

## **Program Narrative**

### **Project Title: Long Range Acoustical Device (LRAD) and Equipment**

Our intent is to utilize the 2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, application number **2013-H5038-SD-DJ** for the purchase of Long Range Acoustical Devices (LRAD) and related safety and storage equipment.

**Purpose:** To provide the Rapid City Police Department with a dependable, functional and versatile long-range acoustical public address system and to provide responding officers with necessary protective gear for crowd control situations.

**Justification:** The current method of public address consists of a dated bull-horn style megaphone and/or a vehicle P.A. system. These tools have proven to be insufficient and unsatisfactory for law enforcement when needing to communicate important information to the public during natural disasters or civil disorders.

By utilizing the 2013 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, our Agency will be able to purchase LRAD systems which will correct these deficiencies. The LRADs will serve as a more suitable option for law enforcement during natural disasters, public disorders or whenever long-range, audible instructions to the public are needed. They will offer a volume and audibility capable of clarity up to 1000 meters. They will have toning and lighting systems to assist with communicating announcements and reinforcing law enforcement expectations during natural disasters or to crowds during disorderly assemblies.

Communications were strained last summer when we experienced a protest and budding riot which began downtown and ended at our local hospital. Mass communication was severely limited. This handicap gave way to confusion as to law enforcement expectations of the participants. Our agency and community discovered we were at a serious disadvantage resulting from not having reliable communication devices and related safety gear. Current monitoring of these protest groups coupled with internal department intelligence indicates a high likelihood of recurring protest activity and civil unrest in the near future. Having a more powerful and reliable method of communicating with unruly crowds will make these situations resolve more smoothly and will put us in a better position of readiness for the future. RCPD Incident Case number: 2012-242749 documents this event and is available upon request.

Additionally, our community is situated at the base of the Black Hills and we are encompassed by a multitude of natural forests and hills. We are located in the heart of a natural flood-plane, which has flooded in times past. Because of the high fire danger combined with high likelihood of floods, our community would greatly benefit from the LRAD systems. Communicating critical evacuation instructions to residents and civilians is of utmost importance. This system will answer those needs and more.

If awarded, the remaining grant funds will be used to purchase personal safety equipment to be worn by officers responding to incidents involving civil unrest. This equipment will consist of protective crowd-control gear to be worn on the arms, legs and body of responding personnel. This protection becomes essential when encountering crowds who may resort to throwing rocks or harmful objects at law enforcement personnel. Additionally, we seek to purchase a versatile storage trailer, which will house the LRAD units and all of the related equipment in a secure state of operational readiness.

Although the Rapid City Police Department will solely purchase the LRAD units and related equipment, the LRAD services will be made available to assist within the Pennington County law enforcement jurisdiction. This will also apply to jurisdictions outside Pennington County, which utilize our Special Response Team (SRT). Therefore, if awarded this grant, the results will benefit other public safety agencies beyond our own.