

**Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program  
FY 2020 Local Solicitation**

**Program Narrative for Category 2 - Eligible Allocation Amounts of \$25,000 or More**

**A) Description of the Issue**

The Greenville Police Department's (GPD) jurisdiction is the City of Greenville, the major metropolitan area of the Upstate region of South Carolina, with an estimated population of 70,635 (2019 Census estimate). Situated along Interstate 85, Greenville is positioned approximately halfway between two of the largest cities in the Southeast—Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. GPD consists of 209 sworn officers and 47 civilian staff. In 2019, GPD responded to more than 83,929 calls for service and investigated over 53,108 criminal incidents. GPD has been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies since 1995.

In May 2017, a U.S. Census Bureau report named Greenville the fourth-fastest growing city in the nation—citing the City grew by 5.8 percent between July 2015 and July 2016. The City of Greenville is the largest city in Greenville County, which is the state's most populous county. Not surprisingly, given the steady arrival of new residents, the city is experiencing a residential housing boom. According to the City's Revenue and Business License Division, building permits issued for new duplexes, multifamily housing, single family homes, and townhouses in calendar year 2019 increased 26% over calendar year 2018. New commercial structures ranging from commercial offices to high-rise hotels also are opening at a rapid pace across the city. Alongside this extensive commercial development, the City's parks, greenways, and open spaces are growing, thereby drawing increasingly more visitors to the city.

As the number of people living, visiting, and working (the weekday influx of commuters raises the daytime population to more than 137,000 people) in the area increases, congested roadways and busy public greenspaces make it challenging to efficiently respond to traffic collisions and to effectively patrol parks and greenways. For example, in 2019, GPD investigated 6,496 collisions that occurred on roadways or private properties. Many of these collisions occurred on very congested roadways where the volume of vehicle traffic often impeded the officer's ability to quickly respond to the incident in a police cruiser.

Additionally, while the City's parks and trails do not experience the same level of congestion as the highly trafficked commercial corridors, popular destination spots like Falls Park on the Reedy, a nationally recognized 26-acre park in the heart of Greenville's downtown, and the Swamp Rabbit Trail, a 22-mile long greenway that connects the city to the northern parts of Greenville County, attract thousands of daily visitors. Currently, five (5) miles of the Swamp Rabbit Trail crosses the city limits passing through and near parks, residential neighborhoods, and business districts. Easy accessibility to numerous shops and restaurants as well as trail amenities, including lighting, picnic areas, benches, water fountains, restrooms, and bicycle racks

not only make the trail a desirable destination but also a highly used alternative transportation corridor. As such, the trail requires dedicated police patrols that must swiftly access both congested and remote areas. This same capability is equally critical to GPD's patrols throughout all of Greenville's 35 parks occupying 347 acres.

To help address these two areas of need —1) improved ability to respond to vehicle collisions in high-traffic areas and 2) increased patrols in and around the City's large and busy park system—GPD proposes expanding its existing patrol motorcycle program. At present, GPD's program consists of 4 motorcycles and 22 officers.

Specifically, GPD proposes using its local allocation to purchase the following: one electric motorcycle (the "Zero" model DSR-ZF14.4); miscellaneous equipment to outfit the rider; and a trailer to tow the motorcycle, when necessary. GPD is prepared to invest additional funds from its operating budget to maintain and repair this vehicle and equipment throughout the four-year project period. Additionally, GPD will provide all necessary training and equipment to ensure safe operation of the motorcycle and proper towing. GPD's administrative staff will implement or amend department policy to ensure compliance under the current accreditation standard.

If awarded, this project will assist GPD in their efforts to ensure safe policing for a safer community, a defined JAG Area of Emphasis. Expanding the patrol motorcycle program will help officers navigate in and around traffic, thereby improving response times when responding to traffic collisions. By adding fleet vehicles GPD will improve its ability to effectively patrol the City's popular and widespread park system.

## **B) Project Design and Implementation**

The proposed project will allow GPD to acquire the equipment and supplies necessary to expand its patrol motorcycle program. Procuring an additional motorcycle and the accompanying equipment and supplies will enable GPD to respond more quickly to traffic collisions in congested areas as well as improve patrol throughout the City's park system. As such, the project aligns with one of GPD's five strategic priorities identified in its Strategic Plan 2016-2021—develop or adapt equipment, technologies, and facilities to enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Developed in 2015, the Strategic Plan defines the Department's direction and prioritizes resources through significant community engagement. Stakeholders involved in the plan's development included: City of Greenville leadership, the Downtown Merchant's Association, neighborhood associations, and GPD Executive Command Staff.

Through the acquisition of the motorcycle and accompanying equipment, GPD anticipates accomplishing the following goals:

- Enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness
- Improve officer response times to traffic collisions
- Improve patrol capabilities throughout the City's parks and trails.

The goals will be achieved using the following objectives:

- Conduct research to determine best equipment for riders to wear while operating the motorcycle
- Review the current emergency, communications, and safety equipment required for the day-to-day operation of the vehicle and verify whether or not changes are needed
- Procure and deploy patrol motorcycle
  - Review policy and procedures to assure lawful and safe operation of patrol motorcycles
  - Review selection criteria for qualified personnel.

The project's implementation will begin with the acquisition and deployment of the motorcycle. GPD expects the deployment will occur within three months of the grant award. As noted earlier, JAG funds will be supplemented with funds from GPD's operating budget to maintain and repair the motorcycle throughout the four-year project period. Additionally, GPD will purchase and provide all necessary training and equipment to assure safe operation of the motorcycle.

### **C) Capabilities and Competencies**

Though the implementation and execution of this project is insular to GPD's jurisdiction, GPD does regularly coordinate efforts with criminal agencies in the state, including the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, South Carolina Highway Patrol, Travelers Rest Police Department, Greer Police Department, Mauldin Police Department, Simpsonville Police Department, and Fountain Inn Police Department. If approved, GPD will use this project to enhance those agencies' capabilities and competencies upon request for assistance.

### **D) Plan for Collecting the Data Required for Solicitation's Performance Measures**

GPD is National Incident-Based Response System (NIBRS) compliant. Specific performance data that demonstrates the results of the work carried out under the award will be facilitated through GPD's Administrative Division. Similarly, this same system will be used to evaluate and track the extent to which the motorcycle is used, to help gauge improved response times to traffic collisions when motorcycles are deployed, and to determine the frequency of use on park patrols, including reporting qualitative data specific to navigating congested roadways and accessing remote park space.