

For comments or suggestions concerning this grant proposal please email William Taylor at William.Taylor@charlottefl.com , call 941-743-1540 or write to William Taylor, Charlotte County Budget and Administrative Services Department, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948-1068.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Part 1 – Railed Handgun-Mounted Flashlights:

The most comprehensive study of officer-involved shooting incidents¹ has shown that officers have a shooting accuracy rate of approximately 64% during daytime hours. However, that accuracy rate declines by 24-30% when officers engage with their firearms during nighttime or low-light situations.

Furthermore, the author of the study identified low-light situations as a key factor in mistake-of-fact shooting incidents. The author defined mistake-of-fact shootings as “usually a suspect is displaying an item that is falsely but reasonably perceived to be a deadly weapon (a cell phone, for example), or the suspect is behaving in such a way that in context is believed to constitute an immediate lethal threat (making a fast, furtive movement toward the waistband, for instance).”

The study’s author revealed that “as many as 75% of the ‘mistake-of-fact’ shootings he examined occurred at a time of day that ‘we’d generally associate with reduced light conditions.’ (Yet in only one report was there any indication that officers used flashlights to better identify possible threats!)”

These mistake-of-fact shooting incidents are extremely tragic for all involved as innocent people are wounded or killed and the officer(s) involved live with that knowledge for the rest of their lives. They also expose the employing agency to an increased likelihood of lawsuits and increased civil liability.

The current handguns issued by the Punta Gorda Police Department do not allow for officers to fix flashlights directly to the handgun. In order to illuminate a low-light situation, they need to use their non-shooting hand to activate a handheld flashlight. As the non-shooting, or support, hand is normally used to increase weapon stability when not using a flashlight, this technique sacrifices weapon control and accuracy for illumination and target acquisition.

Newer style handguns are now available that have built-in accessory mounting rails to allow flashlights to be mounted to the handguns. These rail and flashlight combinations free up the non-shooting hand for officer safety activities or increased weapon stability and accuracy.

¹ Aveni, Thomas J.. "Officer-Involved Shootings: What We Didn't Know Has Hurt Us." *www.theppsc.org*. n.d.. The Police Policy Study Council. 15 Jun 2009 <http://www.theppsc.org/Staff_Views/Aveni/OIS.pdf>

Several distributors of the Glock handguns currently carried by our officers operate a handgun exchange/"buy-back" program that will allow our department to turn in our current, non-railed models for new models with rail mounting systems and flashlights.

The department intends to replace its issued older-style handgun inventory by trading those handguns for newer-style handguns with a rail mounting system. As part of the transition, the department will also purchase a weapon-mounted flashlight for each officer.

Advanced Security Holsters:

One of the greatest personal safety concerns for officers is weapons retention during incidents. Between 1996-2005, 52 law enforcement officers nationwide were shot and killed with their own weapons². This statistic does not include those that were shot and wounded or those who were disarmed but not shot.

Police equipment manufacturers have recognized this danger and developed various holster retention products and devices designed to make it more difficult for assailants to remove an officer's gun from his/her holster and use it to their criminal advantage. The industry uses a "Retention Level" designation to inform buyers of the number of retention devices built in to each individual holster.

The Punta Gorda Police Department currently issues a holster with Level 3 retention capabilities to its officers but, with advent of better technology and holster design, plans to migrate to a Level 4 retention holster that provides better weapon retention and, therefore, increases officer safety. Also, since the purchase of handgun-mounted lights identified earlier in this application will require the purchase of new holsters to accommodate the flashlights, the decision was made to purchase a new holster that could both accommodate the flashlights and provide a higher retention level.

Taser Cartridges:

The department recently implemented an acquisition and deployment initiative that will result in each sworn officer being issued Taser brand Electronic Control Devices. This initiative was funded through a separate grant revenue stream which provided monies for the purchase of the Tasers, training and maintenance equipment, and operational Taser cartridges. The grant used to fund the initiative could not provide enough funding for the purchase of enough Taser cartridges to fully implement the program and the department was going to have to find money in an already limited budget to purchase a sufficient number of cartridges. Now, the department plans to use a portion of this grant to provide

² "Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2006." Oct 2007 Web.16 Jun 2009.
<<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/2006/>>.

the necessary funding to purchase the remaining number of cartridges needed for completion of the Taser acquisition and deployment initiative.

Part 2 – ACCISS:

In order to consolidate disparate systems for records management, case management, and computer-aided dispatch queuing, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office contracted with ACISS Systems to use their Records Management System for the agency's criminal incident, field interview, and citation storage. One of the modules also purchased with this system has an evidence custodian module which allows evidence technicians to attach new property and evidence as part of the case and record for each incident. When the Sheriff's Office observed how the evidence custodian module would be able to better chronicle case items, the investment was made to purchase two bar code scanners as part of the original agreement.

