

FY14 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) EQUIPMENT-ONLY PROJECTS Addendum

Submission Instructions: email to cjapplications@nctcog.org by February 28, 2013
To download addendum: http://www.nctcog.org/cs/cj/forms/registration_JAG.asp

Agency Name: Collin County
Application title: Mobile Tablet Devices for Warrants
Application #: 2694201

1. **LOCAL PRIORITIES (Up to 5 points):** Describe how the project supports drug and human trafficking initiatives; supports a disruption of adult gangs; promotes technology for the electronic discovery for defense counsel; supports regional information-sharing systems for law enforcement; supports the conversion of crime data from UCR to the NIBRS format; enhances patrols along and near the Texas-Mexico border, or promotes cost effective programs that complement the criminal justice system.

If project will fund criminal intelligence sharing databases, describe how your agency will comply with 28 CFR Part 23.

Minimizing the time required to obtain a law enforcement initiated warrant during investigations will allow admissible evidence to be collected leading to arrest, prosecution, and conviction of criminals associated with all types of crime including drug and human trafficking, adult gang activity, DWI offenses, and personal and property crime. Additionally, this project promotes cost effective programs through elimination of travel expenses and minimization of personnel time and supply waste for Collin County and 22 city law enforcement jurisdictions.

2. **NEEDS STATEMENT (up to 30 points):**

2a. Describe the need of your agency as it relates to this equipment request.

Law enforcement officers need the ability to quickly obtain time critical search and arrest warrants; unfortunately, the process can be cumbersome and time consuming, especially during non-business hours (nights, weekends, and holidays).

Collin County currently has two processes for obtaining warrants after hours. In either case, after obtaining the prosecuting attorney's approval, a law enforcement officer must locate one of the two on-call judges. For search and arrest warrants, the officer must then drive to the judge for review, swearing/attestation, and judicial signature. Depending on the originating law enforcement office location, round trip drive time can be excessive and with the judicial review time needed, the warrant issuance process can easily take 2-3 hours. For DWI blood warrants, the warrant is faxed to the on-call judge, and after signature, needs to be faxed to medical clinic conducting the blood draw. Unfortunately, judges are not always near a fax machine.

2b. Describe how the absence of this equipment negatively impacts your community.

The afterhours warrant process is inefficient and uses a significant amount of resources. An officer must first contact and locate a judicial officer; even when on-call, judges do not sit at home waiting. The officer must then spend valuable time transporting paper documents, effectively removing themselves from performing other essential public safety duties, while another officer waits with the suspect. Additionally, time is wasted; money is spent on gas, vehicles, and paper; and for DWI blood warrants, there may be issues with fax legibility and paper jams. Longer wait times increase the likelihood that evidence could be altered (blood alcohol content) or destroyed or that the suspect may make a rash decision endangering others.

Delays can result in lack of evidence for prosecution and possibly put public safety at risk. While there are legal allowances for warrantless searches, obtaining a judicially authorized warrant reduces the risk of evidence suppression. If evidence is destroyed, hidden, or altered or deemed inadmissible in court, offenders may avoid prosecution and detention. For example, if a drug dealer avoids prosecution, narcotics will continue to be trafficked in the area leading to an increase in drug and drug-related (e.g., theft and burglaries) crimes. DWI offenses result in escalating punishment (fines, detention, and license suspension) per offense. However, un-penalized DWI offenders put pedestrians, other drivers, and all residents at risk.

2c. To support the significance of the problem please provide local data relevant to the target area.

NOTE: All data must be cited and verifiable. Only use state and/or national data when comparing/contrasting with local data.

Collin County's population increased 65.2% since 2000; correspondingly, criminal offenses, and the need for law enforcement initiated warrants, have also increased. From FY 2009 to FY 2012, the number of narcotics cases investigated by Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) increased by 57% (415 to 652), narcotics arrests increased by 33% (180 to 240), and crimes against children increased 18% from 2,327 to 2,750 cases. Overall, during FY 2012, CCSO investigated 5,824 cases.

Additionally, Collin County had 503 alcohol-related accidents, and the District Attorney's Office prosecuted 1799 DWI offenses in 2011. Collin County is committed to the No Refusal Program, and clinic nurses are available every weekend and holiday throughout the year to perform blood draws. Between 2010 and 2011, blood warrants issued increased almost 85% from 137 to 253. Blood tests are regarded as the most compelling evidence in DWI cases, and the conviction rate for blood warrant cases exceeds 95%.

During the first quarter of FY 2013, Collin County (CCSO and 22 city jurisdictions) law enforcement officers initiated 263 warrants, with approximately 20% occurring after hours. While this data has only been recently recorded, after extrapolating for a year, approximately 210 warrants, not including blood warrants, are requested after hours. With the inclusion of blood warrants, law enforcement requests over 450 warrants annually outside of business hours. Additionally, in jurisdictions that have eliminated the travel time necessary to obtain law enforcement initiated warrants, the number of warrants requested has increased.

