

Applicant Name: County of Durham

Sub-award: City of Durham

Both the County and City of Durham have executed an Inter-local agreement detailing the allocation of these funds. The Comptroller of the Durham County Sheriff's Office will serve as the Fiscal Agent for the 2024 JAG Award and is prepared to track and report all JAG drawdowns and grant expenditures to ensure accurate financial and programmatic reporting on a timely basis. Financial internal controls include adherence to recognized accounting practices and use of the Durham County integrated financial reporting software. The funding for this grant will be maintained in separate accounting lines that are independent from the Sheriff's Office operating budget within the Grant Module portion of the Durham County SAP Financial System. This enables the funds to be monitored and tracked individually from all other funds. The Durham County Compliance Manager confirms proper set up of all grant funding. The 2024 JAG Award will be reviewed monthly to ensure all drawdowns are accurate and consistent with expenditures in the grant module.

The County of Durham desires to improve the quality of life for its residents through support of law enforcement programs and specialized teams who strive to respond to the community's needs and combats crime through the acquisition of critical equipment. Durham County endeavor to accomplish these objectives in the following ways:

- Build positive relationships with law enforcement through safe, timely, and appropriate responses that includes understanding, education and prevention.
- Continue to build progressive relationships with local law enforcement agencies to better serve the community.

- Obtain critical incident and specialized equipment to better service the community during life-threatening events.

Durham County

Special Teams

Programs Area: Law Enforcement Programs

Area of Emphasis: Improving Responses to Violent Crime

The Durham County Sheriff's Office is comprised of seven (7) separate specialized teams who are tasked with responding to all unusual occurrences in Durham County. Some of these teams are responsible for additional jurisdictions with this region. Under the Sheriff's authority, the Hazardous Devices Unit must continue to provide emergency responses during unusual occurrences in Durham County and within 12 additional neighboring counties. Consequently, Hazardous Devices Unit is requesting the following for this year's award:

Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU) – this team is comprised of 7 part-time members who are certified through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as Hazardous Device Technicians. They respond to all calls for service for unknown or suspicious packages, improvised explosives (IEDs) and any other items or situations deemed as potentially hazardous. HDU is a regional team that provides these services to all surrounding counties and several others, for a total of 12. If called upon, this unit can deploy under mutual aid agreements to respond to any county within NC during a major incident. However, Durham County has priority. This year's funding will be utilized to replace the current "Bomb Truck" with a bumper pull-behind trailer that can be used to respond and manage critical incident. These responses include investigating and rendering safe of all improvised

explosive devices (IEDs), disposal of ordnance and hazardous materials, and reconnaissance of barricaded subjects. These callouts are often in conjunction with the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Negotiation Response Team (NRT) due to the complexity and evolution of threats that we have recently encountered.

The current HDU truck is approximately 20 years old and has now reached a point where it has outlived its usefulness and no longer worth the return of investment to repair. One of the recent deficiencies with the truck is the electrical wiring and circuitry. This has created hardships for bomb technicians during operations when the batteries of essential life-saving equipment, such as robotic platforms and hand tools are not sufficiently charged. Unfortunately, contingency plans often increase the duration of the incident and pose greater risks to everyone involved. The cardinal rule during bomb callouts is to work remotely. Several years ago, the battery compartment beneath the stairs began to emit smoke while driving down highway, eventually catching on fire. This created grave risk to all passengers due to the number of explosives stored within the internal cabins.

The amount of equipment that is stored on the truck has increase significantly since 2005. This includes other assets like the Remotec F6A and ICOR Mini Caliber robotic platforms, weighing more than 1,000 pounds. The current suspension system doesn't accommodate the payload and has an adverse effect on the handling and maneuverability of the vehicle. The air conditioning system is inoperable and creates undesirable working conditions during summer and winter seasons. The awning was destroyed after a minor traffic accident which also has an adverse effect on extended operations during inclement weather. Other notable issues with the truck - it requires two technicians to open the ramp to deploy our robotic platforms and the material that

it is made from becomes extremely slippery during moist conditions, and the truck leaks during rain showers.

For these reasons and more, our team leaders have determined that it would be most effective and cost efficient to transition all bomb equipment and operations from the current bomb truck to a double axel 28 x 8.5 x 8.5 bumper-pull trailer. The benefits of this transition are as follows.

- There will not be any operational downtime for vehicle maintenance.
- The return of investment is much greater to transition to a trailer versus a replacement truck, now listed at a starting price of \$500,000. The proposed bumper pull-behind trailer ¼ the cost and can be pulled by numerous existing trucks within the Sheriff's Office fleet which will multi-purpose our assets.
- Optimal storage space improves robotic deployment with minimal staffing levels.
- Dual electric awning systems creates the opportunity to stage equipment and safely tie explosive charges.
- Rooftop platform for security overwatch, drone and camera deployment.
- Dual unified command center for x-ray interpretation and robotic operations.