Council Meeting of
February 28, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept the 2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and, upon federal approval of the grant application, to appropriate and allocate the grant monies for the purchase of audio digital recorders

Expenditure: $28,586

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council;

1) Authorize the application and acceptance of the 2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of $28,586;
2) Establish a trust fund for the deposit of grant monies; and
3) Upon federal approval of the grant application, appropriate and allocate the grant monies, and any interest on the funds, for the 2006 JAG Digital Recorders project (FEAP 542).

FUNDING:

Funding will be available upon federal approval of the 2006 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

BACKGROUND

In February 2006, Staff was advised via the Federal Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, that the City of Torrance is eligible for FY 2006 Justice Assistance Grant funding in the amount of $28,586.

ANALYSIS

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) provides funds to states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place funds where they are needed most.

The JAG formula is based on a jurisdiction's number of Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Part 1 crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The City of Torrance is eligible for FY 2006 funding in the amount of $28,586. There is no requirement for

matching funds. Grant conditions include establishing of a trust fund, listing the authorized fund uses, financial reporting requirements, and giving the public an opportunity to comment on the application (see Attachment A).

JAG funds can be used for local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice for any one or more of the following purpose areas:

- Law enforcement programs, including any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment programs
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs

The Police Department recommends that JAG funds be allocated to purchase digital audio recorders for police use. The Police Department issues personal audio recorders to its field and investigative personnel. The microcassette recorders currently in use are obsolete technology that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Digital recording has become the technology standard and the Police Department will need to purchase digital audio recorders, a server, software, and training, at an estimated total cost of $148,586. The Police Department is in the process of identifying available funds and will include the 2006 JAG funds toward that purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES D. HERREN
Chief of Police

By: Laurie Anderson, Business Manager
Research and Training Division

CONCUR:

James D. Herren
Chief of Police

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: Justice Assistance Grant Application

Attachment A

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE	2. DATE SUBMITTED	Applicant Identifier
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION Application Non-Construction Preapplication Non-Construction	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE	State Application Identifier
	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY	Federal Identifier

5.APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Legal Name City of Torrance	Organizational Unit Police Department
Address 3300 Civic Center Drive Torrance, California 90503-5016	Name and telephone number of the person to be contacted on matters involving this application Anderson, Laurie (310) 618-5676
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) 95-6000803	7. TYPE OF APPLICANT Municipal
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION New	9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY Bureau of Justice Assistance
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: 16.738 CFDA TITLE: EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM	11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT Digital Audio Recorders
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT City of Torrance, California	
13. PROPOSED PROJECT Start Date: April 01, 2006 End Date: September 30, 2009	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF a. Applicant b. Project CA36

15. ESTIMATED FUNDING		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?
Federal	$28,586	Program has not been selected by state for review
Applicant	$120,000	
State	$0	
Local	$0	
Other	$0	

Attachment A

Program Income	$0	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? N
TOTAL	$148,586	

18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED.

Close Window

Attachment A

2006 Justice Assistance Grant
Program Attachment

Torrance Police Department
3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503-5016
(310) 618-5676

Program Narrative

Project: Digital Audio Recorders

Purpose Area

JAG funds can be used for any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG. The following is excerpted from the LLEBG purpose areas:

1. *Support Law Enforcement*

    c. *Procurement of equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions.*

The law enforcement programs to be supported by this grant are Police Department field operations and criminal investigations. Field operations and criminal investigations are basic law enforcement functions. The 2006 Justice Assistance Grant will fund the purchase and installation of digital audio recorders for Torrance Police personnel. JAG funds will not be used for construction.

Digital Audio Recorders

The Torrance Police Department encourages the use of hand-held audio recorders for the purpose of recording contacts during field operations and criminal investigations. The microcassette recorders that the Department issued to its personnel in the past are obsolete and have been discontinued by the manufacturer. Further, there are inherent limitations when using microcassette recorders, including the number and duration of contacts per tape, inability to capture a contact in its entirety, storage and retention of tapes, and the need to fast-forward and rewind tapes to locate desired segments.

Attachment A

2006 Justice Assistance Grant
Program Attachment

Digital audio recorders have replaced tape technology for audio recording applications. The Police Department will purchase digital recorders and a server with software that will store and manage digital audio files. Digital recorders will solve the limitations of audio tape, files will be easily uploadable to the server, and uploaded recordings will be easily accessible and tamperproof.

Need for Grant Funds

The City of Torrance, like many other cities, must continue to provide services and secure the public safety in the face of State and Federal budget cuts and their effect on local government. The Police Department has a critical need for reliable hand-held recorders and is pursuing all available sources of funds. The Justice Assistance Grant will help fund the purchase of digital audio recorders in direct support of field operations and criminal investigations.

Attachment A

2006 Justice Assistance Grant
Budget Attachment

Torrance Police Department
3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503-5016
(310) 618-5676

Budget Narrative

Project: Digital Audio Recorders

Justice Assistance Grant	$ 28,586
Applicant funds	120,000
Estimated Total	$148,586

This will be a lump-sum expenditure for digital audio recorders, user licenses, a server, software, installation, configuration, and training. The estimated project total is based on informal vendor quotations.

All grant expenditures are for items that will be procured from one or more private vendors through the City's competitive bid process. Any accrued interest on the grant funds will be spent on additional digital audio recorders to be used as spares.

Expenditure in Grant Year:	1	2	3	4
Digital audio recorders, user licenses, server and software, installation, configuration, and training		$148,586		