Sources

1. "Collin County QuickFacts." State and County QuickFacts. US Census Bureau, 10 Jan 2013. [Accessed Jan 18, 2013]. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48085.html>
2. Collin County. District Attorney's Office. DWI Statistics. 2011 – 2012.
3. Collin County. Information Technology. Non-OCA Warrant Event Listing. 2012 – 2013.
4. Collin County. Sheriff's Office. Field Operations reports. 2005 – 2012.
5. "Texas Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics." Texas Department of Transportation, 19 Jun 2012. Web. [Accessed Jan 18, 2013]. www.txdot.gov/txdot_library/drivers_vehicles/publications/crash_statistics/default.htm

3. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION (up to 50 points):**

3a. Describe how this equipment will be used. Include quantity to be purchased.

Items to be purchased include compact tablets (x16) with a monthly cellular service plan, Microsoft Office and Adobe software applications to review and create documents, and e-faxing application and service to send and receive faxes.

Providing compact, portable tablet devices with the appropriate software applications to the District (x9), County Court at Law (x6), and Probate (x1) judges will allow law enforcement officers to electronically deliver affidavits and other warrant documents. With cellular connectivity, all Collin County judges, no matter where they are, could electronically review and sign the documents and return them quickly to the officer. Additionally, with an integrated camera, judges could use video calling to perform any swearing or

attestation. An e-faxing application and service will also be necessary, as medical clinics require faxes and do not accept email attachments for blood warrants.

Equipping the judges with tablets will save time for law enforcement officers by eliminating the need for a penned signature, minimize legibility issues, and greatly increase the productivity of both law enforcement officers and judges. Using technology to expedite the warrant process by eliminating travel will allow all aspects of the criminal justice system to work seamlessly together and will provide a digital trail in a fraction of the time.

3b. What does the equipment do?

A tablet computer is a portable multimedia device with multi-touch screen, virtual keyboard, and built-in camera, combining several electronic units and software applications into one convenient package. Tablet computers are smaller and more compact than laptops. This enhanced portability dramatically increases the likelihood that judges will carry the device with them ensuring their availability to sign warrants anywhere, anytime.

3c. Who will use it?

The equipment will be used by the 16 Collin County District, County Court at Law, and Probate judges.

3d. How often do you believe the equipment will be used?

Based on current data, warrants will be signed using the tablets at least biweekly; however, it is likely that once the process is in place, e-signed and transmitted warrants may become a much more regular activity. In addition to warrant activities, the tablets will be able to be used on an almost daily basis for bonds, findings, and orders, as well as accessing electronic judicial procedures and codes, increasing productivity and efficiency for all aspects of the criminal justice system.

3e. What training, if any, will be needed to use this equipment?

No training is necessary; however, Collin County IT will provide any clarification and support, if needed.

3f. Describe agency's plan to maintain equipment during and after grant period.

The Collin County IT department will support the tablet devices and assist with any needs. Monthly wireless and application software expenses, as well as tablet replacement, after the grant period will be funded using county monies.

ADDENDUM CANNOT EXCEED 4 PAGES BEFORE YOU INSERT THE BUDGET

4. BUDGET: INSERT EGRANTS BUDGET HERE. Do not provide additional narrative other than what is included in eGrants budget table. Once the budget is complete in eGrants, click on “printer friendly” link at top right. A new window will open with budget information. Select, copy, and paste the entire budget table here. The budget in this addendum must be identical to the one you placed in eGrants.

4a. All budget line items must have sufficient detail to justify the item to be included in the project. Budget line items should be relevant and reasonable to carrying out the project. (Up to 10 points)

4b. The budget must be consistent with proposed activities. (Up to 5 points)

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	CJD	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT /%
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Computer Software and Media	Office (\$15), Adobe (\$10), and faxing (\$20 setup + \$200/year) software applications for the tablet computers to ensure compatibility and ability to review warrants to be signed and transmitted. \$245 per tablet x 16 tablets.	\$3,920.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,920.00	0
Supplies and Direct Operating Expenses	Computer Software and Media	Wireless data plan to ensure tablets can be used from any location that cellular reception is available. \$30/month x 12 months x 16 tablets. After the grant period ends, wireless data plans will be paid using Collin County funds.	\$5,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,760.00	0
Equipment	Laptop System and Accessories	Portable tablet computer compatible with Collin County network and criminal justice systems. Tablets will be used by District, County Court at Law, and Probate judges to sign warrants from any location at any time, not just during business hours, to improve the public safety of Collin County residents. \$910 per tablet x 16 tablets. Equipment will be supported by Collin County IT and will be replaced using County funds at equipment end of life.	\$14,560.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,560.00	16