



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Criminal Justice Services*

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller  
Director

Tracy Louise Winn Banks, Esq.  
Chief Deputy Director

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### **Criminal Justice Services Board Grants Committee Meeting**

April 25, 2024

#### ***Members Present***

Chief Craig Branch, Chair  
Ed Macon (Proxy for Karl  
Hade)  
\*Ebony Clark  
Maria Jankowski  
Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.  
Sheriff Brian Hieatt

#### ***Members Absent***

Russell (Rusty) McGuire

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chief Craig Branch called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM

#### **II. Roll Call**

Chief Branch asked DeAndrea Williams to conduct the Roll Call. DeAndrea stated there was a quorum with six members present.

#### **III. Introductions/ Opening Comments**

Chief Branch officially welcomed guests and agency dignitaries. Given that the state budget was not finalized, Chief Branch mentioned that actions taken by the Grants Committee in this meeting would be dependent on the timely approval of the FY25-26 state budget.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Chief Branch called for corrections, deletions, and/or additions to the minutes from the February 22, 2024 meeting. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt.

#### **V. Grant Review**

**a. Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program – Internal DCJS Grants (BJAG) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams, and implementation of state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives including, but not limited to, mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection order programs.

The current awards will provide funding and support personnel for critical training initiatives for law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth.

DCJS submitted three (3) applications for FY25, totaling \$2,617,045. The first grant, the JAG DCJS Active Attack Program and Training Grant, for \$1,303,260., would support personnel and provide specific law enforcement training to law enforcement agencies and civilians. The second grant, the JAG DCJS Law Enforcement and Public Safety Training Grant, for \$588,785., would support personnel and provide specific contracted training services to law enforcement and other criminal justice professionals throughout Virginia. The third grant, the JAG DCJS Office of First Responder Wellness Program Grant, for \$725,000., would support personnel and resources dedicated to first responder wellness training and programming.

The grant period for these awards would be from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

No applications were denied.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund three (3) awards, totaling \$2,617,045.00 through the FY 2025 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for DCJS to provide law enforcement training throughout the Commonwealth.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Ed Macon, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**b. Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program – Law Enforcement Equipment Grants (BJAG) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS has the responsibility of managing the coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This competitive funding opportunity was open to all local and public campus law enforcement agencies. Applicants were invited to submit applications with a project to purchase equipment that improves or enhances the delivery of daily law enforcement services to the community and/or ensures the safety of citizens and officers.

For this funding opportunity, DCJS received and reviewed 127 applications. Staff is requesting the approval to award \$2,939,123.00 in federal JAG funds to seventy-one (71) Law enforcement agencies.

Twenty-three (23) applications were denied for this JAG funding opportunity.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund seventy-one (71) projects for the 9-month period (7.1.2024-3.31.2025), totaling \$2,939,123.00, using federal JAG funds allocated for this purpose. DCJS staff are reviewing thirty-three (33) additional applications that required clarification and/or budget revisions, due to proposed projects that extended beyond the grant period.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Ed Macon, seconded by Sheriff Brian Hieatt. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**c. Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program – Public Safety Based Programs Grants (BJAG) – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The purpose of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (“JAG”) funds is to allow states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. As the State Administrative Agency (SAA), DCJS has the responsibility of managing the coordination and distribution of JAG funds in a manner that supports and improves the overall criminal justice system of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This competitive funding opportunity was open to all local units of government and local and public campus law enforcement agencies. Applicants were invited to submit applications with a focus on specific criminal justice programs to include law enforcement programs, community policing and youth programs, combatting drugs, law enforcement accreditation and policy development programs, law enforcement overtime to support specific programmatic initiatives, and other innovative criminal justice

programs.

For this funding opportunity, DCJS received and reviewed fifty-one (51) applications. Staff is requesting the approval to award \$1,110,877.00 in federal JAG funds to twenty-three (23) Law enforcement agencies.

Twenty-five (25) applications were denied for this JAG funding opportunity.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund twenty-three (23) projects for the 18-month period (7.1.2024-9.30.2025), totaling \$1,110,877.00, using federal JAG funds allocated for this purpose. DCJS staff are reviewing three (3) additional applications that required clarification and/or budget revisions, due to proposed projects that extended beyond the grant period.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Sheriff Brian Hieatt, seconded by Ed Macon. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**d. Prerelease and Post Incarceration Services (PAPIS) Grant Program – Adult Justice Programs Section, Cynthia Nwarache**

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers general appropriation funds designated to support the Prerelease and Post Incarceration Services (PAPIS) programs to provide direct services to incarcerated individuals nearing release into the community, or previously incarcerated individuals living in the community. This grant is intended specifically to facilitate case management, reentry success planning, to provide resources to meet basic needs, transitional housing, treatment, referrals, and employment readiness and placement for individuals returning to the community from prison or a local or regional jail.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, DCJS received nine applications from the existing PAPIS programs for a total request of \$4,157,654. Applicants were asked to submit a needs-based application and budget for FY2025 with the understanding that funding levels would change little to none between FY2024 and FY2025. Applications were reviewed for appropriate programming and reasonable, allowable budgets. DCJS staff recommends funding the PAPIS programs at FY2024 level funding.

