lot of information but limited methods of timely analysis for the keys that would lead us to the answers we want. Law enforcement has long had intelligence units and they continue to be an effective tool. In addition, recently there have the creations of multi-agency fusion centers. The fusion centers allow local, state and federal law enforcement agencies along with other public safety partners to streamline data collection and facilitate proper identification and dissemination. The fusion center partners are working together to collect key information in order to identify, locate, and react to public threats. The threats could be everyday situations involving criminal activity, proactive activities providing security to critical infrastructures and key assets, could be a response to natural or man-made disaster or the response in the aftermath of a terrorist event. Hand in hand the traditional law enforcement intelligence and fusions centers are looking for

tools to assist them in their missions.

The vehicle license plate is a major public identifier that has been successfully used by public safety for years. The plates have long been matched to information in computer systems for identification, registration and enforcement purposes. The current system requires personnel to 'run' the plates for a specific purpose. In recent years, technology has been developed to automate this process. One system that has been recognized for its value-add is the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR). This effective tool provides a solution to simplify the license plate data collection, comparison and result distribution process. ALPR is a cutting edge technology that "reads" vehicle plates as they enter the view of either a vehicle-mounted or stationary ALPR camera. The license plate numbers are transmitted and a comparative analysis is performed against numbers stored in designated existing databases, the databases currently exist to match known plates for wanted felons, persons of interest, stolen vehicles, vehicles associated with amber alerts, or any other vehicle of interest. Matches to these known databases are then sent remotely via email to the appropriate official, whether it is an officer, a dispatcher, or an intelligence or fusion center.

This technology is a true force multiplier for public safety agencies. In most agencies, the current practice for running plates involves an officer or dispatcher typing in a plate number for a database check. On average an officer may be able to check 50-100 plates in an eight hour shift using conventional methods, the ALPR system is capable of checking tens of thousands. While this method has been working for years, it is limiting in the number of vehicles that are checked and allows the opportunity for entry errors. As an example The City of Long Beach reported over 1.4 million plates checked within the first 6 months during a limited deployment.

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ALPR technology removes the human element from the input equation and routinely checks all vehicles within camera-view automatically. In addition to the added efficiency, the technology eliminates one manual task for the officer on the street, potentially increasing safety. The result is a safer community. Example: The City of Cincinnati reported over 325 arrests attributed to the ALPR system in the first few months. With the ALPR automatically running the plate, the officers place his focus on the other critical actions occurring during each contact with the knowledge that the vehicle is being 'run'. To further aid in the court system effectiveness, the ALPR system can be used to reduce the number of Profiling Cases that come up by removing the officer from the process of checking the plate. It becomes a tool to support the officer in their crime investigation efforts. The system sees and captures all license plates regardless of driver or vehicle.

The ALPR can also be collecting data when there is no law enforcement available. The stationary positioning can provide for input at key locations. The locations could be areas surrounding infrastructures or key assets, high volume public areas where safety is a concern, or areas of high criminal activity. Once the plate has been transmitted by the ALPR, the collected data is then exported to a back office application which performs massive intelligence and analysis capability. The advantage of the ALPR is that it provides:

- Increased numbers of plates entered into the system for comparison
- Increased timeliness of plate comparison
- Ability to enter and search partial plate entries for matching to know full vehicle entries.
- Queries around a known location of a crime to identify potential suspects.

- Capability to enter plates of known suspects to identify locations in which they have historically been recorded
- Data sharing across law enforcement agencies and multiple jurisdictions for broader intelligence and analytics.

The objectives of this ALPR investment are:

- To augment data sharing across multiple locations and agencies.
- To enhance Fusion Center technology.
- To advance intelligence operations.
- To identify and apprehend wanted suspects or known terrorist.
- To expand and enhance the Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) process.

The effectiveness of the ALPR grows with the increased backend databases. As the equipment becomes available it is critical that the number of license plates that are available for comparison also increases. Many of the current sources of comparative information available are regional. As this project expands, naturally so will the geographic area. Vehicles move quickly from one jurisdiction to the other and it is critical that the ability to match them and share the information is regionalized. Additionally, this investment is expected to expand regional collaboration on all matters of intelligence sharing and to enhance our ability to prevent, protect and adequately respond to threats of terrorism.

Capabilities/Competencies:

Through the assistance and guidance of the vendor company, the agency will be able to fully manage this new technology and maximize its full capacity. The Chief and appropriate staff

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using the system will be trained in how to use the system and testing will be completed for ease of use. Funds for this project will be directly allocated to this project thereby not encumbering any other funding.

Impacts/Outcomes, Evaluation and Sustainment:

Once the system is implemented, the data will be collected from the centralized database and reports can be pulled reflecting the effectiveness and efficiency of the system. The expected outcomes will be illustrated in the number of arrests made, stolen vehicles recovered and offenders of violent crime being arrested in relation to the examples presented above. Data collected can also be used by Department of Transportation officials for usage and planning. This is an added benefit to the maximization of the system for additional community use. Funds for this project will be directly allocated to this project thereby not encumbering any other funding. The data will be evaluated by agency personnel and used to determine how it can be best used or improved and also to justify the addition of more systems within the agency or on stationary locations in the community. This data can be made available to the National Institute of Justice for their evaluation and consideration as to the replication of similar systems in other parts of the country. Effectiveness of the data collection can be sited from the examples presented above. Sustainment of the system is handled by the vendor provider through a nominal annual fee to the agency.

Attachment 3: **Project Timeline**

Applicant Name: *Starr County Sheriff's Office*

Project Title: Purchase Automated License Plate Recognition System

Amount Requested: \$28,470.00

Category VII: Supporting Problem-Solving Courts

- The Receipt of Funds by DOJ
- Select vendor and purchase the ALPR system- within 120 days of receipt of funds.
- Coordinate with Vendor the installation and project management of the system.
- Full implementation of the system
- Reporting requirements as prescribed by this program to DOJ

To: Carrie Booth
From: Starr County Sheriff's Office
Re: JAG Award 2009-SB-B9-3282 Budget Amendment

Dear Ms. Carrie Booth,

The Starr County Sheriff's Office was awarded \$28,470.00 under the Edward Byrne JAG Grant. The Starr County Sheriff's Office initial budget on said grant was for the purchase of two (2) Automated License Plate Reader valued at \$10,995.00 each, three (3) point blank ballistic vest valued at \$762.66, Back Office Management Software total of \$4,192.00 for a total of \$28,470.00. The Starr County Sheriff's Office was anticipating the purchase of new patrol units for the Automated License Plate Readers but due to financial budget restraints the Starr County Sheriff's Office was not able to purchase the vehicles.

The Sheriff's Office would like to use the awarded amount to purchase ten (10) portable radios for patrol Deputies that have none and are needed for communicating when off the patrol Units. This would enhance the deputies Safety when out in the field.

The Starr County Sheriff's Office would like to request the consideration for the approval of amending aforementioned budget for the purchase of ten (10) portable radios at a cost of \$28,470.00.

The Starr County Sheriff's Office would appreciate your utmost consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Bermea
Starr County Sheriff's Office Grant Coordinator