

LRB – RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ITEM 7, FILE #090524

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

File #090524 authorizes the application, acceptance and funding of a Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, through Milwaukee County, in the amount of \$4,092,754. This is the City’s mutually agreed upon share of roughly \$6.3 million awarded to Milwaukee County for broad law enforcement initiatives as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The City allocation will be spent on various Police Department needs, including overtime, squad cars, replacement of jail cells, automated license plate readers, development of a Real Time Crime Center, Compstat Room improvements, surveillance system digitalization and bulletproof vests. The primary stipulation of this 100% donor funded grant is that all monies be spent by March 1, 2013.

BACKGROUND

In concert with the \$1 billion COPS Hiring Recovery Program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 earmarked roughly \$2 billion in Edward Byrne Justice Assistance formula grants to state and local law enforcement agencies. These grant awards come with fairly broad spending parameters, with monies to be spent on crime prevention, law enforcement and prosecution. Attorney General Eric Holder indicated that like the competitive COPS grants, the Edward Byrne JAG grants could be used to put more police officers on the street and more prosecutors in the courthouse. However, it also has the flexibility to permit localities to invest in technology, crime-prevention and other programmatic needs.

Milwaukee County will receive estimated funding of \$6.3 million under this program for “enhancement of public safety within Milwaukee County.” The Joint Spending Plan for 2009 allocates this \$6.3 million to the following jurisdictions: Milwaukee County, City of Cudahy, Franklin, Glendale, Greenfield, Milwaukee, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis and the Villages of Brown Deer, Shorewood and West Milwaukee.

DISCUSSION

The Joint Spending Plan allocates approximately \$4.1 million in Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial JAG proceeds to the City of Milwaukee, with monies earmarked as follows:

<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>DOLLAR AMOUNT</i>
Overtime for Violent Crime Reduction Initiative	\$ 1,750,000
34 Fully Equipped Squad Cars	941,290
Securitization of Prisoner Processing Section Jail Cells	745,000
8 Automated License Plate Readers	214,300
Real Time Crime Center Development	195,690
Comstat Room Improvements	105,674
Digital Surveillance Systems	100,000
68 Ballistic Vests	40,800
TOTAL	\$4,092,754

FISCAL IMPACT

Milwaukee County will be the fiscal agent for the grant. Acceptance requires no city participation and has no impact on the tax levy.

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