Current staffing in the Evidence Unit is at four, leaving any two evidence technicians without the ability to enter historical information into ACISS while also not being able to enter new property as part of their regular duties. Such inequity does not allow for the efficient handling of historical data, which is necessary to populate into ACISS, once the Sheriff's Office completely transitions to ACISS' Records Management System. With constant evidence acquisition and disposal, the need to efficiently enter all historical information has become a need for the Evidence Unit. It is the Sheriff's intent to request two additional bar code scanners and related equipment so that each member of the Evidence Unit will be able to scan historical and new property and evidence into the ACISS system in an efficient manner.

Part 3 – Communication:

Over the past several years, the population of Charlotte County has grown at a rate of 3.8 percent. By contrast, the number of requests for public safety assistance received by the Charlotte County Communications Center has increased 15.2 percent. This call volume has been done with a Communications Center working out of 10 workstations. Within the past year, the Sheriff's Office has expanded the Communications Center from its original 10 work areas to now being able to house 14 work areas. Although the expansion was timely, inadequate funding did not permit the purchase of the necessary Enhanced 9-1-1 equipment to place in those work areas.

Staffing for the Communications Center is above the number of positions available to work. There are times when all 10 positions are occupied, leaving some personnel to either adjust their schedule and return or just remain at home entirely because of how full the center is. With the purchase and implementation of the Sheriff's new ACISS Records Management System (RMS), which will

allow deputies and detectives to enter incident and supplement reports directly into the RMS, thus alleviating that duty from district clerks, there is the potential that these positions can be moved into the Communications Center to answer requests for public safety personnel. However, should there still only be 10 fully functional workstations, the Sheriff's Office may be no better off with additional personnel.

The granting proposal this proposal would allow, now and the next few years, the ability to expand Enhanced 9-1-1 equipment into those work areas where transitioning call takers and dispatchers, along with those currently on staff, can absorb the overflow of calls for service during peak hours of the week. This could result in increased service delivery for public safety personnel to the constituents who need it most.

Part 4 – Crime-Scene:

The need to detect, collect, account for, and simulate crime scenes and the perpetrators involved in criminal acts has become more commonplace in law enforcement. With the advent of enhanced crime scene technologies, investigators are able to detect non-visible objects, which could be used as evidence in a criminal investigation. Historically, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office's Crime Scene Unit has submitted all trace evidence, to include ballistics evidence, for processing by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) or the Federal Bureau of Investigations' (FBI) laboratories. In some cases, evidence would be sent to a private laboratory, which would charge for examinations. Due to structural changes at FDLE over the last four years, evidence examinations are becoming more time consuming, costing each particular investigation valuable time and cases to go unsolved. The average turnaround for a ballistic evidence examination is approximately one to four months, with a majority of cases being returned with negative results.

The Sheriff's Crime Scene Unit is capable of conducting these types of analyses if they were provided the right equipment. The types of evidence usually sent to FDLE and the FBI are fingerprints, palm impressions, tire or footprints, which could be examined in house given emerging technologies. With the number of investigations needing specialized examination by the Crime Scene Unit, the need to be more cost effective and efficient in operations aids on the timeliness of case clearance, while providing the State's Attorney's Office with the evidence necessary for successful prosecution is paramount. In keeping with the "Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs" purpose area under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, this funding will be used to support ongoing criminal forensic investigations for the microscopic comparisons and analyses, documentations of these examinations, and the ability to detect trace evidence at the crime scene. Such equipment and in-house examinations could lead an increase in positive identifications in a more timely manner.

BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE (all costs are approximate):

Part 1 – Railed Handgun-Mounted Flashlights:

- Trade-in/upgrade of approximately 36 Glock model 23 pistols without rails for 36 Glock model 23 pistols with rails – approximately \$149 each = approximately \$5,364
- Advanced retention level duty handgun holsters – approximately 36 @ approximately \$74 each = \$2,664
- Rail mounted handgun tactical flashlights – approximately 36 @ approximately \$90 = approximately \$3,240
- Multiple Taser training duty use cartridges = approximately \$2,150

Supplies:	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1) Glock model 23 pistols with rails with trade-in/upgrade of Glock model 23 pistols without rails	36	\$149.00	\$5,364.00
2) Advanced retention level duty handgun holsters	36	\$74.00	\$2,664.00
3) Rail mounted handgun tactical flashlights	36	\$90.00	\$3,240.00
4) Multiple Taser training duty use cartridges			\$2,132.00
TOTAL:			\$13,400.00

Any additional costs exceeding the award amount will be covered by the Punta Gorda Police Department.

