

FY22 CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT Addendum

Submission Instructions: Email completed addendum Word file to cjapplications@nctcog.org no later than 5:00 pm CST on February 11, 2021 (DO NOT SUBMIT AS PDF FILE)
Download CJ-JAG addendum here: <https://www.nctcog.org/public-safety/criminal-justice/fy22-grant-applications>

COMPLETED ADDENDUM SHOULD NOT EXCEED **3** PAGES

Agency Name: Forney Police Department
Project Title: TASER & Portable Radio Acquisition Project
Application #:42307-01
Location of Agency Headquarters: 110 Justice Center Drive, Forney, Kaufman County, Texas 75126
OOG amount requested for this new or renewal project:\$100,000
Is this a collaboration project? (If YES, submit applicable MOUs/letters of intent) YES_____ NO_x_____

PROJECT SUMMARY – NO POINTS ASSIGNED (100 WORDS OR LESS): Briefly summarize the proposed project. The Forney Police Department is submitting this proposal to seek funding to purchase 35 Taser 7 Electronic Control Weapons and four P25 compliant radios. This replacement equipment will address malfunctioning and outdated equipment. This equipment will provide officers with better means to take violent suspects into custody without resorting to higher levels of use of force and allow officers to better communicate between the Forney Dispatch Center, other Forney officers, and public safety professionals from other jurisdictions when assistance is needed.

SUPPORTING DATA - UP TO 10 POINTS: Provide at least three years of supporting data to provide evidence that the problem exists, its size and scope, and its negative effects on the target population. Do not use statewide data for a local problem or national data for a statewide problem. All data sources must be cited.

This section has been divided into three subsections: GENERAL INFORMATION, where we provide reviewers with overall information that relates to both of our needs, and RADIOS, where we specifically address that project, and TASERS, where we specifically address that project.

GENERAL INFORMATION

According to inForney.com (a local media outlet) and the US Census Bureau, Kaufman County ranks third in the nation for growth from 2017-2018. 2020 NCTCOG Population Estimates show Forney to be the largest city in Kaufman County with a population of 25,030. Our significant population growth has also drastically increased the workload and calls for service for the Forney Police Department (FPD).

As shown in Figure 1, FPD responded to 25.9% more calls for service in 2019 than 2018. The decrease in calls for service in 2020 is believed to be due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the trend remains increasing. Along with expanding population and calls for service, the City of Forney has significantly increased the number of community-wide special events that draw large crowds. In 2019, Forney added two events: “Brews on Bois d’Arc” and a New Year’s Ball Drop. Both events were held in downtown Forney, and attendance was estimated at 5000 and 9000, respectively. Forney also hosts a large Independence Day celebration that draws from 25000-30000 based upon our attendance data from 2017-2020. Also due to the pandemic, all special events for the later

Figure 1. Total number of police calls for service 2017 – 2020.

half of 2020 were cancelled. However, in June 2020 after the George Floyd incident in Minnesota, the Forney Police Department experienced its first protest situation in the city's history. Approximately 300 protesters attended, and 45 first responders were dedicated to the event, including police officers, firefighters, EMS, and dispatchers who all required P25 compliant radios.

Forney PD has the following authorized positions: 33 sworn officers, one civilian Public Safety Officer, 12 telecommunicators, and three administrative support personnel. There are 22 officers and sergeants assigned to the Patrol Services Division with a three officer on-duty minimum staffing level. Telecommunicators are assigned with a two-person minimum staffing level. FPD also has an active Citizens on Patrol (COP) program with 12 FPD Citizens Police Academy alumni who regularly work many volunteer hours and serve as a force multiplier by assisting on proactive patrol and staffing special events. Forney COPs worked 490 hours in 2017, 411 hours in 2018, 664 hours in 2019, and 428 hours in 2020. Numerous academic sources support the use of volunteers in police departments due to the expanded services, additional personnel, and strategic benefits they can provide (Dobrin, 2017; Wolf & Bryer, 2019). It is crucial for these vital personnel to also be able to communicate when they are supporting police operations and require portable radios.

Dobrin, A. (2017). Volunteer police: History, benefits, costs, and current descriptions. *Security Journal* (30), p. 717-733.

Wolf, R. & Bryer, T. (2019). Applying an outcomes-based categorisation to non-warranted/non-sworn volunteers in United States policing. *The Police Journal* (93), p. 42-64.

RADIOS

The Forney Police Department has invested and partnered with surrounding agencies to increase radio interoperability and coverage across our jurisdictions – both of which have been recommended critical law enforcement infrastructure improvements since the 9/11 attacks. Forney PD houses a radio switch for Forney, Garland, Rowlett, and Sachse police departments, which allows us to talk to these agencies in an emergency. Forney Police Department radios are 7800 Megahertz and P25 Phase 2 compliant, and FPD has 37 such radios. With all sworn officers and the public safety officer issued a radio and two radios assigned to our dispatch center in case our primary radios go down, we have no additional portable radios to issue to our Citizens on Patrol when they assist with patrol and special events. We have no radios to issue to the many officers from outside jurisdictions who assist us with our large special events when FPD is unable to provide enough staffing, and those outside officers do not have compatible radios. At a minimum, our inability to equip all personnel who are currently working (e.g. patrol or special event), contributes to delays in responses from having to use other forms of communication (e.g. cellular tele phones). Currently, FPD has 20 radios with malfunctioning emergency buttons issued to sworn officers. The emergency button is needed when an officer is in an emergency situation, and needs to convey uninterrupted radio traffic to incoming officers and dispatch and a silent alert for immediate assistance. With four new radios, FPD would replace some of the malfunctioning radios currently issued to sworn officers and provide COPs with basic radios.

