

Grant/App: 3782301 **Start Date:** 10/1/2019 **End Date:** 9/30/2020
Fund Source: DJ-Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program
Project Title: Police Vehicle Radio Equipment

Profile Information

Applicant Agency Name: Van Alstyne, City of
Project Title: Police Vehicle Radio Equipment
Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Police Department
Address Line 1: Po Box 247
Address Line 2: 242 N.Preston Ave
City/State/Zip: Van Alstyne Texas 75495-0247
Start Date: 10/1/2019
End Date: 9/30/2020
Counties within Project's Impact Area: Collin,Cooke,Dallas,Denton,Fannin,Grayson

Project Director

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Title: Mr.
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Position: Chief of Police

Project Abstract :

The City of Van Alstyne Police Department currently uses analog radios inhibiting officers ability to communicate efficiently and effectively with other agencies in the area. The department is looking to upgrade their mobile radios to Tri band radios which would enable the officers to communicate with other departments without having to go through dispatchers. This will allow the officers to share real time information in time sensitive situations and respond effectively to mutual aid requests. These Tri band handheld radios will also create a safer environment for the officers since they will have the ability to communicate to receive and share information with other officers on scene.

Problem Statement :

Van Alstyne Police Department currently uses analog mobile radios which inhibit the officers' ability to communicate efficiently and effectively with other agencies. The current radios are over 12 years old and Motorola recently announced end of support and parts for this particular model. The City of Van Alstyne sits in two counties, Grayson and Collin County. The southern border is adjacent to Anna, the fourteenth fastest growing city in the State of Texas. In many situations, officers are needed to respond to calls in which both departments are involved. While on scene, the officers cannot communicate with each other over the radio due to the analog radios that are currently operated. In order for Van Alstyne officers to be able to communicate, Tri band handheld radios are needed.

Supporting Data :

Interoperability of radio communications is a necessity to officer safety, effective response and the ability to share important information in wide scale situations. Failures in communications technology have been reported in several large scale incidences around the country such as the Oklahoma City bombings and September 11, 2001 attacks. Radio technology has advanced greatly since then but the Van Alstyne Police Department is currently operating on analog mobile radios which hinders the communication with surrounding agencies. This makes it nearly impossible to respond to a multi-agency call effectively and efficiently respond to mutual aid calls. The City of Van Alstyne sits in two counties, Grayson and Collin County, and neighbors the City of Anna. Van Alstyne currently has no way to communicate, except through dispatchers, with many of the surrounding agencies, especially any of those in Collin County due

to radio requirements by the Collin County system. For the officers to be able to communicate, they must go through two dispatchers to relay time sensitive information. With the upgrade to Tri band radios, officers will be able to communicate with agencies in Collin, Grayson, Fannin and Cooke Counties. The ability to communicate on mobile radios would decrease response time and increase officer safety in multi-agency responses. Van Alstyne currently has mutual aid agreements with all agencies in Collin County; however, officers are not able to remotely communicate with other responding agencies on the scene. For example, when there was a report of a student with a gun on the campus of Anna High School, four Van Alstyne police officers responded to the scene but were unable to communicate with any other agency that had responded. This created issues on the scene and hindered the response of the officers. Another example is when a tornado struck in Westminster Texas and responding officers were not able to communicate in real time with other agencies. The close proximity of Anna, and several other cities within Collin and Grayson Counties, makes it a necessity to be able to respond effectively in these situations.

Project Approach & Activities:

Interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies to be able to talk to each other via radio communication systems to exchange data and information on demand and in real time. Public safety officers cannot rely on cell phones to complete this important task because of the possibility of the system being overburdened in a wide scale situation. Also, reliable one-to-many broadcast capabilities is not a feature that is generally available in cellular systems. This would make communication impossible via cell phones if the system were to go down in a major event. These public safety agencies are tasked to protect life and property and without the proper tools, it greatly complicates the ability to effectively do their job. It is necessary to have dedicated channels and priority access that is available at all times to be able to handle any unexpected emergency.

Capacity & Capabilities:

The City of Van Alstyne is a smaller community surrounded by other smaller communities. Each community is reliant upon each other to ensure a high level of service is provided to residents. Many times, this results in multi-agency responses to high priority calls. With the current radios, officers must rely on giving information to each other through dispatchers unless the communication occurs in person. This is not always feasible in certain situations. With the upgrade to Tri-band radios, each officer would be able to communicate directly with officers in other agencies, allowing for quicker and more accurate information sharing. The department's staff of 10 officers have the ability to upgrade quickly to these Tri band radios. A digital channel is already owned by the department making the transition simple.

Performance Management :

The departmental goal with this project is to be a regional leader that other departments look to for assistance in times of need. The department hopes to enhance communication with surrounding departments by the end of 2019. The department also plans to reduce the response time to mutual aid calls once the new radios are utilized by officers.

Target Group :

The department will continue to monitor the number of mutual aid calls that are responded to by officers and the response time for each call.

Evidence-Based Practices:

Based on the studies completed by the Police Executive Research Forum in the Law Enforcement Technology Needs Assessment, a high priority for many agencies is communications technology. The ability to improve interagency interoperability is of great concern for all law enforcement agencies because long delays in response can have an adverse effect on citizen satisfaction with police. In the instance that an officer must wait on information to be passed from officer to dispatcher, dispatcher to dispatcher, and from dispatcher back to officer, precious seconds pass with no response. Technologies, such as Tri band radios, help agencies better manage calls for service and deploy resources in more effective ways.

Selected Project Activities:

ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE:	DESCRIPTION
Law Enforcement	100.00	The new Tri band mobile radios will be used by the officers of Van Alstyne Police Department to improve inter-agency communication. Currently, without the ability to quickly communicated with surrounding agencies, officers are hindered in their ability to respond to multi-agency calls. These new radios will improve response time to mutual aid calls and share time sensitive information directly with other officers.

Measures Information

OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
Equipment or technology: Individuals/ operators equipped	8

CUSTOM OUTPUT MEASURE	TARGET LEVEL
The new Tril band moblie radios will be used by the officers of Van Alstyne Police Department to improve inter-agency communication. Currently, without the ability to quickly communicated with surrounding agencies, officers are hindered in their ability	8
Number of agencies that benefitted from equipment purchases.	40

Contract Compliance

Will CJD grant funds be used to support any contracts for professional services?

Yes

No

Budget Information by Budget Line Item:

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL	UNIT/%
Equipment	Radio and Accessories	Motorola Tri Band mobile radios	\$50,333.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,333.60	8

Budget Summary Information by Budget Category:

CATEGORY	OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
Equipment	\$50,333.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,333.60

Budget Grand Total Information:

OOG	CASH MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	GPI	TOTAL
\$50,333.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,333.60