

**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

*Grants Administration Division**Washington, D.C. 20530***PROJECT SUMMARY TEMPLATE**

This template represents the proper format for the formal submission of your proposal. The template is to be used as a guideline only; do not submit written information on this form. Only the separation of the subject titles in this template is required in your project summary. Please remember that the proposal length is up to the discretion of your agency, but it must be a minimum of three (3) pages and we highly recommend that it be kept within a maximum of six (6) pages. If you have any questions, please contact your Technology Coordinator at 1-800-421-6770.

A. ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING PROBLEM(S)

The Gainesville (Fl) Police Department implemented a Wireless Project (laptops in the field) to 232 police officers and 15 police service technicians and a new Records Management System (RMS) on January 20, 2004. All personnel completed training on all the major modules of the RMS on June 2004. These RMS modules included: Field Reporting, Arrest Affidavits, Employee Records, Training Records, Case Management, scanning written documents and attaching jail mug shot photographs to related names.

In addition, the Records Management System includes a component known as P2C (Police to Citizen) which is a website which contains daily bulletins of up to the hour information, crime mapping, viewing of the first page of the police incident report and the capability for citizens to print their own copy of their vehicle crash report.

As the Wireless Project and new Records Management System evolve, additional enhancements have been identified as being needed to facilitate the work of the officers and technicians in the field and to provide citizens even more access to needed information.

B. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Our "Communications Enhancement Project" will include the addition of 802.11 High Speed Networking and mobile printers for the laptops previously issued to police officers and police service technicians in the field.

Laptops used by the Gainesville (Fl) Police Department are connected to our system via wireless cellular modems which have a connection bandwidth of less than 125 Kps. Several times a month, officers are required to connect to the Police Department's Local Area Network (LAN) in order to receive "mobile updates" of their computer files and to view large files that cannot be downloaded in a useable time period via the cellular connection.

We will be purchasing 802.11 (or Wi-Fi) cards so that officers can remain in the field to connect to our LAN from several remote locations. The Gainesville (Fl) Police Department will create our own high speed network connection locations, known as "hot spots" and will be working with Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR), the University of Florida and several local businesses who will also provide locations for "hot spot" connections throughout the City.

The funds for this portion of the project will initially be used to purchase the cards necessary for our laptops to use this high speed network. Any remaining funds will be used for the purchase of hotspot equipment and/or related equipment, such as wiring, antennas, training, software, etc.

The second portion of our "Communications Enhancement Project" is to continue to move forward toward a full implementation of a field reporting system. It has become increasingly apparent that it is necessary for patrol officers and police service technicians to have mobile printers in their vehicles. The efficiency of patrol officers and technicians would immediately be improved by giving them this additional means of doing their job directly in the field without having to return to police headquarters. This would permit officers and police service technicians to be in their assigned zones more frequently and provide opportunities for them to be more available and responsive to citizens, which is in direct support of community policing.

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We plan to have officers and technicians utilize the mobile printers in the following ways:

Arrest Affidavits – Instead of officers having to return to headquarters with their prisoner(s) in order to complete and/or print out their paperwork they could complete the information and have the paperwork printed and ready for the booking process when they arrive at the jail. Currently when officers who complete an arrest affidavit and want to turn the arrestee over to another officer for transport to jail, they are unable to do so as they would have to also send their laptop in order for the transporting officer to print out the affidavit at the jail. Mobile printers in the vehicle(s) would solve both these problems.

Missing Persons – Having a mobile printer with a built in Compact Flash card slot would enable officers to take a digital photo of a picture of a missing child, elder, mentally challenged person, etc., and place the memory card into their printer for the printing of flyers for citizens and other officers to use to attempt to locate the missing person.

Informational Flyers – Flyers could be printed, as needed, by the officer or technician in the field regarding various City ordinances (Noise, Nuisance Abatement, Alcohol and Open Party violations) to give to persons who are charged and/or citizens requesting the information. This ability would eliminate the need to store cases of forms which often become antiquated before they can be used. Updates could be done on one electronic document on our Intranet site thereby providing officers and technicians with access to current and accurate information. This process could also be applied for any other community oriented policing, investigative and/or informational flyers.

