

**CITY OF SPOKANE
2007 FEDERAL AGENDA
110th Congress, Second Session – FY 2008**

**Law Enforcement Technology Support
Request: \$700,000**

Located in Eastern Washington, Spokane is about 18 miles from Idaho, 110 miles south of the Canadian border and 280 miles east of Seattle. The city is the state's second largest city and has a population just under 200,000. The County of Spokane has a population of approximately 450,000. Spokane County is the fourth most populous county in the state and borders Idaho, which increases the metropolitan population by an additional 230,000. The county is comprised of 13 cities and towns and unincorporated areas. Spokane City/County encompasses approximately 1,780 square miles. Spokane, with the largest population in the region, is relied on for leadership and expertise in assisting with public safety resources.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

\$150,000

Spokane is the regional hub for public safety intelligence/information sharing serving Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Western Montana, and is the site of the Inland Northwest Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

In light of the need for information sharing, 11 agencies in this region have formed a consortium. The consortium has worked with vendors to develop and maintain a software platform that facilitates the data warehousing approach, which ultimately manifests itself in the analytical products that guide the resources of the partner agencies.

The \$150,000 would enable SPD to invest in hardware and software that would allow it to nearly double the population base in which it is able to share criminal data. Its current system infrastructure helps protect a population base of nearly 600,000 people, so the potential exists to serve a population base of up to 1 million people. The system not only allows for information sharing, but has enhanced capabilities that allow for extensive analysis and mapping of the data.

There is demand for additional growth as an ever-increasing number of communities have a desire to join. Growth of this information sharing and analytical network requires resources for additional equipment and the capacity to link the disparate data systems.

The impact of adding additional agencies to the consortium will enhance all participants' greater ability to gather appropriate information in a timely manner. The funding primarily will pay for the costs of adding strategic agencies to the project. Expansion of the system will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the criminal associations that pose a threat to the safety and security of the region.

Adding a law enforcement database to the existing project is approximately \$30,000 per system, and each system supports one or more agencies. The funding primarily goes to provide servers with the capacity for expansion to write interfaces between the joining agency and the existing main node.

Regional Wireless System Expansion

\$250,000

The City is developing a wireless infrastructure to enhance public safety, achieve higher productivity, and offer economic benefit to businesses, residents, students and visitors. This funding will help build a city-wide wireless network of wireless access points, providing the much needed technology to upgrade and expand a very limited existing wireless network for city communications by law enforcement, fire departments, public works, EMTs and public health officials. The City's goal is to cover the entire Spokane metropolitan area, and while the \$250,000 will not be enough to complete the initiative, it does allow the City to continue building out its wireless capacity.

The regional information sharing initiative is, in part, dependent upon a fully developed wireless infrastructure and a new hardware platform that allows first responders in the field access to regional and local information sources. The investment will expand wireless infrastructure and increase the number of in-field connections to a broader geographical area to the first responders in the field. The purpose is to provide critical data to the officer in the field via high-speed wireless connections. This would enable transmissions of graphical data such as photos, reports and maps.

This technology provides coverage up to 2.5 miles from each wireless access point, and works similar to a cell phone network. This expanded system allows for the following:

- Faster data access and report approval
- Streaming video at banks and schools
- Real-time information updates to central databases from the field
- Improved quality of data entered into main systems
- Overall efficiency gains

This technology has immeasurable potential in hostage situations, missing children, chemical spills, fires and traffic collisions, to name a few. The potential return on investment to the community for public safety is huge, and possibilities exist on economic development fronts as well.

Mobile Data Computers

\$300,000

Expanded wireless capacity also will enhance the use of mobile computers in police cars and allow law enforcement to quickly respond with as much information as possible from/to any scene. The expansion will allow access to data in the field by the first responder (the street cop or firefighter, for instance) for information such as mug shots, school schematics, maps, reports, e-mail, and daily crime flyers.

However, the City's aging mobile data computer system (in-car computers) needs to be replaced with state-of-the-art digital and video capability to upload secure data from the expanded wireless system. This funding will provide for approximately 60 new mobile computers, including the peripherals costs (mounts, software, docking stations, antenna, etc.).

The new server-based system will provide true DVD broadcast quality video, and in addition to maintaining the capacity to move both voice and data from car-to-car and from car-to-station. This capability will enhance officer safety, as well as information sharing among agencies, and increase productivity. In addition to increasing the information sharing capability of the Spokane Police Department, the system will be invaluable for terrorist tracking and racial profile prevention.

For more information:

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