Part 2 – ACCISS:

In keeping with the purpose area of “Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs,” the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office Management Information Systems/Information Technology Division will be responsible for the purchase of the two bar code scanners. The Evidence Unit will then be responsible for utilizing and implementing the systems required to efficiently catalog and chronicle historical and new property and evidence. Such equipment being presented has aided other law enforcement agencies who have used ACCISS Systems as their records management system. The equipment requested will provide for more effective tracking of evidentiary information.

Therefore, we respectfully request the following:

Supplies:	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1) Extended Range Laser Gun These wired laser guns are used to scan the bar code each evidence custodian places on new property and evidence, thus allowing for a systematic chronicle of items directly into the ACISS System as they are scanned.	2	\$647.00	\$1,294.00
2) Bar Code Printers These printers are designed to print out labels with bar code information so as to be placed on new property and evidence received by the Evidence Unit.	2	\$1,100.00	\$2,200.00
3) Portable Handheld Terminal Units These wireless terminal units allow the evidence custodian the flexibility to move throughout the evidence room and scan information which would otherwise be too cumbersome to do at his or her desk. The collected information would then be plugged into the ACISS system as a one-time data transfer for records purposes.	2	\$1,306.00	\$2,612.00
TOTAL:			\$6,106.00

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office asks for the grant amount and any additional costs incurred will be handled by the Sheriff's Office.

Part 3 – Communications:

The Communications Center at the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office was originally designed to maintain 10 dispatch workstations for emergency and routine requests for public safety assistance. With a redesign of the facility, four consoles were added to allow for expansion in future years. With the Communications Center staffed in excess capacity, the Logistics Commander can only have 10 personnel members working at any given time, thus leaving those additional personnel to go home due to a lack of workstations. Under the purpose area for "Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs," the Enhanced 9-1-1 Patriot Phone System will allow the Sheriff's Office to expand equipment into another position in the Communications Center to handle potential overflow of calls for public safety assistance. We, therefore, respectfully request the following:

Equipment	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Enhanced 9-1-1 Patriot Phone System This will serve as an additional workstation to handle both incoming calls for public safety services and dispatching the appropriate units requested by Charlotte County constituents.	1	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
TOTAL:			\$39,000.00

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office asks for the grant amount and any additional costs incurred will be handled by the Sheriff's Office.

Part 4 – Crime-Scene:

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division would be responsible for purchasing, utilizing, and implementing the systems required to enhance crime detection, evidentiary physical comparisons, and forensic reconstruction as a way of meeting the purpose area for "Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement Programs." Such equipment being presented will allow for the Crime Scene Unit to conduct forensic examinations in house, which should speed up the turnaround time for positive identifications. Historically such comparisons were sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which meant it could have taken anywhere between one to four months to receive acknowledgment of a positive comparison. By having the evidence examined in the Sheriff's facilities, potential issues with chain of custody external to the organizations may be minimized. Using this grant allocation, the equipment requested will provide more efficient crime scene detection and forensic examination while simultaneously reducing the Sheriff's Office dependency on external agencies to conduct similar examinations. Therefore, we respectfully request the following:

Supplies:	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
1) Magnification High Power Compound Forensic Microscope with Accessories The high power forensic comparison allows crime scene technicians the ability to analyze and compare synthetic and natural fibers, hair, dried paint, and a variety of biological specimens on microscope slides.	1	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
2) Forensic Comparison CSI Investigation Microscope with Accessories This professional low power forensic comparison trinocular microscope will be used for ballistic and tool mark evidence analysis, along with side-by-side comparison. The microscope allows for the analyses and comparison of bullets, bullet cartridge casing, scratch marks, wires, glass and paint fragments.	1	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
3) Rechargeable Battery Powered Magnification Stereoscopic Binocular This will be used at crime scenes for detection and evaluation of microscopic trace evidence. It can also be used for inspection of outsized items too large for transport into the laboratory.	2	\$200.00	\$400.00
4) 3MP Video Eyepiece Camera Eyepiece cameras are necessary for photo documentation of microscopic comparisons and examination for casework and court presentations.	1	\$360.00	\$360.00
5) 5MP Video Eyepiece Camera Eyepiece cameras are necessary for photo documentation of microscopic comparisons and examination for casework and court presentations.	1	\$520.00	\$520.00
6) Combined Shipping and Handling	1	\$298.00	\$298.00
TOTAL:			\$8,478.00

The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office asks for the grant amount and any additional costs incurred will be handled by the Sheriff's Office.

GRAND TOTAL: \$66,984.00