

Lawrenceville (GA) Police Department
FY 2010 Justice Administration Grant

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

The city of Lawrenceville is the county seat of Gwinnett County, the second-most populous county in Georgia (trailing only Fulton County whose seat is in Atlanta). With the dramatic increase in population numbers and diversity, Lawrenceville has experienced great changes in law enforcement service needs. Lawrenceville's day-time population is estimated to be approximately 300% of its evening population due to a large hospital system, four-year college, airport, and a myriad of county government buildings falling within the incorporated limits of the city.

The Fiscal Year 2010 Justice Administration Grant would allow the Lawrenceville Police Department to enhance its abilities specifically in the area of criminal investigation and prosecution. The budget detail shows that the department has broken its plan into four distinct elements: suspect identification, communication with judiciary, surveillance, and forensics and crime scene processing.

The Lawrenceville Police Department recently became involved with the Rapid ID system. As a result of the involvement, the department received field identification equipment that checks the fingerprints of individuals or suspects in the field against a growing database of known offenders. The use of this technology has already allowed officers to identify wanted fugitives who were using false information in an attempt to evade capture. Properly identifying suspects will hopefully reduce the number of persons booked under false information, thereby

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reducing the need for additional investigation or the issuance of bench warrants on incorrect information. This expenditure will allow the department to purchase one additional field device for use by officers in the field to enhance our abilities.

The Gwinnett County Magistrate Court requires the use of an electronic warrant interface to apply for and obtain arrest and search warrants. While this may be used in the courtroom, the program allows for officers to use teleconferencing to obtain such warrant without driving to the location of the Magistrate Judge. Procuring the software and hardware required for this will allow investigators to obtain arrest and search warrants quickly and efficiently without expending time driving to and from the court. This system will allow for more efficient use of time and cut down on travel time and expense. The system will also archive and manage warrants taken by the department to allow for supervisory review and statistical analyses.

The Lawrenceville Police Department recently began a Crime Suppression Unit to combat a burgeoning street gang problem. The unit investigates “hot” crime areas as identified by crime analysis personnel. They also focus on narcotic and gang investigations. The grant would allow for the purchase of surveillance equipment to be used in such investigations. Currently the department is not equipped to handle surveillance situations, and the grant would allow better enforcement through use of specialized equipment.

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The increase in crime in the area has strained the available assets of area agencies in general. The Lawrenceville Police Department is desirous of becoming less dependent on the assets of other agencies who are already taxed by their own demands. This grant will allow the department to equip another certified crime scene specialist with the tools and equipment to perform a competent and thorough forensic crime scene investigation. This will reduce the need to call on other agencies and provide better coverage for the city. It will also allow us to assist smaller jurisdictions, should the need arise.

These four areas are needs identified by the department to move forward in a dynamic community. The grant will allow the department to make strides in becoming both more efficient and better equipped to serve the citizens of Lawrenceville and the people who come to the city to work, play or conduct business with resident businesses and agencies.