

2014 JAG GRANT – LOCAL SOLICITATION

CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

PURCHASE OF MOBILE COMPUTER TERMINALS

ABSTRACT & PROJECT IDENTIFIERS

The Olympia Police Department seeks to purchase up to six (6) mobile computer terminals (MCTs). The Department does not currently have sufficient MCTs to assign to each Patrol Officer or Sergeant. Instead, MCTs are issued to a Patrol vehicle and the vehicle is then shared by multiple officers. The Department has a strategic goal of outfitting each officer with an MCT in order to enhance the officer's ability to communicate both in and out of the field, to reduce MCT "down time" due to maintenance issues, and to reduce the support needed to keep the MCTs in working condition.

Assigning MCTs to Officers greatly enhances their communication abilities. Today's technology is customizable. A user configures a device in the way that works best for him or her. When MCTs are shared, customization isn't possible. Also, with MCTs assigned to vehicles rather than officers, officers do not have their MCTs available during times when the cars are in use by other officers, such as during shift briefings. With personal MCTs, an officer will be able to attend shift briefings with their MCT, giving them access to all of the information that resides on the City network, in the Records Management System, and in systems linked to the police network. They will be able to view the activity from previous shifts; work on crime analysis while discussing recent crimes; and, check their e-mail for important information before reaching their vehicles.

Support for the MCTs will diminish when they are no longer shared. The current, shared MCTs run essentially 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. With no specific officer assigned to an MCT, it can be difficult to track problems that may be related to user-use, rather than technical problems. Ownership plays heavily into responsibility for ensuring that equipment is used appropriately and adequately maintained.

The grant, if received, will fund the purchase or lease of up to six (6) MCTs. This will allow the City to outfit all the Patrol Sergeants with MCTs as a first-step trial for the eventual purchase of MCTs for each officer. The City will purchase or lease, depending on the terms available, a less-expensive version of the MCTs currently used in the Department. The City believes that the semi-rugged MCTs will withstand the rigors of deployment if they are assigned to only one officer, while using resources as efficiently as possible.

Project Identifiers:

- Computer software/hardware

- Communications
- Data sharing/linkage