

## **Program Narrative: Bomb Response Program**

The City of Jonesboro is requesting secured federal funding in the amount of \$28,116.00 for the purchase of a bomb suit, a coolant suit, and a ballistics vest; and two dog cages for the new SUV K-9 vehicles. Jonesboro Police Department is currently preparing to be able to adequately respond to possible bomb threats in the city, while waiting on the Arkansas State Police. The Arkansas State Police currently has the only bomb squad and is located in Little Rock, Arkansas. JPD has just purchased a bomb dog and now needs appropriate clothing for a trained officer. As JPD has been informed that the Arkansas State Police are in the process of moving a bomb squad to the Jonesboro area to facilitate faster response times, this is the only equipment that JPD will need in the area of bomb squad equipment. This equipment is necessary to ensure that the officer can function at full potential while on response to such a call involving possible bombs. The officer will receive training at no cost from the FBI, including training on how to respond to such calls, how to operate all equipment, and how to handle the newly purchased bomb dog.

The City of Jonesboro has increased in population an average of 2.5% each year, over the last 10 years, increasing from 55,000 in the 2000 census to 67,263 in the 2010 census. This increase in population has placed a larger demand for services to our residents, in addition to the 82 square miles the officers must cover. On any given day, there is an average of only 10 to 12 Patrol Officers in the field, forcing each officer to cover about 7 square miles. To be both efficient and effective in the field, while patrolling 7 or more square miles, it is absolutely pertinent that the officers be able to fully operate out of his/her vehicle. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the officer be fully equipped within his/her vehicle, including the bomb dog being with the

officer at all times, in case of calls. This officer will be responding to other 911 calls like all other Patrol officers, but if a bomb call comes through dispatch, this officer will be dispatched to that call, priority.

All JPD expenditures to date have had to occur over time due to a tight budget and a significant decrease in sales tax revenue for the City of Jonesboro over the last few years. The city will continue to leverage funds to continue this project until completion, and is requesting the full JAG - allocated \$28,116.00 to be utilized towards this goal.

The City of Jonesboro will collaborate with Craighead County in a Memorandum of Understanding to receive said funds. The City of Jonesboro will receive 100% of the \$28,116.00, as pursuant to the Department of Justice guidelines. All equipment funded shall be purchased using currently established purchasing procedures as set forth by the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. The City of Jonesboro will take on all reporting responsibilities and fiscal oversight of said grant. These responsibilities will be accomplished through the successful collaboration between the City of Jonesboro Grant Administrator, the Chief of Police, Administration, and City Council. The City of Jonesboro is fully committed to the accomplishment of this project; and therefore, is prepared to provide funding for the repair and maintenance of the requested equipment. Again, this award will greatly benefit the Jonesboro Police Department and the Jonesboro community.