Notice to Appear Arrests – All our Notice to Appear forms are currently hand-written and then has to be hand-keyed into the RMS by Records personnel. With printers in their vehicles, officers could complete the Notice to Appear forms via their laptops and then print them for the defendants to sign. Then the officer would submit the electronic Notice to Appear as they would any other report and all the information would be captured electronically.

Other Planned Uses: Provide copies of crash reports and driver's exchange of information forms for individuals involved in vehicle crashes; Baker Act and Marchman Act forms; Supervisor Status reports and traffic citations.

Each of the aforementioned uses of the mobile printer is specifically designed to save officer and technician time, reduce the amount of time that an officer has to move a prisoner or detainee unnecessarily, increase the amount of time that an officer and/or technician is available and accessible in the field and provide the most timely and accurate information to department personnel and citizens in our community. Attendant benefits include cost savings of paper, copying and storage of documents and forms.

C. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Once funding is received we expect to purchase the mobile printers within ninety (90) days and have them distributed to our personnel within an additional sixty (60) days. Training on the use and care of the printers will be included in this timeline.

Additionally, we will purchase the 802.11 cards within four months (120 days) of the receipt of funding and will begin the process of identifying and creating high speed network connections or "hotspots" that our personnel will be able to access from this time forward.

We have field tested four (4) different models of portable printers. They are all approximately the same cost however there were differences in print clarity, printer cartridge longevity and battery life.

D. EVALUATION PLANS, OUTCOMES, AND EFFECTIVENESS

We plan to obtain feedback from users at various stages of the two projects as to how the high speed connections and mobile printers aided them in their abilities to be of service to the community. This feedback will also be valuable in order to identify areas which may need improvement; to consider sharing with other agencies which are going through similar implementation of technology; and to serve as a demonstration of a successful strategy for agencies considering moving to the wireless environment.

E. CURRENT/PLANNED COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Prior to August 2000, the Gainesville Police Department had instituted the Community Oriented Policing concept in small pockets of the community, but had not yet embraced the concept for the entire City. In August 2000, the Department fully implemented Community Oriented Police in all areas of the City, including neighborhoods, businesses, and industrial areas. This effort was accomplished by reorganizing the structure of the Department, and realigning geographical zones within the City. Community input was sought and committees were formed within the Department and within the community to decide the best route for implementation.

The Operational side of the Department was divided into three Districts headed by District Commanders at the rank Captain. Members of each District have both temporal and geographic responsibilities. Sworn members balance responding to calls for service with their zone project responsibilities. To date, officers have had high levels of success with balancing these overlapping responsibilities. However, there is an identified need to provide them with additional tools, such as high speed access and mobile printers, in order for them to have access to and the ability to provide information to citizens and other individuals they serve.

Sergeants and officers meet monthly with members of numerous neighborhood crime and business watch organizations. The Gainesville Police Department also has partnered with other City departments (Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, Planning, and Parks and Recreation) as well as Keep Alachua County Beautiful, Inc., environmental agencies and the State Attorney's Office to address and respond to the needs of the neighborhoods and businesses. The trend in our City is to move away from the "crime watch" concept to more of a "neighborhood or business association" concept, as more partners are brought into the organizations.

With the implementation of the Wireless (laptop) project and new Records Management System (RMS), officers and police service technicians were able to spend more time in the field instead of having to return to headquarters to turn in reports, meet with a supervisor, etc.

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The projects we have proposed with this funding will permit us to expand the time the officers/technicians spend in the field even more. And will give the ability to access more information in a more timely manner; to keep track of information pertaining to each zone (a zone profile so to speak); and to provide citizens with the information they need, i.e., handouts, ordinance information, city requirements, copies of their crash report, etc.

We have numerous businesses and apartment complexes which we believe will offer their location to serve as a "hot spot". Officers/technicians will be able to build upon existing rapport and will have direct access to information about crime or quality of life issues at each of these locations while also serving as a crime deterrent.

It is with these methods that officers develop strategies with citizens to address crime and quality of life issues on an immediate and, when needed, a long term basis. These relationships give officers a higher level of investment in our community and citizens a higher level of trust in the police. As the community oriented policing method expands now into community oriented service from all levels of government and service agencies and as, we are better able to provide needed information and/or reports in a timely manner, the level of commitment from all parties will grow exponentially.