



Board of County Commissioners

Item Title: Approve and Authorize the Chairman to sign the 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Agreement for the Drug Eradication & Special Response Team in the Amount of \$56,091
Date: May 21, 2025
Department: OMB on behalf of the Sheriff's Office

Background:

Nassau County has been awarded the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOD) 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Countywide through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for the C-6N223 Drug Eradication & Special Response Team in the amount of \$56,091.

The JAG program's goal is to improve the criminal justice system through enhancing state and local government initiatives in their jurisdiction. The JAG program allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, some of which could have environmental impacts. This JAG - Countywide funding will be used to enhance the equipment capabilities currently used by the detectives within the Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) K9 Drug Unit and the NCSO Special Response Team (SRT). These two units primarily focus on the interception of illegal narcotics, weapons, and human trafficking within the County. The Sheriff's Office continues to see an influx of illegal narcotics in Nassau County as well as the Jacksonville metropolitan area that borders Nassau County.

The K9 Drug Unit uses the K9's keen eyesight and superior sense of smell, which allows them to detect miniscule odors that are undetectable by the average person. Additionally, the K9s adapt well to new and changing situations which makes them a valuable asset to the Sheriff's Office and ultimately the County. These K9s facilitate searches for illegal substances, making the searches faster, safer, and more efficient.

With this funding of \$56,091, the Sheriff's Office will use it to aid its detectives in seizing illegal narcotics through their K9 Drug Unit. There is no local match required for this grant.

Request:

Sheriff's Business: Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOD) 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Countywide Award Agreement through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for the C-6N223 Drug Eradication & Special Response Team in the amount of \$56,091 and associated Budget Resolution.

Financial/Economic Impact to Future Years Budgeting Process or Effect on Citizens:

This grant funding will be used to sustain and enhance the K9 capabilities currently used by the detectives within the Nassau County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) K9 Drug Unit and the NCSO Special Response Team (SRT). Without this funding the County would be responsible for all expenses related to the K9 Drug Unit including cell phone charges, veterinarian costs, certifications, equipment, etc.

Action Requested and Recommendation:

Sheriff's Business: Approve and Authorize the Chairman to sign the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOD) 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Countywide Award Agreement through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for the C-6N223 Drug Eradication & Special Response Team in the amount of \$56,091 and associated Budget Resolution.

Is this action consistent with the Nassau County Comprehensive Land Use Plan?

N/A

Funding Source:

15037521-331211 JGC25

Additional Information Needed for Contracts/Agreements (If Applicable)

Contract Number assigned by Contracts Management:

CM3916

For non-governmental agencies, has the document been sent to the vendor for signature?

N/A

Does the document need to be recorded? If so, who will pay the recordation fee?

N/A

Are there any special mailing instructions? (Include contact name, address, deadline for submittal, how to mail such as express mail, FedEx, etc.):

Please send a copy of the executed grant agreement to Bobby Lippelman (blippelman@nassauso.com), Carol Gilchrist (CA1682@nassauso.com), and Brittany Contardi (bcontardi@nassaucountyfl.com).

How many originals are needed?

Please send the original executed grant agreement to Carol Gilchrist (CA1682@nassauso.com) at the Nassau County Sheriff's Office.