Our paid and volunteer personnel are at increased risk should they not have immediate radio communication with other officers and the dispatch center. Our minimal supply of radios contributes to poorer service for our citizens and increased risk of harm to our personnel. Finally, FPD interacts on a daily basis with officers from surrounding agencies. Should a critical incident occur in Forney or we respond to a critical incident, neither we nor our local partners have a supply of radios to distribute to ensure communication across multiple agencies for those agencies who are not on our shared system.

TASERS

The Forney Police Department wishes to issue Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs) and specifically the TASER X2 to all sworn personnel. ECWs allow officers the opportunity of controlling individuals who are exhibiting active aggression or actively resisting without having to escalate to deadly force. Kroll and colleagues (2019) reviewed the literature and found overwhelming support for the benefits of ECWs as a use of force option. Kroll's et al. research revealed a two-thirds reduction in fatal shootings when CEW use is available and not significantly restricted by policy. ECWs decrease danger to officers, the suspect, and the public.

The Forney Police Department currently possesses 24 TASER X26s, which are sorely outdated. Of those 24 X26s, only 13 are fully functional leaving 20 officers unable to carry an ECW and decrease their non-lethal force

options. Our goal is to equip every officer with the newest model of the TASER Smart Weapon. The newer model has several upgraded features including two immediate cartridge deployments, dual lasers for better aiming, warning arc, and smart cartridges. The double shot removes the need to manually reload a second cartridge. It improves safety and performance in case of a missed shot or clothing disconnect. Dual lasers eliminate the user having to guess the target area, enhancing accuracy by allowing the user to see exactly where the top and bottom probes will impact a target. The warning arc increases voluntary surrenders and helps stop conflicts from escalating by issuing an audible warning. In our experience, merely displaying an ECW brings voluntary compliance, which is the safest way to resolve a situation involving a resistive individual. The smart cartridge is more accurate and durable than a standard cartridge, which increases reliability and lowers the risk of accidental discharge. Without having each officer equipped with fully functional ECWs, the Forney Police Department could possibly be putting officers, citizens, and suspects at increased risk by not having this important use of force option immediately available. Due to the small overall size of our agency and minimal staffing numbers, having a reliable ECW is a crucial use of force tool for our officers.

Kroll, M.W., Brave M.A., Pratt H.M.O., et al. (2019). Benefits, risks, and myths of TASER® handheld electrical weapons. *Human Factors and Mechanical Engineering for Defense and Safety* (3).

CAPACITY & CAPABILITIES – COLLABORATIONS: Will be assessed with eGrants Capacity & Capabilities

section (UP TO 5 POINTS): In table below, list no more than five (5) of the most important collaborations your agency has with other entities in order to carry out this project. Put N/A if no collaborations needed.

AGENCY NAME	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE HOW AGENCY ASSISTS WITH THIS PROJECT	CONTACT PERSON NAME
Kaufman County Constables Office Pct. 2	Due to the more rural nature of the area of our jurisdiction and the limited number of officers on duty, we regularly partner with these agencies to provide and receive backup assistance. We also work special events together. We will be assigning radios to their personnel during special events or long, critical incidents, and must be able to communicate with them on a daily basis.	Constable Jason Johnson
Kaufman County Sheriff's Department		Sheriff Bryan Beavers
Forney PD Citizen on Patrol	We will be assigning radios to their personnel during special events or long, critical incidents in which these volunteers serve as force multipliers for our sworn personnel.	Charles Treadway

DUPLICATION OF SERVICES - NO POINTS ASSIGNED (100 WORDS OR LESS): Describe how this project avoids duplication or overlapping of existing resources or programs available within project's proposed service area and target population.

An inventory was conducted within the Forney Police Department. FPD will be issuing four radios to new sworn personal. CrossPoint Systems installs and maintains all of the Forney Police Departments P25 radios. Due to officers using P25 compliant radios since 2014, there should be no difficulties with upkeep or maintenance.

ECW's routine maintenance and repairs will be managed by our ECW Instructor. The ECW Instructor will ensure that officers are qualified to utilize the equipment. FPD implemented a Use of Force Tracking System in 2020 that is used to maintain compliance with the federal reporting guidelines.

SUSTAINABILITY - UP TO 5 POINTS (100 WORDS OR LESS): Describe your strategy to sustain this project beyond the grant period. For equipment or technology grants, describe agency's plan to maintain equipment beyond the grant period (i.e., routine maintenance, repairs, upgrades, etc.).

The radios will come with a one-year warranty from the manufacturer. Beginning with fiscal year 21-22, FPD will include a ten percent budget allocation for the repair and replacement of radios. The TASERs will come with a four-year warranty. Beginning with fiscal year 25-26, FPD will include a ten percent budget allocation for the repair and replacement of ECWs at current pricing. We will utilize the manufacturer's and extended warranties on both the radios and TASERs to the fullest extent possible. Beginning with fiscal year 21-22, FPD will include an annual budget item for training cartridges for all sworn personnel.

RENEWAL BUDGET INCREASE JUSTIFICATION – NO POINTS ASSIGNED (100 WORDS OR LESS): If this renewal has an increase in OOG funds from what is currently funded, describe justification for the funding request increase. Put N/A if this is NOT a renewal project or put N/A if this is a renewal with NO budget increase.

N/A

COMPLETED ADDENDUM SHOULD NOT EXCEED 3 PAGES