



# COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY  
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**TO:** City Council Members

**FROM:** Sylvia Richards, Budget Analyst

**DATE:** Oct. 8, 2019

**RE: PUBLIC HEARING FOR GRANT  
APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

**PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Briefing: Not required.  
Set Date: Not required.  
Public Hearing: Oct. 8, 2019  
Potential Action: TBD

Council Sponsor: **No sponsor / Budget item**

## ISSUE AT-A-GLANCE

The Administration has submitted two grant applications. In an effort to ensure that the City Council, Council staff and the public has adequate opportunity to see and comment on them, the grant application notifications will be included in the Council meeting agendas under Public Hearings. There won't be a set date since this is not a required hearing.

### 1. **2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant**

**Purpose/Goal of the Grant:** If awarded, the grant monies will be used to fund travel and training for sworn and civilian staff, cell phone analysis software and computer, less-lethal shotguns (more information on this new program on page two), Pioneer Precinct security cameras/intercom, security system server, office overtime, outreach, and \$100,000 towards the replacement of the Police Department's mobile command center. Additional details regarding the mobile command center replacement are found on page two.

**Grant Amount:** \$333,520

**Requested by:** Salt Lake City Police Department

**Funding Agency:** U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, in collaboration with the Salt Lake County Unified Police Department

**Match Requirement:** None.

Staff Recommendation: Close the Public Hearing and refer to a future Consent Agenda.



## NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

The Police Department has indicated that they plan to replace their 18-year old mobile command center motor home, which is no longer functional. Council staff asked for additional information regarding the replacement costs. In short, they estimate the new mobile command center cost at approximately \$450,000 to \$500,000 with the functionality needed for Police Department response to incidents and emergencies. (They indicate that models range from \$200,000 to \$1 million.)

Grant monies are being sought to fund the costs of the new mobile command center. There are currently two grant applications which are requesting a total of \$250,000. (One grant is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing on October 8, and the second will be scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>.) If the grant funding is approved, the department will apply for additional grants, federal and state funding, to supplement the \$250,000. In the case of a shortfall, the department would review the possibility of department budget to cover a small portion. The last option would be to request a match from fund balance.

The Police Department indicates it would prefer to purchase a freightliner instead of buying another motor home. The Police Department does not anticipate loaning the Mobile Command Center to other agencies but it would be utilized by SLCPD to support State and local entities in a major incident or disaster. Both UHP and Salt Lake County have mobile command centers.

## LESS-LETHAL PROGRAM

**From:** Brown, Mike

**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:36 PM

**To:** Richards, Sylvia

**Subject:** RE: JAG grant question - use of force tools

The SLCPD does not currently have a less-lethal shotgun program. Since as early as 2003, the SLCPD has utilized the 40mm launcher as a less-lethal option. While effective in the past, many of the currently owned 40mm launchers are in disrepair. Due to the expense of purchasing new 40mm launchers, old launchers are being utilized and, over time, the SLCPD has found that the accuracy of many launchers is unreliable while the cost of new launchers and ammunition has risen. (For example, the round used in the 40mm launcher costs near \$25 per round.)

## LESS-LETHAL OPTIONS NOW USED

The Department currently uses three additional options for the patrol officer for Less Lethal force. These are the ASP Baton, the Taser CED, and an OC (pepper spray) option.

- The **ASP baton** is a close encounter tool that would be used for a non-compliant subject who demonstrates threatening behavior and is typically unarmed. The ASP baton can be deployed in situations where the offender is within a three-foot striking distance. A recent audit of use of force by our Audit/Compliance team shows that the ASP is used sparingly (six times last year) but was effect in five of the six encounters.
- **Oleoresin Capsicum**, also known as “OC” or pepper spray, is another tool with which officers are equipped. OC is also considered a close-encounter option for non-compliant and unarmed individuals. OC (pepper spray) voids the gap between a lower level of force and the ASP baton. It has an optimal use distance of 8-12 feet. The longer distance it is used decreased its accuracy and

effectiveness. The SLCPD audit showed that OC was used thirteen times and was ineffective in three of those encounters.

- **Conducted Energy Devices (CED) (or tasers)** systems can be utilized up to 21 feet away, but accuracy decreases with distance. The CED is the most frequently used an officer's less-lethal options. SLCPD officers used a CED 74 times last year with a 42% failure rate (or the CED had ineffective results). Factors for those failure include a subject wearing winter-type or heavy clothing, both CED probes failing to strike the subject, and ineffectiveness on some individuals exhibiting drug-induced behaviors.

## **FACTORS FAVORING A LESS-LETHAL SHOTGUN PLATFORM**

**De-escalation:** The less-lethal shotgun round would bridge the gap between our current less-lethal options and deadly force. While current less-lethal options are effective to a maximum of twenty-one feet, a 12-gauge bean bag less-lethal round is effective from 20 feet up to 75 feet. That distance means it may be used against armed individuals, at distance, if officers are behind cover.

**Cost:** This would be a new program within the SLCPD and will be financially supplemented by equipment that needs to be replaced. The Department intends to remove older shotguns out of inventory and will receive financial credit which can be applied to help purchase 70 new less-lethal shotgun platforms. (The Police Department examined outfitting our in-stock older shotguns but, much like the 40mm launchers, many of them are old and in need of repair.) Additionally, the ammunition cost for the shotguns is almost a quarter the cost when compared to the 40mm launcher.

**Officer Safety:** The less-lethal shotgun is a better option for the field officers. The shotgun is a system that most, if not all, officers are already familiar with. The shotgun can also deploy multiple rounds, in quick succession, to gain the desired effect of taking a subject into custody. This is done much faster than the 40mm launcher. With the 40mm launcher, the operator typically has to plan on one round to gain compliance because of reload time. If the 40mm misses its target, or makes ineffective contact, it could take up to 3-5 seconds to load and discharge another round, possibly losing the less-lethal option as the subject has time to react.

The less-lethal shotgun holds eight bean-bag type rounds while the 40mm launcher is a single shot. Because of the bulkiness of the ammunition, officers typically only have one or two additional rounds at their disposal with a 40mm launcher. With a shotgun platform the officer can have six more rounds at their disposal.