No applications were denied.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund the nine (9) PAPIS programs for FY2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), totaling \$3,596,429, using general appropriation funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr., seconded by Ed Macon. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**e. School Resource Officer (SRO) and School Security Officer (SSO) Grant Programs – Law Enforcement Grants and Programs Section Manager, Tracy Matthews**

The purpose of the School Resource Officer and School Security Officers Incentive Grant Program is to continue funding and establish new funding for school resource officer (SRO) and school security officer (SSO) positions in Virginia public schools. School resource officer positions provide law enforcement and security services to schools across the Commonwealth and school security officer positions maintain order and discipline, preventing crime, and investigate violations of school board policies. Funding originates from §9.1-110 of the *Code of Virginia*.

For State Fiscal Year 2025, DCJS staff request approval to award \$18,475,567 for SROs and \$3,978,513 for SSOs for a total of \$22,454,080 in state funds. This includes the funding of 188 continuation and nineteen (19) new grants, which funds a total of 330 SRO positions and 119 SSO positions in school divisions throughout the Commonwealth.

The requests for funds from the applicants exceeded the funds available for this grant program. Thus, based on priority, new SSO applications will not be awarded at this time. This is a total of fourteen (14) applications that will not be funded.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund a total of 207 SRO and SSO grants for FY25 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) totaling \$22,454,080 in Special Funds.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Sheriff Brian Hieatt, seconded by Ed Macon. Six (6) members voted for; one (1) member voted against. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**f. Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) – Victim Services Section, Kristina Vadas**

The purpose of the Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP) is to support the delivery of direct services to victims of crime. Funding for this grant program comes from federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. In accordance with VOCA guidelines, direct services to victims of crime include efforts that:

1. Respond to the emotional, psychological, or physical needs of crime victims;
2. Assist victims to stabilize their lives after victimization;
3. Assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; OR
4. Restore a measure of security and safety for the victim.

VOCA requires that a minimum of 10% of each state's award must fund projects that support victims from underserved populations; therefore, this competitive funding opportunity prioritized projects designed to serve underserved populations.

For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025, DCJS staff **request approval to award \$2,887,783 in federal VOCA funds to 21 victim serving organizations.**

The requests for funds from applicants exceeded the funds available for this grant program by approximately \$8 million. DCJS received 77 applications. Each application was scored by a DCJS grant monitor, VSGP grant coordinator, and an external reviewer. Final application scores are the average of the three individual reviewers' scores.

These funding recommendations are based on a combination of final application scores and an assessment of the extent to which proposed projects serve an underserved population, in accordance with the priority indicated in the grant application guidelines.

DCJS staff requested approval to fund 21 projects for the 12-month period (7/1/2024–6/30/2025), totaling \$2,887,783, using federal VOCA funds allocated for this purpose.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed by majority vote. Recusals are noted in the attachment to the minutes.

**VI. Old Business**

No Old Business was brought forth at this meeting.

**VII. New Business**

No New Business was brought forth at this meeting.

**VIII. Public Comment**

No Public Comment was brought forth at this meeting.

**IX. Announcements**

Chief Branch announced the future meeting dates for 2024.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:36pm. A motion was made by Maria Jankowski, seconded by Officer Bennie Evans, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Recusals**

### **Chief Craig Branch, Chair**

- Application # 526599 – Culpeper
- Application # 527240 – Frederick
- Application # 528808 – Town of Culpeper
- Application # 528514 – Frederick Public Schools
- Application # 528789 – Town of Culpeper
- Application # 526600 – Culpeper
- Application # 527862 – Fredericksburg
- Application # 527676 – Galax
- Application # 527917 – Spotsylvania
- Application # 527857 – Orange County Public Schools
- Application # 527911 – Spotsylvania
- Application # 523587 – Project Horizon, Inc.
- Application # 527361 – Rappahannock Area CSB
- Application # 527718 – Services to Abused Families, Inc.

### **Sheriff Brian Hieatt**

- Application # 528086 – Tazewell County
- Application # 528664 – Tazewell County
- Application # 525790 – Tazewell County
- Application # 525913 – Tazewell County
- Application # 525921 – Tazewell County
- Application # 525968 – Tazewell County
- Application # 527925 – Tazewell County

### **Officer Bennie Evans, Jr.**

- Application # 527694 – Arlington
- Application # 528165 – Fairfax
- Application # 528731 – OAR Arlington
- Application # 529025 – OAR Fairfax
- Application # 525698 – Alexandria