



**Grant  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 15  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/24/2005  
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**SUBJECT:** Authorize application for \$409,702 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice Assistance Program, to fund equipment for the Austin Police Department.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** Funding is available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice Assistance Program, for the grant period October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. A cash match is not required.

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING Police  
DEPARTMENT:**

**DIRECTOR'S  
AUTHORIZATION: Rick Coy**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** Acceptance on July 29, 2004 of former Local Law Enforcement Block Grant.

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** N/A

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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This action authorizes the City to apply for and accept \$409,702 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This grant is a new program created by combining two former federal programs—the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and the Byrne Memorial Grant fund. The JAG will provide funds for a Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) and the portable building necessary to house the training simulator. The department has been operating without a FATS since August 2004 when the manufacturer could no longer repair the old system.

The FATS technology allows the instructors to evaluate, and electronically recreate the officer's shooting habits making problems such as improper trigger pull, anticipation, sight alignment and other poor shooting techniques visible to the officer and the training staff. The new FATS technology will also allow officers to train in the deployment of TASERs. In the past, FATS has been used by non-police personnel in the community outreach programs to demonstrate the difficult decisions officers encounter when they are faced with firing a weapon.

The federal legislation which authorizes this grant program also includes a provision whereby cities and counties must submit a joint funding application if the state's Attorney General certifies that a funding disparity exists in a county's allocation compared with that of a single municipality (at least a 150 percent difference), and the county bears more than 50 percent of prosecution or incarceration costs arising from Uniform Crime Report Part 1 violent crimes reported by the municipality to the FBI. Once certified, jurisdictions are to decide if funds will be shared, and if so, the funding allocation. There is no requirement as to how funds should be shared. Since FY 2000-2001 the funding has been split 50/50. APD and Travis County have agreed to continue the 50/50 split of JAG funding this year. Travis County's allocation is \$204,851; together, APD and Travis County have been allocated \$409,702. The City of Austin and Travis County will enter into an interlocal agreement so the City can serve as the fiscal



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agent for the grant funds. Travis County will purchase law enforcement equipment for the Travis County Sheriff's Office with its JAG funds.