Agenda Item No. 29.

City of Wichita
City Council Meeting
July 8, 2008

TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Federal Byrne Memorial Grant

INITIATED BY: Police Department

AGENDA: Consent

Recommendation: Approve the application.

Background: The City of Wichita Police Department has received notification that they are eligible to apply for the 2008 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant. This funding will be used to coordinate an Inter-Agency Data Integration (IADI) Fusion Center to facilitate information sharing among seven (7) local and one state agency.

The Department of Justice is promoting criminal information data sharing through Fusion Centers as a way of better protecting local areas and the nation. The agencies that are participating in the grant request will share information under a connectivity umbrella that doesn’t currently exist.

Analysis: Funds from the grant would be used to interconnect eight (8) participating agencies from a single access point instead of the 17 needed now. The need for a Fusion Center can be seen below in the backdrop of public safety demographics in the Wichita Metropolitan Area (WMA).

- Police, prosecutors and courts currently search 14 separate agency databases using 17 access points in order to complete a records check on any individual. The reports that are returned from these searches cannot be coordinated into one report. Fusion Centers resolve this problem.
- The Wichita Metropolitan Area can become a target for regional and national crime (i.e. interstate gang activity, drug trafficking, auto thefts, prostitution, metals thefts.) The City sits on US Highways I-35 and 54 and is a crossroad for regional and interstate traffic. Sedgwick County, Kansas is the 2nd largest county by population. In 2008, the population for the Wichita Metropolitan Area is forecast to in excess of 602,000 and will account for 22% of the state’s population. Coordinating large volumes of criminal information will place increased pressure on police, prosecutors and courts. Fusion Centers help with volume management.
- In 2006, the KBI (Kansas Bureau of Investigation) reported that 24% of reportable incidents and 9% of reportable arrests within Kansas were processed by the Wichita Police Department. In 2007, Wichita Police cataloged 124,636 incidents and made 28,624 arrests of all types.
- In 2007, the Sedgwick County District Attorney filed 31,097 cases in the 18th District Court.
- The 18th District Court maintains the highest felony and domestic relations caseload per judge in Kansas and has experienced a 41% increase in Felony Criminal caseloads since 1998.
- On an annual basis, the Wichita Municipal Court’s docket includes approximately 128,000 cases with 52,000 adjudicated.
**Financial Considerations:** The City of Wichita is requesting funding for $1,232,620 in Federal Byrne funding. There is no local match requirement.

**Goal Impact:** Safe and Secure Community is affected by this grant.

**Legal Considerations:** If the grant is funded, the Department of Law will review the grant agreement prior to formal acceptance.

**Recommendations/Actions:** It is recommended that the City Council approve and authorize the appropriate signatures.